but an enviable one; and if the thin veil, which screens the dread intentions that threaten him, were removed, he would see nothing less than a sword suspended by a single hair over his head. This is a sad picture which I have drawn, but history gives evidence of its truthfulness; and though religion and general education have done much in subduing the violence of the passions and will of the natural man much still remains to be accomplished to destroy the deceitfulness and avaricious nets of the human heart. Man is a selfish being. He is ever watchful to take advantage of, and construe in his own behalf, any mishap or what he conceives to be a departure from propriety on the part of his fellow man in conspicuous situations of life, and however fair formed he may be for virtue or other attributes which adorn mankind in Society, or with whatever repugnance and disrespect he regards the deeds of others when he himself is the subject of their influence there is danger when he becomes the giver instead of the receiver, of falling into like extremes. There is none perfect.

And fellow Citizens, being called by you to take the helm of a government which is about to commence its career, and which marks a new era in the annals of

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

12. January 1853--April 1855

1854