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Document 21: A petition by Manasseh ben Israel and others to Oliver Cromwell, asking for Jews to have the right to practise their religion in their own houses, dated 1656

(Catalogue reference: SP 18/125 folio 173)

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About this document

This document is a petition from Manasseh ben Israel and others to Oliver Cromwell, asking for the Jews to have the right to practise their religion in their own houses, dated 1656. (Catalogue reference: SP18/125 folio 173)

Manasseh ben Israel, a Dutch rabbi, came to England in 1655 hoping to persuade Cromwell to accept the Jews right to worship. Interestingly, although there is no record of any formal reply, it was in 1657 that a Synagogue within a house in Creechurch Lane, London was established.

Please note:

- The document is written in a clear cursive hand.

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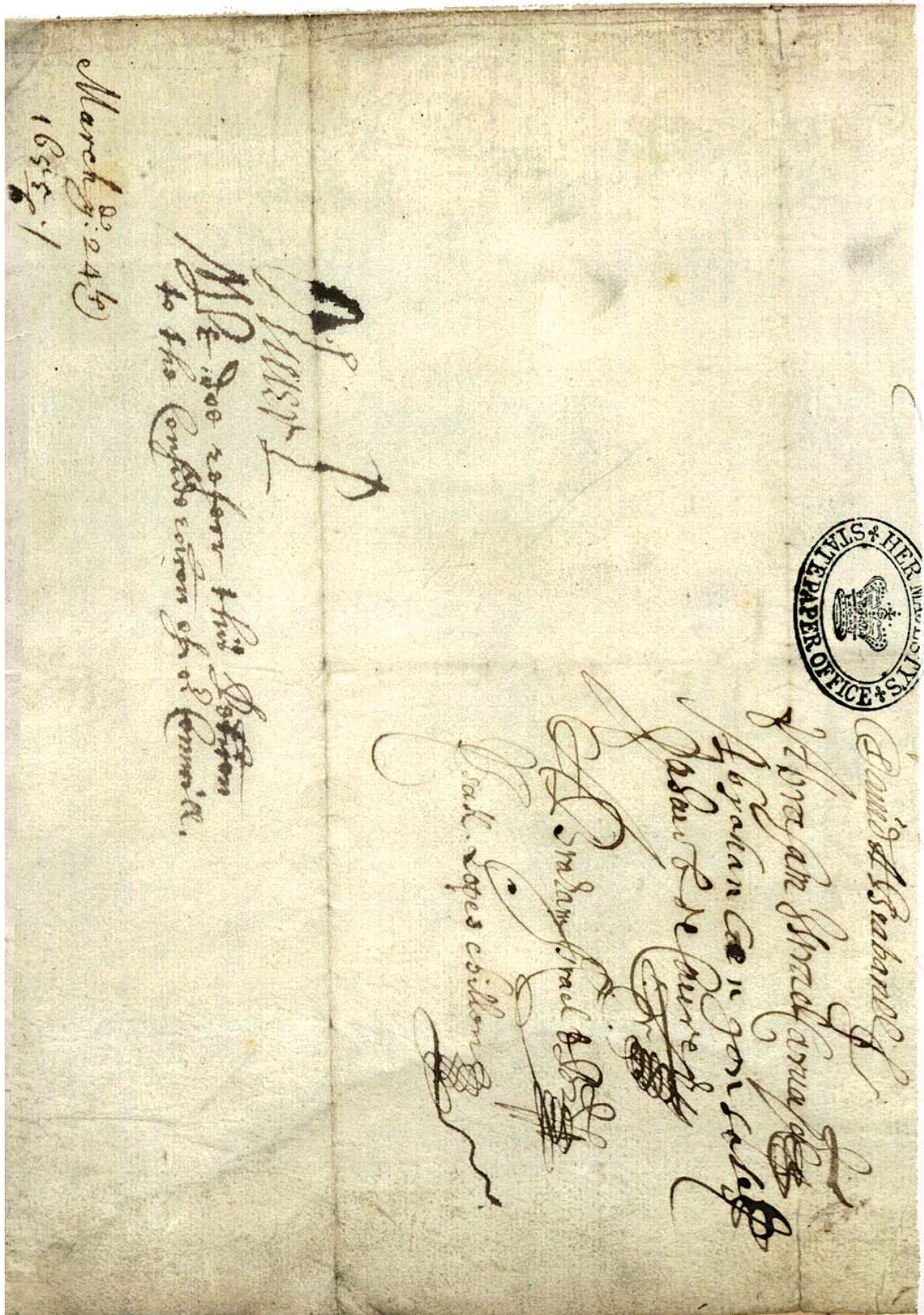
The Humble Petition of The Stebens at Present
Residing in this city of London whose names are Underwritten

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Humbly sheweth

That acknowledging The Manyfold favours and Protection of His Highness hath bin pleased to grant Us in order that we may with security meete privately in our particular houses to our Devotions, and being desirous to be favoured more by His Highness, wee pray with all Humbleness, by the best means which may be such Protection may be granted Us in Writing as that wee may hereafter meete at our said private Devotions in our particular houses without feare of Molestation either to our persons families or estates, our desires Being to live Peaceably under His Highnesses Government, and being wee are all mortall soules albe Humbly pray His Highness to grant Us Licence that those which may be of our nation may be buried in such place out of the churche as wee shall thinck convenient with the Proprietors Leases in whose said the place shall be, and wee wee shall as well in our life tyme as at our deathe be highly favoured by His Highness for whose long life and Prosperity wee shall continually pray to the allmighty god &c &c

TER MAJESTY



transcript

1. To His Highnesse Oliver Lord Protector of The
2. Com[m]onwelth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, & the Dom[m]inions thereof
3. The Humble Petition of The Hebrews at Present
[Margin] Humbly sheweth
4. Reziding in this citty of London whose names ar Underwritten
5. That Acknowledging The Manyfold favours and Protection yo[u]r Highnesse hath bin pleased
6. to graunt Us in order that wee may with security meete privatley in owr particular houses
7. to owr Devosions, And being desirous to be favoured more, by yo[u]r Highnesse wee pray with
all
8. Humblenesse th[a]t by the best meanes which may be such Protection may be graunted Us in
9. Writting as that wee may therew[i]th meete at owr said private devotions in owr Particular
10. houses without feere of Molestation either to owr persons, famillys or estates, owr desires
11. Being to Live Peacebly Under yo[u]r Highnes Governement, And being wee ar all mortall wee
12. allsoe Humbly pray yo[u]r Highnesse to graunt Us Lisence that those which may dey of owr
nation
13. may be buryed in such place out of the cittye as wee shall thinck Convenient with the
Proprietors
14. Leave in whose Land the place shall be, and soe wee shall as well in owr Life tyme, as at owr
death
15. be highly favoured by yo[u]r Highnesse for whose Long Lyfe and Prosperitty wee shall
Continually pray
16. To the allmighty God
17. Menasseh ben Israel
18. David ABrabanel
19. Abraham Israel Carvajal [?]
20. Abrahan Coen Gonsales
21. Jahacob de Caceres [?]
22. ABraham Israel de Brito [?]
23. Isak Lopez Chillon
24. Oliver P[rotector]
25. We doe referr this Petic[i]on
26. to the Considerac[i]on of o[u]r Councill
27. March the 24th 1655/6