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Letter from George Sibley to William Clark, November 20, 1811

George Champlin Sibley

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To Genl. Wm. Clark

Saint Louis Nov^r. 20, 1811.

Sir,

I hand you her with the deposition of Pierre Lorr Interpreter of Indian Languages at the U. S. Indian Trading House at Ft. Osage, and the Certificate of Isaac Rawlings Assistant Factor at that place; which I offer you as going fully to justify and represent in its proper light the conduct of D^r. John H. Robinson & myself, Relative to the arrest of by the Osages of two trading Boats at Ft. Osage in the fall of 1809- which arrest Capt. E. B. Clemson (then & at present commanding the Garrison at Ft. Osage) has affected to ascribe to the counsel & advice given to the Indians by D^r. Robinson & myself, & has it seems made an official Report to that effect to the Hon. The Sec^y. of War- On which Report, I am advised you had been Requested to institute an enquiry into the facts & circumstances belonging to that affair- In Reply to this complaint of Capt. Clemson, I ~~am~~ ^{deem} it sufficient for my own justification to offer you the two papers enclosed herein, which it is believed contained also a full vindication of the conduct of Doctor Robinson- But Sir should there remain a doubt or Shadow of doubt on the Subject as respects my conduct- I must Require the testimony of Captain Clemson, D^r. Robinson, Noel Morrain Usage Interpreter- Paul Loisa Usage Interpreter and Louis Lorimier late a lieut. in the Army of the U. S.- which fully and fairly takⁿ, will, I pledge my honor, not only Remove every Suspicion ^{ever} that may have existed to my prejudice, but will clearly Shew my good title to the unqualified approbation of the Sec^y. of War, and all other persons interested, So far as I was concerned in the affair alluded to; and will also enable the proper authority to award punishment and censure to whom it is justly due.

As respects the other matter complained of against me by Capt. Clemson (The Shutting the Factory against a certain band of the Osages)

I do not consider it necessary to take any further notice of it, than to Refer to a Letter which I addressed to the Sup^t. of Indⁿ. Trade on the 13th. of April 1810 in which, I very particularly noticed that transaction- and to Request your opⁿion as to the propriety & efficacy of Such occasional Suspensions of trade in correcting and Repressing the violent aggressions & outrages of the Indians towards the White Inhabitants on the frontier.

I have to Request the favor of you also to State your opinion of the general character and Reputation of Dr. Robinson- Having myself a high opinion of the honor & integrity of that Gentleman, and professing a Sincere Regard for him, I feel myself called on not only in justice to myself but to him also to Repel the charge of "Villainy " attached to his name by Capt. Clemson.

Please to let this Note accompany your Report to the Sup^t. of Indⁿ. Trade.

very Respectfully

I Remain Sir

Yr. Mo. Obt. S^vt.

G. C. Sibley

Gen^l. W^m. Clark

S^t. Louis