

Daniel Webster

To Mordecai M. Noah, Boston, November 9, 1849

I AM afraid it will not be in my power to attend the Anniversary of the "Hebrew Benevolent Society" and the "German Hebrew Benevolent Society" on the 13th of the present month. I am, however, grateful for having been remembered on this occasion, and desire to present my acknowledgments and thanks to the committee.

I feel, and have ever felt, respect and sympathy for all that remains of that extraordinary people who preserved through the darkness and idolatry of so many centuries, the knowledge of one supreme spiritual being, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, and the Creator of Man in his own image, and whose canonical writings comprise such productions as the books of Moses and the Decalogue, the prophecies of Isaiah, the psalms of David, the Book of Job, and Solomon's prayer at the Dedication of the Temple. The Hebrew Scriptures I regard as the fountain from which we draw all we know of the world around us, and of our own character and destiny as intelligent, moral and responsible beings.

I wish, my dear sir, for the associated societies who have honored me with their invitation, a gratifying Anniversary, and am with respect, your obedient servant,

DANIEL WEBSTER