

ADDRESS

Of the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island

To the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA

August 17, 1790

1 Sir,

2 PERMIT the children of the Stock of Abraham, to approach you, with the most cordial
3 affection and esteem for your person & merits—and to join with our fellow Citizens in
4 welcoming you to Newport.

5 With pleasure we reflect on those days—those days of difficulty, and danger, when the
6 God of Israel, who delivered David from the peril of the sword, shielded your head in the
7 day of battle; and we rejoice to think, that the same Spirit who rested in the bosom of the
8 greatly beloved Daniel, enabling him to preside over the provinces of the Babylonish
9 empire, rests, and ever will rest, upon you, enabling you to discharge the arduous duties
10 of CHIEF MAGISTRATE in these States.

11 Deprived as we heretofore have been of the invaluable rights of free citizens, we now
12 (with a deep sense of gratitude to the Almighty disposer of all events) behold a
13 Government, erected by the MAJESTY OF THE PEOPLE—a government, which to
14 bigotry gives no sanction—to persecution no assistance; but generously affording to
15 ALL liberty of conscience, and immunities of citizenship: Deeming every one, of
16 whatever nation, tongue, or language, equal parts of the great governmental machine.
17 This so ample, and extensive Federal Union, whose basis is philanthropy, mutual
18 confidence and public virtue, we cannot but acknowledge to be the work of the great
19 God, who ruleth in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, doing
20 whatever seemeth him good.

21 For all the Blessings of civil and religious liberty, which we enjoy under an equal and
22 benign administration, we desire to send up our thanks to the ancient of days, the great
23 preserver of Men, beseeching him, that the Angel who conducted our forefathers through
24 the wilderness into the promised land, may graciously conduct you through all the
25 difficulties and dangers of this mortal life — And when like Joshua full of days and full
26 of honors, you are gathered to your fathers, may you be admitted into the heavenly
27 paradise, to partake of the water of life, and the tree of immortality.

28 *Done and Signed by the order of the Hebrew Congregation, in Newport, (Rhode-Island)*
29 MOSES SEIXAS, Warden

To THE HEBREW CONGREGATION in Newport, Rhode Island,
August 18, 1790

1 Gentlemen,

2 While I receive, with much satisfaction your Address, replete with expressions of
3 affection and esteem; I rejoice in the opportunity of assuring you, that I shall
4 always retain a grateful remembrance of the cordial welcome I experienced in my
5 visit to Newport, from all classes of citizens. The reflection on the days of
6 difficulty and danger which are past is rendered the more sweet, from
7 consciousness that they are succeeded by days of uncommon prosperity and
8 security.

9 If we have wisdom to make the best use of the advantages with which we are now
10 favored, we cannot fail, under the just administration of a good government, to

11 become a great and a happy people.

12 The citizens of the United States of America, have a right to applaud themselves
13 for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy: A policy
14 worthy of imitation – All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of
15 citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the
16 indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their
17 inherent natural rights.

18 For happily the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no
19 sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its
20 protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all
21 occasions their effectual support.

22 It would be inconsistent with the frankness of my character not to avow that I am
23 pleased with your favorable opinion of my administration, and fervent wishes for
24 my felicity. May the children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land,
25 continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants - while every
26 one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to
27 make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, in
28 our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own
29 due time and way everlastingly happy.

30 Go: Washington