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Letter to Mary Sibley from Sarah Tuttle, June 25, 1847

Sarah Tuttle

Boston, Massachusetts

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[Address page:]

Mrs. M. E. Sibley
Linden Wood [Hwy?].
Near St. Charles
Missouri

*[Edges of first page cut off. Missing or illegible words and letters are indicated thus: [***] or with the transcriber's best guess enclosed in brackets]*

Boston June 25' 1847

Dear Mrs. Sibley-----Your letter of June 9th arrived last evening; and ought to be answered immediately. The Executive Committee are most of them journeying & will not have a meeting till July 7—*[or 1--?]* therefore I may as well write this morning as delay a day or two longer.

Knowing that every heart in our Society beats in unison with my own in regard to counteracting Romish efforts and influence as far as is practicable. I feel no hesitancy in saying that we will send a teacher to St. Charles, if any way can be devised for her support. Our constitution makes our treasury sacred to three objects—Keeping the simple machinery of the Society in motion—paying travelling expenses of teachers when necessary & aiding such as are destitute of means, in procuring an outfit. A home & support must be found at the west. In case you confine your school to *[our tiny?]* scholars—where could our teacher find a home? Were a young lady able and willing to walk morning and evening to Linden Wood and you were generously disposed to allow it when the weather is good are there in St. Charles [C]hristian families able & willing to refresh her *[at]* noon & in bad weather. Aside from traveling expenses & outfit the Ladies here as *[a]* Society can do nothing—but as individuals *[I]* feel confident tuition fees for quite a number of War children Baptist or Protestant might be obtained in this city. A teacher ought to have *[\$]*125 salary and board. As an individual I will pay something for the tuition of poor children & will do what I am able to induce others to do the same. If you will see what can be done in St. Charles to rescue Protestant children from Papal Schools, and secure them in the care of a pious Protestant teacher, I will do all that I am capable of doing to establish and sustain a Protestant School in St. Charles.

You speak of “Old School” in a way that puzzles me. We Congregationalists in New England know little or nothing of any difference between ourselves & old and new school Presbyterians. Presbyterians in New England are not known from Congregationalists, unless something is said about the “church session”, instead of the “Church Committee”, and Congregational churches settle Presbyterian ministers over them, occasionally without changing a “Committee”, into a “Session.” I suppose we are all of one heart and mind in desires & efforts to save souls and defeat the machinations of Rome & have no time or strength to waste upon modes of government adopted by either Presbyterians or Congregationalists.

The heart of this *[Society?]* is set upon establishing good Protestant schools *[whenever/wherever]* providence opens the way by inclining his people in the West to offer a home and competent support to a teacher set down at their door.

I regret the necessity of Miss Eastman's changing her location, but rejoice to know that it is not occasioned by discontent on her part or unacceptableness as a teacher and representative of New England. Assure her of our confidence & affectionate regards. We should be always happy to hear from her, and will not cease to pray for prosperity and success. I am truly glad that she is not disposed to return to Mass.-- as every return on account of climate strengthens the opposition of friends, to the departure of daughters & sisters. A day or two since, I received a note from her sister, Mrs. Bliss enclosing between 8 and 9 dollars on Miss Eastman's account.

Hitherto the Lord has smiled upon our enterprise & poured out his Spirit upon the schools and stations occupied by our teachers beyond our most sanguine expectations. Five schools have been refreshed and blessed in this way and more than seven hundred scholars have been reported by our teachers. It has been matter for praise to God that our teachers have been sent for by Baptists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians old & new and Congregationalists and so far as we know equally acceptable to each body represented in our appreciations. We aim to select such teaches as possess deep religious principle & who are willing to practise [sic] self-denial for the sake of winning souls to Christ, and such as can labor [most?] cordially with evangelical Christians of [every] name. It was not from sectarian feelings that we limited our teachers to one denomination, but because one denomination, so numerous, as are Congregationalists in New England would have as much to do as they had the strength to accomplish. I have labored hard to induce the New England Baptists to organize & sustain religion against Rome in the West themselves—but as yet they have not done it, although individuals among that denomination bid us God speed and make generous donations & so of Episcopalians. Presbyterians are scarcely known in New England, out of NH & I do not know more than 3 or 4 there & they preach and act just like Congregationalists.

Please answer this letter, and if on the whole you conclude to have us send a teacher to St. Charles, please name the time she should arrive--. No one would be willing to go earlier than September, I suppose.

With respect & affection yours

Sarah [Guttle/Tuttle] Secy,