that this. Nothing but plenty of Manure & good Ploughing would be required & I could put him in the way of effecting the whole such a Market as Philadelphia, for the Sale of Cattle Sheep & Pork with about $5000 in Cash to purchase Cattle then every thing would be easily done

If I was 30 years younger, with the experience I have I would clear from 12 to $6000 Annually & the Lands should increase in fertility 4 or 5000 bushels of Wheat would supply largely towards the Amt. of profit & at the same give Plenty of Forage for yr. Cattle during Winter & largely towards the necessary Stock of Manure for your Fields. if there be Marshes their Mud would be a capital Injredient with Leaves, Weeds & Marsh Hay for Compost. Corn Stalks also would Contribute. he might soon Manure as much as I do. 100 Head of Sheep are sufficient. I would prefer 200 Head of Bullocks on such a farm to an increase of the stated Number of Sheep. Hogs may raise upon Clover & Marsh & would prove profitable I have no doubt. upon the score of keeping Slaves he might be reconciled when he Considers what Miserable lives those Emancipated lead. I am not among the worst Masters yet I profess not to be the best. mine seem to be satisfied at least I know they have reason to be so for their lives are less Laborious than Mine. they are the best Clothed Negroes in America Considering their Number. they had of their own property nearly 8000 of Excellent Pork last year & have a prospect of a large increase of quantity this year over & above you know they have a large quantity of Milk & Vegetables. they are supplied all the several Harvests from my Stock & they have had two Heifers killed for their benefit this fall. Beyond this ~~or further more~~ as Ridgely says. my Neighbours have heard them say they prefer their present situation to being free. Yet you know that I am at times rather rough with them. I have written amply with a view to induce Mr. H. to make the purchase if Mr. does not this high time to conclude you will think with me after so much said on the subject. I have a letter to write to John. my love to the children & best wishes to Mr Harvey. yr affect. Father

Thos. Lee

MdHS 1974 [1260-1045]