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Letter from George Sibley to John Mason, May 10, 1811

George Champlin Sibley

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Fort Osage May 10th. 1811.

Sir,

Having devoted the last three years exclusively to ^{the} public Service, more than two of which I have passed in confined Seclusion at this place, I am now to beg of you the indulgence of a furlow for Six Months, to commence in Novem^r. next after the Indians have gone to the Hunt, and to expire in April when they Return during which I will do myself the honor to wait upon you at the Office of Indian Trade, if you think proper to desire it.-

Some family concerns of a nature very interesting to me, require my presence at Natchitoches for a Short time and my health Requires Some Respite from confinement-

Altho' this indulgence would be particularly grateful to me, yet I would not by any means Request it unless it can be granted with perfect convenience to the Service-

I am Setting out tomorrow on an excursion for a Short time to visit our Red Neighbors the Kansas and Pawnees, to endeavor to form Some commercial arrangements to extend to those Tribes the advantages intended for them in this establishemnt- In this, Gen^l. Clark favors me with his approbation and friendly assistance, and I am in hope I Shall be able to open a free trade with those People.

I have a quantity of Furs, Peltries &c. to the Am^t. of about \$5000 in Readiness for market which Mr. Rawlings will dispatch to S^t. Louis by the first opportunity-

Except Some unimportant movements of the Osages, and Some fighting they have lately had with the Ioways, all appears to be well with our Indian concerns in this quarter.

I am very Respectfully

&c.

G. C. S.

John Mason Esq^r
Sup^t. of Indⁿ. Trade

George Town Dist. of Cola.