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Letter from George Sibley to John G. Comegys, January 28, 1811

George Champlin Sibley
Fort Osage

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Fort Osage January 29th. 1811.

My dear Sir,

Our friend Hunt will no doubt have handed you my Letter of the 8th. Inst^t. long ago.-

I flatter myself that you are now Restored to the blessing of health again- I pray you let me hear from you Soon.- Just as ^{Mr} Hunt was Setting off, it occurred to me to Request of him to hire for me a Good Servant for the term of one year and bring him up with him in the Spring, which he ^was good enough to Say he would do if he could; but Suggested the idea of getting your assistance in the matter, as from his long absence from St^t. Louis he was fearful he was not well enough acquainted with the Market at present to enable him to find a proper person.

Now I am absolutely ashamed to be So often troubling you with Such unprofitable and out of the way commissions, but when I weigh all things maturely and justly, and consult my own wants without deciding on the willingness or unwillingness of my friends to relieve them, I then divest myself of a certain peculiar delicacy, which too frequently comes athwart the path of my interest; and fly off to the other extreme, when I find myself free from all embarrassments and can ~~beg~~ ^{beg} by Request, nay Sometimes even, demand the good office^s of others without any Squeamishness or hesitation at all.

Thus having Settled the premises (to my own Satisfaction) we will proceed to discuss the merits & demerits of the Said Servant in demand.-

I want a Sober, industrious, good natured- but- where's the use of description, when everything is embraced in the words "Good Servant"?- I want to hire a good Servant then, for a year and am willing to give Such wages as are customary or a Little more Rather ^a then let an extraordinary good one Slip by me.- If I could meet with a Negro lad ^{Say} from 16 to 20 years of age to my liking, I would purchase him if I could, in preference to hiring one; Perhaps it may come in the

way to procure me Such an one or hire for a Short time by way of trial,
and if I liked him and the price would buy him.- At all events I must
beg of you Send me a ^{servant} of Some kind either Black or White; pro-
vided it will not cost you too much trouble to find one.- Please to
get the best you can, and make the best terms you can.

Mr. Audrain, the bearer, promises to call on you just before he
Sets out on his Return, by whom you will be good enough to Send all my
Letters and Papers. There is ^a ~~are~~ Letters enclosed for the Post office
which ⁺ will thank you to pay the postage of.-

Yrs. truly &c.

G. C. S.

Mr. J. G. Comegys

S^t. Louis.