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Letter from Frederick Bates to Henry Dearborn, November 7, 1808

Frederick Bates

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ACTING GOVERNOR BATES TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR

[NA: WD, SWDF, B 314: ALS]

SAINT LOUIS *Nov*: 7 1807.

SIR, I have the honor to address you on a subject, with respect to which, I have no official right of interference.—But those who have the pleasure of an acquaintance with M^r Sibley, Assistant Agent of the Factory, cannot avoid partaking in those sensibilities which a late unhappy incident occasions him.—

M^r Tillier has taken upon himself to dismiss M^r Sibley from the Factory.—He asks an investigation.—Permit me to unite with him in this request.—

I cannot know precisely the causes of misunderstanding; but from the steadiness, the intelligence, the persevering attention to business which M^r Sibley has uniformly discovered, there is no person who is not entirely convinced, that these misunderstandings have arisen solely from the impatient temper of M^r Tillier—He has uniformly spoken in the highest terms of M^r S.—and has never as I am told differed with him, except on subjects of punctilio, which, in a mind less petulant than M^r Tillier's, would have been thought unworthy of regard.—

M^r S—is however a young gentleman, of the fairest hopes, and I entreat that his character may be rescued from the possibility of suspicion by an Enquiry.⁷⁷—

I pray you to pardon the liberty which I take and accept the assurances of respect with which I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obed^t Servant

FREDERICK BATES