Benjamin Franklin on German Immigrants
In a letter written in 1753 to a friend, Benjamin Franklin wrote about his opposition to German immigrants who had come to Pennsylvania. Franklin claims that they had become rich but were not wise.

Primary Source
Those that come hither [German immigrants] are generally of the most ignorant Stupid sort of their own Nation…. Not being used to Liberty, they know not how to make a modest use of it… I remember when they modestly declined intermeddling in our Elections, but now they come in droves, and carry all before them… They begin of late to make all their Bonds and other legal Writings in their own Language…and I suppose in a few years [interpreters] will be also necessary in the Assembly, to tell one half of our Legislators what the other half say; in short unless the stream of their importation could be turned from this to other Colonies…they will soon out number us, that all the advantages we have will not [be] …able to preserve our language, and even our Government will become precarious.

Contemporary English
Germans who come to Pennsylvania are generally the most ignorant and stupid people of that country. They are not used to liberty and don’t know how to behave in a land that offers freedom. I remember when they did not vote in our elections. But now they come in large numbers and expect to vote on issues they know nothing about. Today they expect legal papers to be written in German. I suppose that in a few years we will have to have interpreters in the colonial assembly so that our lawmakers will understand what they are saying. In short unless they stop coming in large numbers they will outnumber us. Then we will not be able to preserve our own language and may even lose our own government.