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Letter from John Sibley to John Armstrong, March 7, 1813

John Sibley

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Natchitoches March 7th 1813

Sir

An Express Arrived here Yesterday from the Province of Taxus [Texas] bringing a number of letters confirming the Report of the Death of Col. Magee, he died of Sickness at Labardie [La Bahía] on the 6th of Feby. The Command of the Revolutionary Army at Labardie devolved on Col. Samuel Kemper. Col Reuben Ross is Second in Command. On March 9th a Battle was fought Between the two Armies & Another On the 17th both which terminated in favour of the Revolutionists. Upwards of An hundred Spaniards were Killed, many more wounded with the loss of three Piece of Cannon & their Camp Entirely Broken up. Since which one whole Company of Salcedos Army have Come Over to Kemper with all their Arms etc. Smaller Numbers are Daily Coming in, all of them Agree in stating the Distress & dispair [sic] of Salcedo. Governor Herrera [Herrera] Second in Command & Salcedo are on Bad Terms, they do not Speak together, & great Division & a General discontent prevails in Salcedo's Army, & that the people of St Antonio have Revolted & that a Deputation from them were Dispatched to Invite Col Ross who they understood was on the Road with Some Reinforcements to March Directly to St Antonio & take Command, that no opposition would be made & that should Salcedo Come there with his Small Distressed Army he would be Opposed by the People. That Salcedo was without Powder, Bread, or Tobacco & it is believed here that the Revolutionary party are at this time in Complete possession of all the Country on this Side of the River Grand and are now beginning the organization of their new government, (to us which will I believe will Require more Men of Talents than they have). We have very little direct information from this Country Between River Grand & Mexico but from the confusion & dispair [sic] of Salcedo's Army, his not being able to procure from beyond him Either Men, or Ammunition, the Conclusion is that the Royal party are no better off beyond than on this Side of River Grand. I have heard Nothing from Doctor Robinson. An Express is every moment Expected Direct from Labardie or St. Antonio. I shall write to you again when I have anything further worth Communicating.

Am

Most Respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

John Sibley

The Honble. Secretary of War

[This is copied from a typed transcription published in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly. Spelling errors and oddities have been reproduced as they appear in that transcription. All spelling corrections or other clarifications appearing within square brackets are copied as such directly from this source, except for this one and those that include the word "sic".]