

Lisbon Farm April 23d, 1859

Dear Andrew

I have been head & ears in to planting Cranberries. the Spring has been very wet making it difficult to get working men to collect plants and other sloppy work that is so connected with the business. so I have been into the worst of it myself and I fear shall have to slack up for I find I cannot stand the exposure. the means for propogating them is so cheap, certain, that can I but get them planted in proper season. success in producing berries is certain. and a few weeks of the proper season lost is equivalent to a year. these are the first that I have planted. it will take three years to realize from them. the two previous seasons have been spent in fencing ditching, making gards from the approce of fire from the woods. and a general improvement of the virus formally existing. these things have made marked improvements so that by taking summer before last as a standard crop we have a chance this season for 4 or 500 bushels. but can I but get the same number of bushels I can do well. with the prospect of a large gain from futher spreading. and the result of present planting must make the crop (such a season as year before last) more than a thousand bushels. which at the average price of the last ten year (4\$ per bu) will make \$4000. but when, I know how small expence in proportion to price there is in producing them. I feel there is a limited time to realize such prices. the disposition to cultivate has been more general. it will be over done then will come reduction of prices. I can not but think that cranberries will always sell. but will ultimately come down nearer to the cost of production. like wheat corn &c when this comes I have the best soil to produce them the value of the soil must come up to that of grain farms. so that I feel that I must advance at once to realize the approximation to the large sum per annum. and to save myself of being run out of my income by the increased production of others. I must give it my personal attention. my bound boy by the affair with the girl has forced me to imploy him with the team in it. and the man at the place cannot stay without I imploy his boy. this is all I want with the exception of about a hundred dollars for a dam and extras. but the loss of a crop makes this a heavy drag with my means.

In regard to Mr Morris he had insulted me in a little manner a short time before I wrote that letter. but I fell certain I can sum up proof enough for what I asserted to satisfy his friends or my enemies of these truths. in regard to the mortgage that was part of my plan as you advised. The French affair is all wait for those St. Mary's people for I do believe they will do nothing. Lydia & Sam keep pritty well. I stay ~~there~~ at night but do not take any meals there. Sam was on the Grand Jury this week. McLeod in a letter to cousin Anne Morris says he cannot live to see his children advances in the world. I think that if I had not a reasonable hope of such a thing I would stop the increase at once. dont you

I am truly Yours

James A Fenwick