The townships, within the Republic, with very few exceptions, are amply provided with schools. Yet it is my purpose, so soon as the taxation law begins to operate successfully among the aborigines, to establish under the provisions of an existing law at least one common school in each County—the number to be increased in the future as circumstances may justify—for the special, though not exclusive, tuition of Native youths. If they be known as government schools, specially established for their benefit, and the services of efficient teachers are secured, I am sanguine that they will be well attended by youths as well as middle aged persons. And since they will pay their taxes cheerfully, and otherwise contribute to the support of the government, and to a considerable degree no longer feel an estrangement from, but identified with us, it seems but the reasonable duty of government, to at least make this commencement for their education and training, which will at once increase our claim upon them, and their attachment and respect for us, as one people, having one common interest.

I shall transmit to you within a day or two, a copy of the communication I received in September from the Trustees of Donations in the United States, respecting, and responsive to the documents which accompanied the Act entitled "An Act Amendatory to the Act entitled" An Act incorporating Liberia College and the supplement thereto," approved March 1st, 1859, which by implication provided that it should be transmitted to the respective Boards of Trustees of Donations and of Liberia College for their reception or rejection. In that document you will find the decision of the former, together with the reasons and arguments upon which it is based, explicitly and respectfully set forth. I shall transmit at the same time a copy of the Preamble and Resolution, adopted in this city September 19, 1859, by the Board of Trustees of Liberia College, concurring in the aforesaid opinion of the Board of Trustees of Donations; and I shall transmit also, a memorial of much interest, from the Board of Trustees of Liberia College, respecting Liberia College, which I received on the 6th inst.

Regarding as I do, the subject to which these important documents relate, as being of vast importance, I shall transmit them at a very early day, with such a special message, as I deem their importance demands.

The Agricultural interest of the Republic is making encouraging progress. There has been more produced and exported by the Americo-Liberians during the last year, than in the entire previous history



of Liberia, comprising a period of nearly forty years. And it is very manifest to all who have visited the plantations this season, that there will be a large increase this year over the last. The counties of Montserrado and Grand Bassa are especially progressing praise-worthily in such pursuits; and I have no doubt that their example will influence other sections of the Republic to similar industrial pursuits: pursuits that constitute the basis of wealth, comfort, and independence, and which, as an auxilliary, are second to none, in promoting the intellectual, moral and religious interest of a nation. I have already directed measures to be adopted for the procurement of several barrels of the best cotton seed this month at Cape Mount and vicinity, to be distributed among the native chiefs along our coast for cultivation the ensuing season, commencing in March; and I am happy to be able to say that the subject of the cultivation of cotton is very well received by the chiefs all along our coast; and it is at the earnest request of many of them that the seed will be procured and distributed. It however remains yet to be seen, as to whether cotton cultivation will prove more profit than, or even equally so, to, the making of palm oil, and the cultivation of sugar cane, coffee, rice and other exportable articles. The cultivation of cotton in Liberia to any extent other than for home consumption, will depend on this issue. Should the issue declare in favor of cotton, millions of pounds will be exported from Liberia annually within the next fifteen years, otherwise a very few thousand pounds. In this connection, I should state for your information, that the Manchester Cotton Supply Association has kindly tendered through its secretary, to Gerard Ralston Esq., our Consul General at London, the sum of fifty pounds, of the amount of which I gave information at the last Session, as having been appropriated by that Association to be awarded as premiums for four years for the encouragement of cotton cultivation in Liberia, which amount is subject to order. And I am further advised by Mr. Consul General Ralston, that the five Medals of bronze and silver from the same source and for the same purpose, have also been tendered to him, which he will forward by the Rev. J. S. Payne, expected to arrive this month.

Our commerce, though as yet small—the result of a non-development of the inexhaustible resources of our country—must increase in proportion to the increase in the production, by agriculture and manufacture, of exportable articles by our citizens.

We have had it demonstrated during the year, that our exchange

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

8. Message of the President of Liberia to the Legislature... Monrovia, 1859