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Letter from John Sibley to Samuel Sibley, September 26, 1806

John Sibley

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Samuel H. Sibley

John Sibley
Natchitoches
Sept. 26th 1806

Dear Hopkins,

Some time Ago when I wrote to you last I Expected by this time to have been in Fayetteville; but the Movements of the Spaniards on this frontier has Affected the Indian Chiefs in a Manner that I cannot get them away, Indeed Urging them at this time would be highly improper & unreasonable. when I Shall Go now is Entirely Uncertain, The Spaniards resenting being Removed onto the River Saline by the Officer commanding here last Winter have returned, taken their old Ground in force about 1200, Under the Command of two officers of Rank & Experience, Equipt with Cannon & they frequently Patrolle within five or Six Miles of Natchitoches have turned back an Exploring party ascending Red River by Order of the President, have captured & Taken away Prisoners Three American Citizens & two others made their Escape from them, have Cut down & carried away the Flag of the United States that was Planted in the Caddo Nation of Indians, & committed a Variety of Other Insults & outrages not to be born with.- Genl. Wilkinson Arrived here last Sunday & is Making every preparation to Attack them in their Camp, he has now here Nine Companies of Infantry & two of Artillery of the U. S. Troops & three more Companies will be here in a few days & I expect from Natchez this Territory there will arrive in the Course of Ten Days from 800 to 1000 Malitia, Governor Claiborn went from here about a Week Ago, he is now in the lower Part of the Territory turning Out & organizing the Malitia & probably will be here again in a few days, he has Given Me the Command of what Cavalry Can be raised in this part of the Territory & I join General Wilkinson the day after tomorrow and Shall Continue in Service, till Our Malitia are Relieved by troops raised for that purpose. We Shall drive the Spaniards (If we Can) over the Saline Again, but Capture as Many as we Can, Our troops I believe can be depended on the Spaniards May Stand three or four fires- Whether this will bring On a General War or not is Uncertain; but the probability is that it will, we are however in doubt whether their taking these positions & advancing upon us Is by the Order of the King of Spain, or only by the authority of the Viceroy & Council of Mexico- The Territory they have lately taken possession of is beyond all doubt part of the Country the United States have purchased & paid for, & we Ought to defend it or Perish in the Attempt. I am highly gratified at the disposition & Sentiments of General Wilkinson on the Subject Since his Arrival here, they so exactly Accord with my own Views which all my letters lately have expressed, but in which I met No Support 'till the General Arrived. The General Speaks kindly of George & highly approbates his Conduct at St. Louis, which gives me much pleasure. I am so hurried in preparing My Cavalry, my Private Bagage, & affairs for a Campaign I have not time to write you more fully; but will write you again immediately

after an event has taken place worth Noticing (If I am then alive). God bless you be as Usefull as you Can to your Mother & the Children, & I will repay you with Interest. My Next letter perhaps May Express to you some advise & wishes what I would wish you to do, which will depend on the result of Peace or War. James Bludworth was Married to a French Girl last Sunday he cannot be Accused of Marrying for Beauty or for Riches by those who know his Bride.-

Make my Compliments to every Friend, & write me often I have no Complaints about health.-

Am Most affectionately

Your John Sibley

Mr. Saml. H. Sibley

Sibley Mss. VolIVIV.

Missouri Historical Society