



Smithsonian Institution

Archives of American Art

Henry Ossawa Tanner

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& distinguished work in U.S. - does not this count for any thing? Does the 1/4 or 1/8 of "pure" Negro blood in my veins count for all? I believe if (the Negro blood) counts & counts to my advantage - though it has caused me at times a life of great humiliation & sorrow - unlimited "kicks" & "cuffs" -- but that it is the source of all my talents, (if I have any) I do not believe, any more than I believe it all comes from my English ancestors.

I suppose according to the distorted way things are seen in the States my ~~curly~~ blond curly headed little boy would also be a "negro"

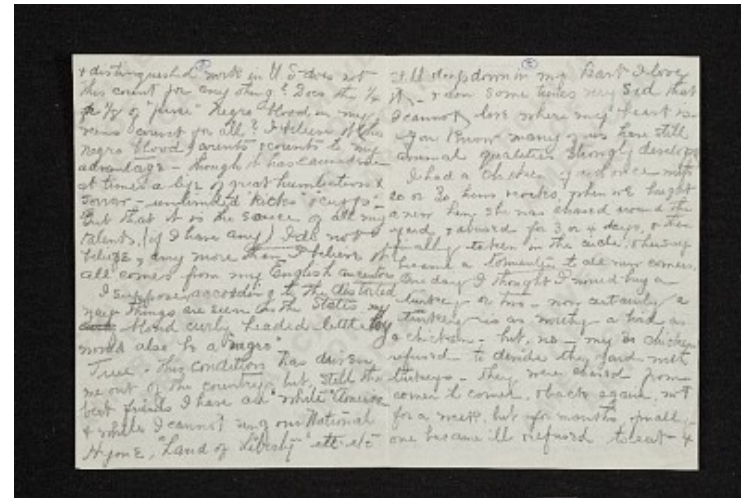
True, this condition has driven me out of the country but, still the best friends I have are "white" Americans & while I cannot sing our National Hymn, "Land of Liberty" etc. etc. [[end page]]

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still deep down in my heart I love it, & am some times very sad that I cannot live where my heart is. You know many of us have still animal qualities strongly developed.

I had a chicken yard once with 20 or 30 hens & cocks, when we bought a new hen she was chased around the yard & abused for 3 or 4 days, & then finally taken in the circle & herself became a tormentor to all new comers. One day I thought I would buy a turkey or two - now certainly a turkey is as worthy a bird as a chicken, but, no - my 30 chickens refused to divide the yard with turkeys. They were chased from corner to corner, & back again, not for a week, but for months, finally one became ill & refused to eat &



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