

Primary Source Packet- Immigration

Quote 1

"I hold the right of expatriation to be inherent in every man by the laws of nature, and incapable of being rightfully taken from him even by the united will of every other person in the nation. If the laws have provided no particular mode by which the right of expatriation may be exercised, the individual may do it by any effectual and unequivocal act or declaration."

--Thomas Jefferson to Albert Gallatin, 1806. FE 8:458

Quote 2

"Expatriation [is] a natural right, and acted on as such by all nations in all ages."

--Thomas Jefferson: Autobiography, 1821. ME 1:12

Quote 3

"Our ancestors... possessed a right, which nature has given to all men, of departing from the country in which chance, not choice, has placed them, of going in quest of new habitations, and of there establishing new societies, under such laws and regulations as, to them, shall seem most likely to promote public happiness."

--Thomas Jefferson: Rights of British America, 1774. ME 1:185, Papers 1:121

Quote 4

"Shall we refuse the unhappy fugitives from distress that hospitality which the savages of the wilderness extended to our fathers arriving in this land? Shall oppressed humanity find no asylum on this globe? The Constitution, indeed, has wisely provided that for admission to certain offices of important trust a residence shall be required sufficient to develop character and design. But might not the general character and capabilities of a citizen be safely communicated to everyone manifesting a *bona fide* purpose of embarking his life and fortunes permanently with us?"

--Thomas Jefferson: 1st Annual Message, 1801. ME 3:338

Quote 5

"Although as to other foreigners it is thought better to discourage their settling together in large masses, wherein, as in our German settlements, they preserve for a long time their own languages, habits, and principles of government, and that they should distribute themselves sparsely among the natives for quicker amalgamation, yet English emigrants are without this inconvenience. They differ from us little but in their principles of government, and most of those (merchants excepted) who come here, are sufficiently disposed to adopt ours."

--Thomas Jefferson to George Flower, 1817. ME 15:140