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Letter from Frederick Bates to James House Regarding the Tillier-Sibley Dispute

Frederick Bates

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Life & Letters of
Frederick Bates
by Marshall

James House
to
Frederick Bates

[October 1807]

Sir,

Enclosed I send you a letter from Mr. Sibley- I have delayed communicating to you that part of its contents, touching his dispute with Mr. Tillier from a hope that it would have been in my power to wait on you personally as it appears, from some of his expressions, that his diffidence would not allow him to make application for your aid, to your self- As my present engagements, do not admit of any visiting at St. Louis this week, and as one post has already been missed without replying to his letter, I hope I shall be excused for taking this mode of communicating his request- I am confident that you will not withhold from Mr. S. any aid which you can consistently with propriety afford him- without detracting, in the least, from the respect which is justly due, which I have ever felt for the age and character of Mr. T. it would be but justice to say, and I am confident I will be admitted by all who know him, that he is extremely subject to gusts of passion and splenetic humors which render it morally impossible for any young man to be connected with him as Mr. S. was without having his feelings, frequently mortified and I believe, that there are few young men that would have conducted themselves with more discretion, on similar occasions than Mr. Sibley has done- I well recollect at the time Mr. T. was laboring under those unpleasant feelings which occasioned Mr. S's dismissal, that the latter apprized me of the storm that was brewing- and expressed his determination, to keep aloof and if possible to avoid its effects- and I have reason to believe he pursued this prudential policy as far as it was possible, consistently with his duty- It is not my wish or intention, by these remarks to injure Mr. Tillier, who, I will repeat is a Gentleman whom I venerate and respect, as one that possesses a more than usual share of excellent qualities of heart

and urbanity of disposition- but I cannot withhold my opinion
however little weight it may hav , that there is no young men that
can be found, that will fill the position, late Mr. Sibles, with
more propriety, & with more interest to the factory than he has done-

Life and Papers of Frederick Bates.

Vol.I, pp 224-225.