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Letter from James Kennerly to George Sibley, December 19, 1817

James Kennerly

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Recommended Citation

Kennerly, James, "Letter from James Kennerly to George Sibley, December 19, 1817" (1817). *George Champlin Sibley Papers*. 57.

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George C. Sibley Esquire

Ja. Kennerly
Dec. 19, 1817

St Louis December 19th 1817

D Sir,

Nothing affords me more pleasure than an opportunity of writing you a few lines. day before yesterday your express arrived without any communication from Mr Eley which is of little consequence as things have turned out-

You mention that winter has commenced with you I can say the Same and I take it there are few so fortunate as you are in being prepared for it- Wood is now Selling at the rate of \$6-cord & 3 feet long pork \$7 & 8- and Butter 50 cts- and none to be had- every thing in proportion. the Devil for young house keepers. I have employd two hands and set them to digging stone cole out at Galatins yesterday for an experiment-

Our Town is by no means as lively as I had anticipated the Theatre which was to have commenced before this time I believe is all a takein there is no house for Balls- that can be had So I think the inhabitants of St Louis- perhaps for the first time will Spend a dreary winter- In fact from the General Tenor and disposition manifested by our citizens- I have no doubt but a total disolution of harmony and Sociability must take place. Such cursed partisipation by one part of the community in the acts of the other part, and such violent proceedings that the prejudices of the husband appears to creep into his whole family. thereby Starting the womens touns with a clatter ungovernably Tremendious- I will leave this place in January for the East. I think & will be back the first of april- Gov Clark & Genl Rector left this place three weeks ago for Washington. Mr. Forsyth and Lawless goes on in a few days. The Bank of St. Louis has had an election for Directory. and played the Devil- Turned out Gen Rector. T. Hunt. Pitcher. Price. Douglass & Simpson- Col. Tucker Col. Rector. J. Wilkinson. Oliphant Smith (N. Y.*) a Mr. Mason & the two collets put in- plenty of Stock advertised for Sale- Since I wrote to you last I have been up to Salt River exploring that country a little and I find it will inevitably be a flourishing country- The paymaster Mr. Gant arrived a few days since from Prarie du Chein and Brot letters from our old friend Johnson he going on much as usual except that he has an oppertunity of becoming very popular among the Indians having a very large amt of goods to distribute as presents sent on expressly marked Indn Presents P. D. C.- Some person has put Miss Lara Gantt into his head and he appears to be quite full of her taking into Consideration that She is from Maryland and all that but I am really fearfull that he has lived too long by more days (dogs?) than one- Thorps case has Some what Subsided and he is by Some Gentlemen more highly respected than ever- The Miss Lees are now with me. & Mr. Wilt has a Sister arrived who is Beautifull. by hard persuasion a masonic Ball is to take place on the 27th. in your last letter you inclosed your accounts and as no arrangement has been made for the paymt of agents- I can Send you but part of the money say. \$30. I would Send you the whole but I am raking & Scraping for funds to go the eastward- Judge Barton has Resigned & Coln Tucker is appointed in his place. Judge of the circuit Court. The rage of Speculation has Subsided a little and I think it had arrived to such a pitch

that St. Louis will walk in its own footsteps for a considerable time- every part of the country is Laying off Towns and no inhabitants- is believed that the Sales of public Lands will take place in June. at which time there will be a field for immense Speculation-

There is a snow on the Ground now which affords good Sleighing but I am so much engaged that I cannot take any part in it- We have heard nothing from Congress yet. It is predicted that some wonderfull change is to take place in many of the Departmts. about 13 days Since I wrote to you by a man I dont know, but he had waited for Burda Several days and finding he did not go Started without him. I have seen Burda Several times and he as often told me he would Start in a few days. Since my Return from Salt. River I have not seen him but will the first oppertunity Send him word that it is needless for him to go once I started to Veetpost (?) to see him and met him on the way at which time he told me he was just preparing to go-

Since the girls are all married I hear nothing like a weding talked of. Capt. Moore. & Lieut. Smith were at the two Miss Choto. but I believe it would not do- Lieut. Riley tryed Miss L. Lee very hard but could not succeed and courtships & wedings are not even thought of in our days-

Mrs. Robinson has arrived in Natchez and is now living with the Doctor, Ben. O. Fallon is residing at P. D. C.- and is much dreaded by the British Traders and Indians. I am told that he exercises his authority as an agt. of the United States with much vigor and firmness

Eliza & the Miss Lees Requests to be remembered with affection to Mrs. Sibley accept my best wishes for yourself and her

Your friend

Jas. Kennerly

G. C. Sibley Esq