

## **Extract: Thomas Jefferson to David Harding, 20 April 1824**

“I have duly recieved your favor of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. informing me of the institution of a debating society in Hingham, composed of adherents to the republican principles of the revolution, and I am justly sensible of the honor done my name by associating it with the title of the society. the object of the institution is laudable, and in a republican nation whose citizens are to be led by reason and persuasion and not by force. the art of reasoning becomes of first importance.”

<http://founders.archives.gov/?q=%20Author%3A%22Jefferson%2C%20Thomas%22%20david%20harding&s=1111311111&r=1>