=facture and commerce. It has been said by eminent writers that the most valuable of these three things, as they more or less depend on each other, can hardly be determined; but as a people in your infancy, and who have not succeeded to any extent in either, I think your case naturally preponderates in favor of agriculture.

To speak of agriculture, the question arises, what have we done? Fostered as we have been for 17 years by the Society who have always regarded agricultural operations in the Colony as the surest way to independence; the question again arises what have we done to sustain our little barque now about launching on the ocean of freedom and independence? Have we improved the here==tage which the Author of goodness has suffered us to possess, or is it now lying in wild and dreary wastes throughout various sections of the Colony? — If I have correctly observed the state of agricultural improvements in the Colony, I must assert, that, ~~they~~ in my opinion, they are not as they should be, if we wish to main==tain the pride of freemen. There is no fault to be found with the soil — it yields abundantly of what we plant, and it only re==quires industry and persevering exertions on our part, to make it produce such staple commodities as will introduce a free and valuable commerce between this and other Countries, and cause the Ships of nations now unknown to many of us, to float in our waters. Should your labors and attention be directed to the principles of this subject, you will not only be nominally independent, but truly so. Among the various articles which will grow here, you will find none more pro=

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

11. 1850--1851--1852

1851