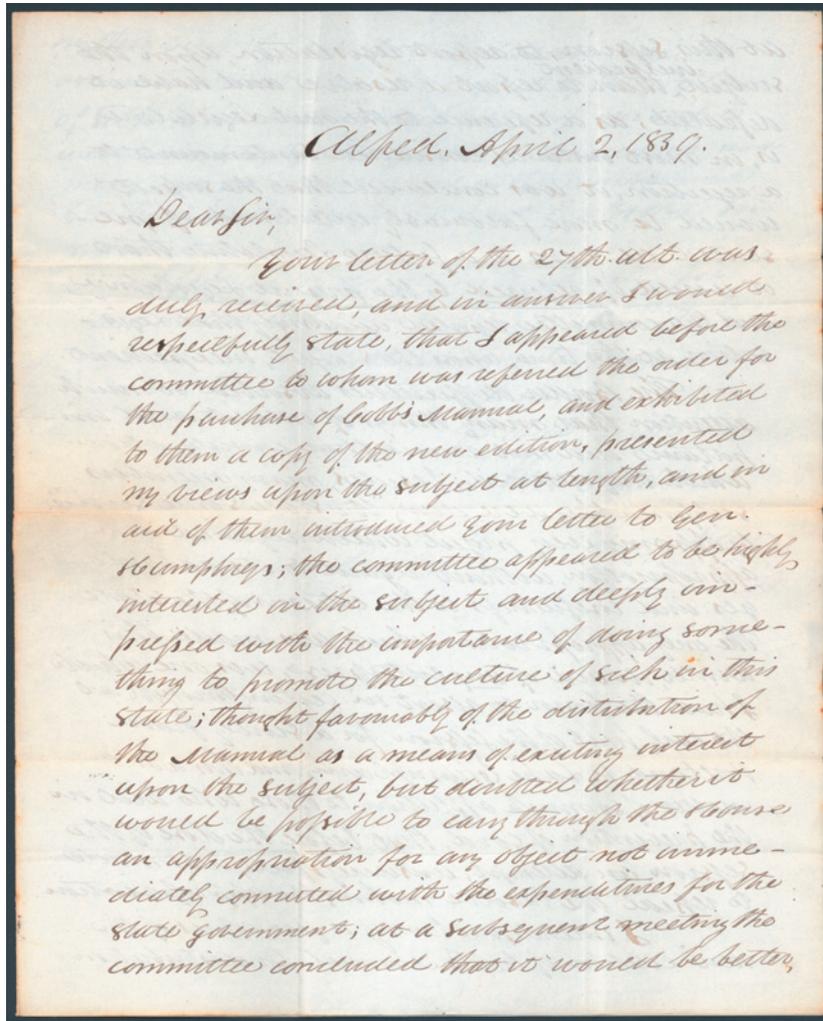


Alfred, April 2, 1839.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 27th ult. was duly received, and in answer I would respectfully state, that I appeared before the committee to whom was referred the order for the purchase of Cobb's Manual, and exhibited to them a copy of the new edition, presented my views upon the subject at length, and in aid of them introduced your letter to Gen. Humphreys; the committee appeared to be highly interested in the subject and deeply impressed with the importance of doing something to promote the culture of silk in this state; thought favourably of the distribution of the Manual as a means of exciting interest upon the subject, but doubted whether it would be possible to carry through the House an appropriation for any object not immediately connected with the expenditures for the state government; at a subsequent meeting the committee concluded that it would be better,



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. S-5074, Misc. Box 109/3)
Date: April 2, 1839
Description: William C. Allen letter to Parker Cleaveland

at this session, to report legislation, upon the subject, ^{inexpedient} than to report a resolve and have it defeated; as a reference to the next Legislature is, in most instances, considered tantamount to a rejection, it was concluded that the subject would be more favourably entertained if presented de novo to a future Legislature than it would if referred by the present Legislature, and the committee reported accordingly that legislation, at this time, upon the subject, inexpedient.

The border difficulties absorbed so much attention that many things of interest and importance did not secure that consideration which they deserved; besides, many members supposed they were doing "the state some service" by opposing every project which required an appropriation, without regard to its advantages and usefulness to the citizens of the state.

The only appropriation which was made this winter, in aid of any enterprise, was one which I had the honor to assist in getting through at the early part of the session, for a survey from Portland to Lake Champlain, and this was a matter of so much affliction to those who "aid in the prevention of good," that before the close of the session, an attempt, unsuccessful, was made to repeal the Resolve making the appropriation.

I intend purchasing a few copies of the new edition of Cobb's Manual, for distribution

at this session, to report legislation, upon the inexpedient subject ^ than to report a resolve and have it defeated; as a reference to the next Legislature is, in most instances, considered tantamount to a rejection, it was concluded that the subject would be more favourably entertained if presented de novo to a future Legislature than it would if referred by the present Legislature, and the committee reported accordingly that legislation, at this time, upon the subject, inexpedient.

The Border difficulties absorbed so much attention that many things of interest and importance did not secure that consideration which they deserved; besides, many members supposed they were doing "the state some service" by opposing every project which required an appropriation, without regard to its advantages and usefulness to the citizens of the state. The only appropriation which was made this winter, in aid of any enterprise, was one which I had the honor to assist in getting through at the early part of the session, for a survey from Portland to Lake Champlain, and this was a matter of so much affliction to those who "aid in the prevention of good," that before the close of the session, an attempt, unsuccessful, was made to repeal the Resolve making the appropriation.

I intend purchasing a few copies of the new edition of Cobb's Manual, for distribution

PAID 10

[postmark]
Alfred
April 2
ME

Hon. Parker Cleaveland,
Professor at Bowdoin College,
Brunswick,
Maine.

paid

[upside down]
W. C. Allen, Esq.
Apl. 2, 1839
Single

