it has ever been circumscribed. — Its vital importance seems long since to have been absorbed in the presence of a sufficiency of the pro= =ducts of a prolific soil; easy of yielding its returns by the slightest effort at labor on the part of the native agriculturists. This is a great mistake. No country ever flourished for a great while, which did not include it as a reliable division of its domestic economy. And in view of its effect upon those of our citizens whose labors have thereto been creditably directed, I would recommend the offer, by an Act, of bounties or premiums, or both. The abundance of land would warrant such a measure, and even though the first offer should fail, stated amounts in money might secure the cherished object, and give to our position as a nation the use of means resulting from agricultural industry. —

The common good, is the object of legislation, and I maintain that nothing is calculated to enhance it more effectually, than the offer of encouragement in the best possible manner to the active and energetic; and a levy by taxation on all lands within the pre= =cincts of the several townships which are allowed to grow in a state of wild waste and uncultivation by the unconcerned and the negligent. Though a third of the lands cultivated might serve as an exemption from such a tax; and in that case remove the force of dependence, which sits as a baneful every-day check upon the energies of the government. The policy I maintain in this respect, may approach a restrictive one, and certainly is conservative; but its end is the happiness of the peo= =ple, which, it is observed would come to an end, if the dependency, upon interior products, which has wrought so signal an indifference to the benefits resulting from home agricultural labor were for any con= =siderable length of time removed by famine or war.

The late Act regulating imposts on foreign commod= =ities brought into our market, has had its effect. — While there has been no perceptable improvement on the exports, for causes already noticed, an obvious increase of revenue has given assurance of mod= =erate success. — Our independence has not been acknowledged — want of conveyance for Commissioners to Liberia proper, at a date when their

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1855