departure was conceived to be most opportune, was the cause. Had this been effected, the exercise of the Act over our entire coast trade, with proper facilities, would doubtless have enlarged the past annual revenue. But this disappointment argues no material depression of its future influence and bearing; because it includes various ob=ligations and restrictions upon foreign merchantmen anchoring at our ports, unknown to them before; and a gradual reduction of those prin=ileges which they were wont to have and to practice in bartering and trafficking with natives and each other in our waters, would have a more salutary influence upon our commercial relations, than the use of sudden and violent checks though we were prepared for such a course of action.

I can advise no enlargement of the imposts, at present, though the revenue of the next year, judging from that of the past, with an allowance for improvement upon it, will not meet the burden of contemplated expenses, which in all probability, will be over 100 per cent greater.

Upon the acknowledgment of our independence, a new exigency will arise in the shape of foreign encroachments on various prominent trading points on our coast. To be able to suppress any palpable violation of our laws, a cutter to protect our commerce and revenue will be needed. To indulge the hope that a law is sufficiently potent in itself, unaided by a decisive administration backed by a re=spectable amount of facilities is to attribute to it more efficiency than its due quantum; and the expediency of the measure highly suggests the importance of having a cutter of suitable size to enforce effectually the general tenor and bearings of the revenue Act.

In the collection of the imposts, a year's experience has shown, that no certain kind of produce at a certain rate, ought to be fixed by law. Good money — allowing that the term may include produce, drafts or coined money — leaving it with the officers in power during the year, to determine the kind of produce most reliable ac=cording to the prevalence of its demand, and its valuableness in foreign

value

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855—October 1857

1855