undertake it, if successful in obtaining a grant of its exclusive controll for a number of years afterwards.— Its navigation certainly is a desirable convenience; and nothing but the want of funds, has influenced my not requesting an appropriation for that particular object. But should a memorial reach you, Gentlemen, I would advise your limiting the time within reasonable bounds, if inclined to favor it, when this branch is to be rendered navigable; for the reason that by putting it too far distent, you might affect the attempt by the government when able of doing that which the enterprise of the party in question will in all probability, from the manifold difficulties which the encumbered state of it presents, fail to accomplish. This last observation is not made to disparage the gentle beaming of a rising enterprise, as I am in favor of the step; but being sensible from nice calculation that the effecting of this desirable object would cost more probably than the company of gentlemen that wish to undertake it have an idea of, it is to place it in a light which will make it a matter worthy of calculation to you.—

There is a number of institutions or Societies of mutual benefit that have amassed funds of no contemptable consideration. They are not under the protection nor notice of the law; and therefore serious inconvenience might at any time be suffered from or to these Societies. An Act for the incorporating of these and others of enterprise, organized on the principles of fairness and right, with a reference to the laws of the State, I am impressed should favorably claim a part of your attention during this session.— Under this head — though hardly a matter to be noticed in this communication — I beg to call your attention to the subject of lawful fencing, which for the want of some regulation, much destruction to crops and cattle has been the consequence.—

And fellow citizens of the Senate and House of Delegates; for the position which we have so far been able to sustain ourselves in, we have abundant cause to be thankful to the God of grace and glory, under whose protecting arm, we have

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

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