to our manufactures, &c, &c; thus increasing the original value.

Nor is it any argument in our favor, so long as the original article given in exchange is exclusively of heathen labour, to say that, being civilized, our wants are much greater, in proportion to our numbers, than those of the aborigines, which causes a corresponding increase of importation in our favor, and, consequently, of the revenue. This argument would simply amount to a confession, that we are the greatest consumers and non-producers; or, in the language of political economists, all our importations for the supply of our real and imaginary wants would, under such circumstances, be properly classified under the term of "*unproductive consumption,*" which, accordidg to a maxim in political economy, detracts from individual and national wealth and the resources of the government.

My main object, gentlemen, for introducing this subject and for a cursory notice of a few of the facts and principles involved therein, is simply to guard in future against an improper and exclusive legislative action respecting our aborigines. That some action, so far as is feasible and practicable, should be had as speedily as possible by the legislature, having for its object the general improvement of our aboriginal population, rendering them increasingly useful and profitable members of this Republic, no one of sound mind will deny. But there is equal, if not greater occasion that government action on such matters should begin nearer at home, right among ourselves. While the missionaries are, as a general thing, labouring among the aborigines, which is very proper, this government should enact and enforce laws at home discountenancing idleness and highly encouraging industry: laws that will effectually provide for the training up of at least three fourths of our youths with a practical knowledge of some mechanic art, or of some branch of industry that will be of utility. Our sons and daughters should be, as a general thing, trained up in and with such industrial habits, as a prominent part of their education; as will at once contribute to their physical development, their mental vigor, to the wealth of themselves and of the nation, and to the resources of the government. This principle, this state of things should be first generally cultivated among ourselves; and when it has firmly taken root, having become a fixed and admired principle among us, under sanction of law, then let it spread as rapidly and effectually among our aboriginal population as possible; let it practically, as well as by law, apply to them as far as the circle of our influence and power extends among them. We shall then be consistent exemplars to and teachers of them; and government will thereby be most blessedly co-operating with and effectually sustaining the missionaries of the Cross in their labors among them.

As a young nation, we need less tinsel and show, and more reality and stability, ere we can attain to real permanency and greatness. We must learn to abate our admiration of and honor for the exclusively external appearance, or any other futile condition or consideration; and we must learn to place a greater estimate on and to attach more honor to real merit, such as are the laudable products of the brain, the heart, and the hands.

I close this subject, gentlemen, by expressing the hope, that the time is not far distant, when our citizens generally, and especially all our wisest and most influential ones, will, as has been the case to a considerable extent, patriotically second and encourage every legislative and executive effort that may be employed, having for its object the dissemination and establishment of the aforesaid laudable principles throughout the length and breadth of this Republic.

The necessity of providing an adequate revenue for the purpose of meeting the current and contingent expenses and for the liquidation of the claims against government each year, is a subject that has been repeatedly urged upon you in my annual communications, as being indispensable to a healthy, vigorous and reputable administration of the Government; and I regret to say that this and other important subjects have been deferred by the legislature to within a few days of the close of their session, when the great pressure of business has invariably deferred them to each successive session, leaving the administration each year greatly crippled and embarrassed in its operations. I have been particular to cause the Secretary of the Treasury at each session not only to timely lay before you the aggregate amount of receipts and disbursements of each preceding year, but a detailed statement of the exports and imports as well as other statistics, which, from their very nature, constitute the most reliable data for the guidance of the Committee of ways and means in making the aforesaid provision with an accuracy almost amounting to certainty. In addition to the current expenses, and the liquidation of claims, it is indispensably requisite that means be provided for carrying on certain public works: the repairs of public buildings, the erection of new public buildings in each of our counties, and the more securely fortifying of some of our towns and settlements.

It is also my duty to invite your attention to the fact, that unless some change takes place very soon in the policy of such governments as continue to give every indication of their purpose to prosecute at all hazards the so-called emigration system on our coast, we shall have for some time to come, not a new source of expenses exactly—for we have been battling with the slave trade for its extinction in all its phases at the expense of our lives and treasures from the earliest period of our history here to the present,—but an old source of expenses greatly increased, growing out of the duty and necessity of this Government to keep a sufficient local police employed and stationed at each of the principal points along our coast to co-operate with our costa guarda, and to employ a military

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XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

4. Message of the President of Liberia to the Legislature... Monrovia, 1858