

7/13/44  
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Copy

Burdett Smith Esq

Massias

July 13. 1844

Letter D, July 13-1854

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Sir, There is a young man in this place by the name of Leonard Chase, who claims, and exercises the rights of an American citizen, He claims to be a citizen on the grounds that his father (John Chase) is or was a naturalized citizen. There is suspicion however that this plea of naturalization is a hoax.

It has been suggested to me by the holder of this place to ascertain, if possible, the facts relative to this subject ~~in~~ in the performance of this duty I have been advised to correspond with you asking your assistance and co-operation in arriving at the true state of the case. The said Leonard Chase says that he was born the province of Nova Scotia; that his father, (by name John Chase) afterwards moved to the county of Washington in this State; that his father (the said John Chase) was naturalized while residing in the town of Haverhill in said county of Washington; that the said John Chase has since returned to Nova Scotia and still resides there.

Now Sir the facts at which I am myself was

in behalf of the Whigs of this place, wish to  
arrive, ~~and~~ was the said Lobe Chase ever nat-  
uralized in any proper Court for the same, in  
the County of Washington, and if so at what  
time. If the said Lobe has been naturalized  
as his son Steward affirms, the fact can probably  
be ascertained by investigating the records of the  
proper Court in your County.

Now Sir if you, or any other gentleman, if  
~~it is not in your vicinity~~, if it is not con-  
venient for you to do so, will ascertain the facts  
relative to this case, and if it shall appear  
that the said Lobe Chase has not been nat-  
uralized, and will if possible procure ~~of~~ <sup>a</sup> cer-  
tificate of the Clerk of such Court, and forward  
the same to me at as early moment as may  
be practicable, you will confer a favour  
for which the Whigs of this place will be grateful  
and much oblige

To

Bertie Smith Esq  
Machias

Your most

Obedient Servant  
Almon S Richards  
Corresponding Secretary  
of Clay Club.  
Letter 4

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