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### Biography of the Rev. Henry Aaron Stern

Henry Aaron Stern (1820–85), of German Jewish birth, moved to London in 1839, converted to Christianity and became a lifelong missionary for the London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews. With his wife he preached in Palestine, Babylon, Constantinople, Baghdad, Persia, and to the Karaite Jews of the Crimea. Famously, in 1863, he was caught in a diplomatic dispute in Ethiopia that led to his imprisonment and eventual rescue, five years later, by a British military force. Stern was made a doctor of divinity in 1881. He wrote three memoirs, which were drawn on by Albert Augustus Isaacs (1826–1903), a vicar at Leicester who knew Stern personally. Isaacs's biography, first published in 1886, is hagiographic and written with religiosity. Nonetheless, it includes informative accounts of missionary work among Jewish communities, and remains a valuable source on the orientalism of Victorian Britain.

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Albert Augustus Isaacs  
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# Biography of the Rev. Henry Aaron Stern

ALBERT AUGUSTUS ISAACS



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*Yours truly*

*Henry A. Stern*



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BIOGRAPHY  
OF THE  
REV HENRY AARON STERN, D.D.,  
FOR MORE THAN  
FORTY YEARS A MISSIONARY AMONGST THE JEWS:  
CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF  
HIS LABOURS AND TRAVELS  
IN  
MESOPOTAMIA, PERSIA, ARABIA, TURKEY, ABYSSINIA, AND  
ENGLAND.

*ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS*

TAKEN CHIEFLY BY HIMSELF.

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*BY THE*

**REV. ALBERT AUGUSTUS ISAACS, M.A.,**  
VICAR OF CHRIST CHURCH, LEICESTER.

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## EDITORIAL PREFACE.

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I have accepted the honourable and responsible office of preparing the Biography of HENRY AARON STERN, without hesitation, not only as “a labour of love,” but also, as a tribute of affection to the memory of a cherished friend and brother in the Lord, and a distinguished servant of God. In the compilation of this Biography, the materials which I have had at my disposal have been more than abundant, and the difficulty proportionate, in culling from fields, so rich in their resources, that which might be most suitably and usefully employed. My desire has been, that the editorial part of the narrative should entirely subserve the great aim of setting forth my friend’s labours and experiences in his own words so that it might be truly said that “he being dead yet speaketh.” To the great Head of the Church I commit this work, in the confident hope that it will serve to promote His glory; and with the prayer, that every reader may be enabled by Divine grace, to follow Henry Aaron Stern, as he followed Christ.

A. A. ISAACS.

*July, 1886.*

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The profits of this Work will be wholly devoted to the following objects :—

- (1) The erecting of a fitting Monument over the grave of Dr. Stern, in the City of London Cemetery, at Ilford ; and
- (2) Objects connected with Jewish Missionary work, in which Dr. Stern took a deep and personal interest.

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