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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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Quincy May 30th 1815

My dear Sir

Your favour of the 22^d 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 Grand Children 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 Vaderland of the Dutch, or the Patrie of the French. Why should we not introduce *Matria* instead of *Patria*? Mankind in general love their Mothers, I believe, rather more tenderly than their Fathers, and perhaps 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 Jurisdiction and in its public Service.

Your Solitude for a Profession is amiable and laudable.
A Plan of life and an Object in View ^{and through life} early in 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
Noviciate 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 Divini-
ty ought to be all studied through life by every Man who can read,

Remember me to all, as your Grandfather

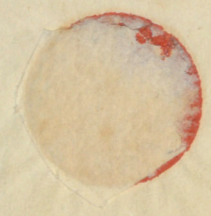
John Adams

William Heuben Smith Esq

Adams. P. M. the evening
30 May 1815 - date
40 June - 1815

Princy M. May 31. Three

William Steuben Smith Esq^{re}
J. Adams. Fishkill Landing
Dutchess County.
New York.



Quincy May 30th 1815

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[oduce] 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 jurisdiction 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

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Remember me to all, as your Grandfather

John Adams

William Steuben Smith Esqr.