## **Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections**

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**Title:** Letter from John Adams to William Smith

**Date:** May 30, 1815

**Location:** I-SpahrB-1952-1

## **Contact:**

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My dear Sir

Your favour of the 22 d has Sensibly affected me you need not however regret your Birth not that of your Ghild The House of an Ambasador whereverhe is, is in the Territory of his own Sovereign and his Children or Grand Children or Great Grand children or any this Countrymen or Courtly Warmen attached to his Embassy and born in his house or in his house or under his protection are Natives of his Country; natural born Julijeets, or betizens to all intents, and purposes, as much as if they had been born in the Palace of the first Magis trate whom he represents.

M' Dupont de Nemours's Idea is so far from being original that it is a Common place observation, that We have no Word in our Language that implies the exact I dea of the Patria of the Romans, the Faderland of the Dulch or the Patric of the French. Why should We not Introduce Matria instead of Patria? Manhind in general love their Mothers, Ibelieve, rather more tenderly that their Fathers, and perhaps have more reasons for it. I would propose to Mr Dupont Mothers land if We must have a 6 hange, but 9 believe 6 ountry will do, without any innovation. you and your Ghild were born in Fathers land and Mothers land That is in your Native Country Occause you were born within its Territory, under its I wresduction and in its public Service. A Plan of Life and an object in View early in Life is of great

importance to cory Man in this World, high or low, rich or poor, Noviciate in any Profesion. But better late than nuice, your means and opportunities are unknown to me: and therefore I am wholly incapable of advising you. Law Physick and Dwine by ought to be all studied shrough Life by every Man who can read, Remember me to all, as your Grandfather motor don't pull land all possible of Tohn Adams will to he represents. 1 Super de Temanne I dea is to for from being original and it is a Common place other values Ind We have no Word in our sanguage last was his crack I dea of live I drive of the Bronans the Partiel and of his Dutch or his Jalaic of his French. Why should see not In these Making instead of Patrice? Mankind in general love their Mothers Ibelieve rather more tenderly that their Fethers and perhaps have more reasons for it. I would propose a. W. Supent Mother land if We must have a 6 hange but I believe Ementry will do without any innovation. William Keuben Smith Esqu Torribory under its I wasdultion and in it public I bruise. good Solistate for a Profession is aminose and layfalls. A Nean of det und in Topet in Tiens carte in dife is of a real

Zowney Mr May 31. Jiree William Steuben Smith Esque I Adams. Fishkill Landing Dutchefs County.

adams. I Hon he him 30 eller 1815 date My dear Sir

Your favour of the 22d has sensibly affected me. You need not however regret your Birth nor that of your child. The House of an Ambassador, wherever he is, is in the Territory of his own sovereign and his children or grandchildren or great grand children or any of his countrymen or country women attached to his embassy and born in his house or under his protection are Natives of his country; natural born subjects, or citizens to all intents and purposes, as much as if they had been born in the Palace of the first Magistrate whom he represents.

Mr. Dupont de Nemours's Idea is so far from being original that it is a common place observation that we have no word in our language that implies the exact Idea of the Patria of the Romans, the Faderland of the Dutch or the Patrie of the French. Why should we not Intr[o]duce Matria instead of Patria? Mankind in general love their Mothers, I believe, rather more tenderly than their Fathers, and perhaps we have more reasons for it. I would propose to Mr. Dupont Mothersland, if we must have a change, but I believe Country will do, without any innovation. You and your child were born in Fathersland and Mothersland, that is in your Native Country because you were born within its Territory, under its jarisdiction and in its public service.

Your Solicitude for a Profession is amiable and laudable.

A Plan of Life and an object in view early in Life and through
Life is of great importance to every Man in this World, high or
low, rich or poor, old or young. Your age is rather advanced to
commence a Novitiate in any Profession. But better late than
never. Your means and opportunities are unknown to me: and

therefore I am wholly incapable of advising you. Law, Physick and Divinity ought to be all studied through Life by every Man who can read.

Remember me to all, as your Grandfather

John Adams

William Steuben Smith Esqr.