

A BIBLICAL FORGERY.

DR. GINSBURG AND THE EXPOSURE OF SHAPIRA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—*The Times* was, as is usually the case, absolutely correct in stating that it was my late father who exposed the Shapira frauds.

When Shapira came to London the authorities of the British Museum asked Dr. Ginsburg to examine and report upon the parchment slips produced by the forger. Whilst he was engaged on this work M. Clermont Ganneau appeared on the scene and evinced great interest in my father's examination. Believing that the Frenchman was a brother savant and an accredited agent of the French Government, my father showed him every courtesy and explained to him the reasons which were leading him to frame a report against the authenticity of the manuscripts. Fortunately for his own reputation, he had also unofficially indicated what he was about to write to members of the staff of the Museum. M. Clermont Ganneau tried to anticipate the report and to claim credit for the exposure. The whole matter was made clear at the time. The authorities of those days (who were assuredly in a better position to judge than this Mr. Israel Abrahams is to-day) attributed the honour of having saved the country from purchasing worthless antiques to my father, whilst the fact that it was his action, and his alone, which exposed Shapira is confirmed by the fact that, when the disappointed Shapira committed suicide, because of his failure to obtain a fortune for his documents, it was, not to M. Clermont Ganneau, but to Dr. Ginsburg that he wrote calling upon him to support his wife and family, since his exposure of the forgery had been the cause of their ruin.

Yours, &c.,

BENEDICT W. GINSBURG.

12, King's Bench-walk, Temple, E.C., March 16.