

Hon^{ble} Mr. Pice -
Chairman of the Committee
on the Library of Congress -

Sir

A letter lately received from my friend
Hon^{ble} Judge McLean, encourages me to write
to you in regard to the appropriation in 1858 of
\$25000 by Congress "for some work of Art executed
or to be executed (by me) and suitable for the
adornment of the Capitol"

He says he has had conversations with the Presi-
dent and yourself, and from their tenor he inferred
that you would permit me to write to you upon
the subject -

Judge McLean thinks that a group of figures
would be more acceptable than a single colossal
Statue, and he advises me to propose a group,
but before considering the matter, it would be well
to know the nature of the subject to be chosen; whether
Historical, poetical, or allegorical, also how many fi-
gures would be required, and how large in groups
of marble -

An intimation of your wishes in these respects,
might save considerable time and labour in the
wrong direction -

I suppose it is not unknown to you, that in
the hope of encouragement from the Government,
and a place for my work somewhere in or
near the Capitol, I some years ago, designed and
modelled a statue, to which I gave the name of
our Country -

This figure was intended to illustrate the genius
and beauty of our Republic -
It has several times, without any solicitation of
mine, been proposed for the consideration of