

Greenport April 9th 1834.

Sir,

I received your welcome letter of the 13th of Feb last: being from home at that time is the reason of my not answering the same before now.

respecting the slate quarry in Williamsburgh. Cap. James Bracket sent me a sample of the slate last summer, and as to quality I am ready to pronounce it equal with any of the Welsh slate that I have been acquainted with.

The descriptions which you have given of the slates with the situation where they lay are all favourable in my judgement, sufficiently so to encourage a trial, but I do not know any person or persons in this country who will be willing to undertake the business, if a company be formed to undertake it, I would be willing to superintend the work myself providing they would make it and object for me, I have been bred to the business in Wales, where most of the slates are imported from to America. I should be prudent in the commencement of the work so as not to run too much risk in expence before a fair trial is made.

As to the exact quantity of slates that a man may quarry out in a day or in a ~~day~~ week it is impossible for me to give, it will vary according to circumstances, one man sometime, (in the quarries with which I have been acquainted,) will split

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from 1000 to 1500, if the quarry be very good a man
may split 2000, all sizes considered promiscuously;
and another will trim near the same quantity, that is
to make the same ready for market. at other times
the same hands could not turn out 500 slates for
market in a day.

I approve of your intention of sending
to wales for experienced hands to work & I should
recommend to you to request the hands to bring
their tools with them, such that the blacksmiths
in this country are not acquainted with.

I should give it as my advice, if you could get
one experienced hand and send with him half a dozen
labourers and in a month you may be able to find
whether it will answer to you on a larger scale.

I shall be happy to correspond farther on the
subject with you. it may be that I shall go
to the state of maine some time if so I shall
endeavour to go and see the slate quarry, although
there is no business that calls me there a present.

I am respectfully

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Mr. Moses Greenleaf — Williamsburg.

David James

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