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**Handwritten notes on Know-Nothingism,
nativism, and Americanism, undated**

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Birth is the parent of all qualifications - the means of all virtues. It exhibits no patriotism, no integrity, no heart. It is an accident - not a virtue. The man could as well be born blind all his might and end because he had to come. He may have been pulled into the world by the force of the accident. And yet this order make it the only accomplishment & qualification for man's life. Forgive - I want no credit for that achievement. If I have done any good thing since then I ask you praise - if I have been honest and industrious and well behaved but don't make or unmake my fortune by an act which lies in the dim obscurity of the past and about which I was not consulted and had no opinion. The virtue of birth - it smells too rankly of the smadling clothes. It overlooks the soul that makes the man and wants to send it to the cradle behind him - whether it be Irish or no birth - what is it? I don't want a such woman - a blind doctor, a poor man - infants any. Ah, sir, if there be any credit in that let it go to mother, physician and midwife when it belongs. Let not that prying sightless spect, when grown to manhood boast that achievement. The Red Brethren and their Reverences who have nothing else to boast - they may do it. It was a God send for all such bankrupts in character when a society was formed which recognized but one crime - being born wrong - and put me on trial - being born right. Joseph Boiss becomes the superior of Joseph Boiss. - Bill Pol of Lafayette.

The regulating of offices by birthright is a foreignism. Yes you arrange to put down foreignness and you adopt the meanest principles of the British constitution. You establish an aristocracy of Americanism - a peerage of the blood - the native born. You proclaim the divine right of American excesses to your offices and England does to her crown. And that miserable policy has failed. Her Thomas north protests and idly when Peel and Pitt and Canning should have ruled for their worth. It is plain that Hardy face at Sebastopol. On plain, however, makes such work. She does not tempt men to resign by offering as to their birth by the hope of place. She admits no untested testimony. She makes the Cabinet to wait upon and witness the Queen's accouchment so that no fraud may be practiced. If it is possible would appoint its private councils - selecting committees or traced have no trouble in the case of Morgan, Matilda & Philox.

It is the virtue of the calamant. The murderer can boast it. It belongs to the negro. The Indian claims with an equal right. Aag Hode in the sky and Tye tail have an older title than the best of us. Born was suitable. He gives credit when it belongs. His premiums for babies go - not to the babe but the mother. - If you are going to deny his manhood to the person born in sight of you show you might be consistent and make - not birth - but the storming in the womb the test. Then you could have your committees de ventis inquirendis. - Now it is not safe for our ladies living along the New Brunswick, Canada or Mexican line to visit their neighbors on the other side lest an hours delay might bring them to the straw and ruin the hopes of their offspring. It will be well to telegraphed proterity to make their advent on an soil if they would escape political damnation.

But it is a sin contends that the elements have entered into a man born in the soil and pre-destines him to freedom. It regards this rule as infallible. Now it is no rule at all. The man who is born of Irish parents is as purely Irish in flesh and blood and temperament as his parents. Jackson was as much an Englishman in every fibre of his flesh and in pulse of his heart as his mother or elder brother. The Pilgrims did not leave England, the born there, or this country would never have been settled. The sons of our citizens born in foreign travel love America as much as we. The sons of the did not fight England the less because she was the mother country. It is striking to see from Hong Kong don't make me a Chinese - tho I should. Think something of the cost must account for your Chinese policy. Being born is no director don't make me a Quaker. Eating bran bread in the dungeons of Naples don't make me admire the despotism of Naples. A man is in no danger of becoming (over)