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THE KNIGHTS OF THE RED SHIELD.

HOUSE OF MAYER ANSELM, IN THE JEWS' LANE, FRANKFORT.

FEW men speak disrespectfully of money who are able to make it. Nobody can afford to contemn it, since it visits contempt with manifold evils. Neither to love nor to hate money, but to give it rational appreciation, is the province of wisdom. This, above every other, is a monetary age. Cash is essential to civilization, at once its cause and consequence, the measure of its breadth and the plummet of its profundity. Every true ideal must rest on the real, and the real today is the coinage of the mint.

Some money is a necessity; much money is a luxury—the luxury of selfishness, of benevolence or power, as the possessor may determine. The number of mortals is very small who value money for its own sake, and very large who prize it for its capacity of purchase. The proportion of Harpagons to Jourdains is as one to a thousand; and the Jourdains, in the comedies of life, revere gold as the purveyors to their pleasure, their vanity, or their ambition. Through the glitter of coin all possibilities are seen, and though many disappoint, the possibility of power supports expectation. In this commercial era money is power more than knowledge is, for that will buy this, but this will not insure that. The holder of a long purse may not gain love or esteem, but he is pretty certain to command outward respect. Man is inclined to be satisfied with symbols. They are the shows of things, and the general mind is so occupied with shows that it has no time for deeper consideration.

Love of money beyond certain bounds is the passion for power financially disguised. What we call avarice is usually ambition. The whole world wants cash, must have it, and he who gets it in sufficient sums masters persons, controls communities, governs nations. Money-making is the science of the practical. It requires genius of a high order—genius that is creative, composite, comprehensive. The gift is rare, and so little understood that the earner of great wealth is a curiosity, an object of interest, to the multitude. The least acquisitive are fond of hearing of men who have amassed colossal fortune, and of the means of its amassing.

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The Knights of the Red Shield (Rothschild)

Englischsprachige Broschüre über die jüdische Familie Rothschild, die ihr familiengeführtes Bankhaus im 19. Jahrhundert zu Weltruhm brachten.

Mayer Amschel Rothschild und seine Frau Gutle lebten seit 1784 im Haus zum Grünen Schilde in der Frankfurter Judengasse. Erst nach dem Tod von Mayer Amschel 1812 erreichte das von ihm gegründete Bankhaus unter seinen Söhnen Weltruhm. Gutle, die Ehefrau Mayer Amschels, blieb Lebzeiten in dem Haus zum Grünen Schilde wohnen.

Informationen

Frankfurt, Judengasse, Rothschildhaus (Darstellung)
1874 (Datierung)

Portrait
Druckschrift
Velinpapier, Holzstich

Historisches Museum Frankfurt
Inv. C67721