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Thomas Jefferson returns his thanks to
Duce la Motta for the elegant discourse on the
consecration of the Synagogue of Savannah,
which he has been so kind as to send him.

It excited in him the gratifying reflection
that his ^{own} country has been the first to prove to the
world two truths the most salutary to human
society that man can govern himself and that
religious freedom is the most effectual anodyne
against religious dissension; where its true form
is "divided we stand united we fall."

He is happy in the restoration of
the Jews particularly to their social rights and
hopes they will be seen taking their seats on the
bench of science as preparatory to their doing the same
at the board of government.

He salutes Duce la Motta with
sentiments of great respect.

Sir!

I have received your letter of the 7th inst with the discourse delivered at the consecration of the Hebrew Synagogue at Savannah, for which you will please to accept my thanks.

The history of the Jews must for ever be interesting. The modern part of it is at the same time so little generally known that every ray of light thrown on the subject has value.

Among the features peculiar to the political system of the United States is the perfect equality of rights which it secures to any religious sect and it is particularly pleasing to observe in the good citizenship of such as have been most distrusted and oppressed elsewhere a happy illustration of the safety and success of this experiment, of a just and benignant policy. Equal laws protecting equal rights, are found as they ought to be presumed the best guarantee of love of country, as well as best calculated to cherish that mutual respect and good will of every religious denomination which are necessary to social harmony and most

favorable to the advancement of truth.

The account you give of the Jews of
your congregation brings them fully within the scope
of these observations.

I tender you Sir my best
respects and good wishes.

James Madison

Dr. De la Motte

Savannah

Offen in David de Castro in January 1844. P. 2.