

1790, 2 Julho, Newport. Carta de Moses Mendes Seixas para os parnassim e adjuntos da congregação da Shearith Israel.

(Nova Iorque, American Jewish Historical Society, Jacques Judah Lyons P-15. Publicado em "Items relating to the Jews of Newport", Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society, 27, 1920, pp. 218-220.)

Newport July 2^d 1790

Gentlemen,

A few days ago, I received a letter superscribed to me, but on unfolding it. I found it was directed to *The Congregation of Rhode Island* and under the signature of Isaac Moses, Parn^s. Pres^t. & Solomon Simson. Had I not had pleasure of being acquainted with those Gentlemen & the Others mentioned therein, it would have puzzled me exceedingly, to have discovered from whence the Letter had originated, & to whom it was intended, but having knowledge of the Gentⁿ., I readily concluded it to be what beyond doubt it will prove to be, namely a Letter from the Parnassim & Adjuntoes of the Kaal Kadosh Seerit Israel in New York to the Kaal Kadosh Yeshuat Israel in New Port Rhode Island, and in confidence of which I have admitted its being perused by the Members thereof in general, & they have requested my replying thereto, which I shall now attempt to do, in as concise a manner as possible, after premiseing that when I make use of *We* it means the Kaal Kadosh Yeshuat Israel of this place, who are of opinion, that as we are so small in number, it would be treating the Legislature & other large Bodies in this State, with a great degree of indelicacy, for us to address the President of the United States, previous to any of them, & therefore from motives of diffidence, & an ardent desire to avoid giving umbrage, would wish to decline it at present. We much regret that those Congregations, which could with propriety have addressed him, at an early period, should have delayed it thus long, much more *Yours*, which from its Location ought to have been second to any other Religious Society whatsoever, and what plea you can now make to him for your apparent neglect, which almost amounts to disrespect, We cannot conceive unless it is – *That you waited in full confidence of this state acceding to the Federal Constitution so as you might be join'd by us in the address* – If this should be the only reason which you can assign, & which we think is the only plausible one that can be offer'd, we do not wish to devar you thereof, & therefore if our suggestions are properly founded, consent to your connecting us in the address, notwithstanding our reluctance of becoming the primary addressers

this State – We deem it unnecessary to transmit you a draught of an address, because we are sensible it can be well composed at your place, & because we firmly rely on your being critically attentive that your sentiments will be properly express'd & *unequivocally*, relative to the enfranchisement which is secured to us *Jews* by the Federal Constitution. – However we should be glad to be favored with a copy thereof, previous to its being presented, promising to give you our opinion thereon in a few hours after we have perused it. – By what has been written you'll readily perceive that we do not blame the conduct of the Georgians, they had an undoubted right to do as they did. – If any regular was to be adopted, it was incumbent on you from your local situation, & as being the eldest Congregation within the United States of America to have form'd that system, & transmitted it to the other Congregations, when no doubt they would have cheerfully coincided therein, but for you to procrastinate a measure (which was eagerly embraced by all Publick Bodies) for a year, without taking the least notice thereof, it might, & would readily be supposed, that you did not mean to pay any attention thereto, or if you did it was to be done on contracted principles. – You'll excuse my language, the Honor of Israel & the dignity of my native Congregation may perhaps have excited me to write with more freedom than was actually necessary.

I have the Honor to be very Respectfully.

Gentlemen

Your most humble Servant,

Moses Seixas

The Parnassim & Adjuntoes of the Kaal Kadosh Seerit Israel

New York