

ordinary course, because he cannot bring himself within the description, which alone makes him the object of such favour; or may we conclude, that, not having the defect, which is to be supplied by such grant, he is already in ^{possession} of the character to be conferred by it; in other words, he is not an alien, but a natural-born subject?

The latter appears to me the just conclusion; and I shall accordingly say, with confidence, that there is the authority of the lord-chancellor in cases of denization, and of the two houses of parliament in cases of naturalization, for the proposition, that *birth out of king's allegiance*, is the only circumstance which constitutes an alien. We may be sure such forms would not have been settled and constantly acted upon, if they were not known to be required by the general law of the land. Indeed, it is nothing more than the definition of alien laid down in all the books, whether elementary or practical; the following examples are sufficient:

Natural-born subjects, are such as are born within the dominion of the crown of England; that is, within the ligeance, or, as it is generally called, the allegiance of the king; and aliens, such as are born out of it.—[Blackstone, 1. book. ch. 10.]

An alien is one, who is born out of the ligeance of the king.—[Comyn's Digest. article, alien.]

An alien, is one born in a strange country.—[Bacon's Abridgement, article, alien.]

And thus I conclude this discussion, as I began