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George Champlin Sibley Papers

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7-26-1816

Letter from George Sibley to Samuel Sibley, July 26, 1816

George Champlin Sibley

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ALS G. C. S(ibley), Fort Osage

To: Brother, Samuel H. Sibley, Natchtoches, La.

I had the very great pleasure of your letter dated the 13th of May a few days ago. An opportunity now offers of sending to the Post Office, St. Louis, and I embrace it to write you a letter.

I am, I confess, somewhat surprised to find you so soon grown tired of the low country. But I am by no means of opinion that this is an ___ ___. The circumstance may probably be the means of bringing us together some day before very long in this country.

I am anxious to know the result of Father's resolve to see the Grand score. I suppose \$10,000 is not a very great price for it. The half of that sum will however put you in a pretty good mercantile way for a beginning.

At present the mercantile business is quite overdone in this country, and I presume all over the western country. There is at this time such swarms of merchants in St. Louis and the neighboring towns that store rooms are very difficult to be had. Individual salves, I am told, are barely sufficient upon and average to defray current expenses. Of course this being the case, I am deterred from embarking in the tape and bobbin business. I am convinced that I had better continue on a year or two longer dealing with the Osage Indians for beaver and bear skins on account of the United States.

Since I wrote you last from St. Louis I have brought my family here. We have been ___ __ that the U. ___ and so far my wife seems much pleased and quite content. Our quarters are very comfortable, and with the aid of very fine gardens, a well stocked poultry yard and an ice house, we are enabled to live very well.

Mary amuses me and herself everyday for an hour or two with her pianos on which she performs extremely well and she undertaken to instruct her younger sister Louisa (who is with us) on that instrument.

You may be sure Mary is a very great favorite among the Indians. Indeed they literally idolize her since they have seen her play.

Our Indians here are all quiet and well disposed towards the white people. Your apprehension about the Osages are groundless. Your ___ is ___ of the very long letters from this place.

Tell Margaret that Marry is already looking out for some acceptable furs for her and some Indians trinkets for the children. ___ wants to offer her love to Margaret, Anna E. and the children with many kisses for the latter. And I ___ not to ___ to give her love to our ___ ___ from whom she seems to have taken up quite quickly.

When you have arranged your new plans, let me know. I shall expect soon to hear of your being on the move upward.

Our famous Boon's Lick country (Just below this place) is making much noise, that there are now actually several gentleman there from Holland, came to look at it.

We are enjoying good health __. It is a long time since I have heard from Father or Henry, I believe they have forgotten me. As for Anna Eliza, she has __ me so __ kind her weaving that __ quite angry with her. Mary reminds me to her __ however I was __ __ however much I __ to love her. I love her yet __ her __ me.

Remember me to father affectionately and tell him my wife lands a kiss to his little __[name?].

I hope you will write me often and long. Love to Margaret and kisses to the little ones. Love to Henry, tell him to write me log as the __ of the __ __ and send the long I wrote to him far too long ago.

Hearty and affectionately your

G. C. Sibley