

July 1820

Sir Accept my best thanks for your polite and obliging favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> and especially for the discourse enclosed.

I know not when I have read a more liberal or a more elegant composition.

You have not extended your ideas of the right of private judgement and the liberty of conscience, both in religion and philosophy further than I do. Mine are limited only by morals and propriety. I have had occasion to be acquainted with several gentlemen of your nation and to transact business with some of them, whom I found to be men of as liberal minds, as much honor, probity, generosity and good breeding as any I have known, in any sect of religion or philosophy. I wish your nation may be admitted to all the privileges of citizens in all countries of the world.

This country has done much. I wish it may do more, and annul every narrow idea in religion, government or commerce.

Let the wits joke, the philosophers sneer. what then? It has pleased the providence of the first causes, the universal cause, that Abraham should give religion, not only to the Hebrews, but to the Christians and Mahometans and the greatest part of the modern civilized world.

John Adams.

To Mr M: M: Knapp

Editor of the New York National Advocate