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1-25-1823

## Letter to Alton Easton from Mary Sibley, January 25, 1823

Mary Easton Sibley  
*Fort Osage*

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### Recommended Citation

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Fort Osage January 25<sup>th</sup> 1823

It is only lately my dear brother that I have learned where you were placed for the continuance of your studies, a few mails since there came a letter from Mr. Perrine who informed us that you are well, and under his military school when you are examined for that purpose. You know not what a mortification it will be to those who love you (and feel a greater interest in your future welfare than you can yet feel for yourself) to hear you have been rejected for incapacity, after you are admitted you must remember that you are liable to be sent home if you do not by proper exertion induce your tutors to believe you are worthy to remain a pupil of that institution. Be industrious, lose not a moment in idle amusements, but let your lighter studies & duties be the only relaxation from subjects that require more intense application. Remember that in this country the advantages of rank and fortune are not required to make the hero or statesman, but more independently & more gloriously you rise in the estimation of the world solely by your own talents and merit. By your good conduct make yourself respected, and as you become better known you will find friends among the just and good, though you are now surrounded by strangers, without one to take your part, & let this idea my dear brother stimulate you to depend on your own exertions to establish yourself an honorable character.

Our friends in St. Louis are well. I expect our father and sister Joanna will be up here on a visit in the spring. Joseph and Russella go to school in St. Louis. You can tell Mr. Perrine that Miss Weller has returned to the missionary establishment on the Osage river. She has relinquished her school in consequence of ill health. One of the missionaries informed me the other day she was supposed to be in a decline. Her letter has been forwarded to her.

I expect you will not fail to write to me frequently, give me a description of your school what you are learning & how you are satisfied. If I was among our friends I might give you some particulars that would be interesting, but there is nothing here that I could inform you of that would give you any pleasure.

Mr. Sibley joins me in love to you, your affectionate sister

M. E. Sibley

Alton Easton