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I. L.

SIRACH, PSEUDO-. See BEN SIRA, ALPHABET OF.

SIRILLO, SOLOMON: Spanish Talmudist of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. He was one of the exiles of 1492, and settled at Safed, where he held a discussion with Jacob Berab over a decision concerning meat (Samuel of Modena, *Responsa*, No. 42). He is mentioned also by Bezaleel Ashkenazi.

Sirillo was the author of a commentary on the order Zera'im and the treatise Shekalim of the Jerusalem Talmud. He compiled also a Gemara to the Mishnah of the treatise 'Eduyot, by gathering the passages scattered in the Talmud and adding thereto a commentary of his own; both are quoted in Solomon Adeni's "Meleket Shelomoh." Sirillo's commentary on Berakot was printed in M. Lehmann's edition of this treatise (Berlin, 1874).

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W. B.

M. SEL.

SIRKES, JOEL B. SAMUEL: Polish rabbi; born at Lublin in 1561; died at Cracow, 1640. At the age of fourteen he was sent to the yeshibah of Solomon ben Judah. After remaining there some time he went to Brest-Litovsk, where he attended the yeshibah of R. Phoebus. While still a youth he was invited to the rabbinate of Prusany, near Slonim. Later he occupied the rabbinate of Lubkow, Lublin, Miedzyboz, Beldza, Szydłowka, and finally Brest-Litovsk and Cracow, succeeding in each of the two last-mentioned places his teacher R. Phoebus. He was an adherent of the Cabala and an opponent of both pilpul and philosophy.

Sirkes wrote: "Meshib Nefesh," commentary on the Book of Ruth (Lublin, 1616); "Bayit Hadash," commentary on the "Arba' ah Turim" of Jacob ben Asher (Cracow, 1631-40); "She'clot u Teshubot Bayit Hadash" (Frankfort, 1697); "She'clot u Teshubot Bet Hadash ha Hadashot" (Koretz, 1785); "Haggahot," on all the tractates of the Babylonian Talmud; and "Rosh," first published, from a manuscript, in the Warsaw (1860) edition of the Talmud, and included in almost every subsequent edition thereof.

In the "Bayit Hadash" the evident intention of the author is to present and elucidate the fundamental principles of the Law as recorded in the Mishnah, the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds, and the chief codes.

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E. C.

B. FR.

SISERA: General of the army of King Jabin of Hazor. According to Judges iv. 9 et seq., he invaded the northern part of Judea in the time of Deborah, the prophetess and judge. Upon Deborah's order Barak took 10,000 men and went out to meet Sisera, going as far as the river of Kishon. Sisera suffered defeat, and while Barak pursued the enemy as far as "Harosheth of the Gentiles," Sisera fled alone and on foot. Arrived at the settlement of the Kenites, who, according to legend, were the descendants of Jethro, he was invited by a Kenite woman named Jael, wife of Heber, into her tent. Sisera accepted the invitation and asked for water, but instead she gave him milk. When Sisera had fallen asleep, Jael took a hammer and drove a "nail," or tent-pin, into his temple.

The position of Sisera's army is not specifically mentioned in Judges v. 19, where the battle is said to have taken place at Taanach by the waters of Megiddo. The identity of Sisera has not yet been established (see M. Müller, "Asien und Europa," p. 332; Budde, "Die Bücher Richter und Samuel").

According to the Midrash (Yalkut Shim'oni on Judges iv. 3), Sisera hitherto had conquered every country against which he had fought. His voice was so strong that when he called loudly the most solid wall would shake and the wildest animal would fall dead. Deborah was the only one who could withstand his voice and whom it did not cause to stir from her place. Sisera caught fish