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Letter from James Kennerly to George Sibley, August 18, 1821

James Kennerly St. Louis

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G. C. Sibley Esqr.

Jas. Kennerly August 18, 1821 Recd. 4 sept.

St. Louis August 18, 1821

D Sir,

Since Mr. Boggs left this place I have had a very severe attack of sickness & in consequence had started to Kentucky to visit the springs in that qtr- This has prevented my sending the bills with my--- thereon which you will find here enclosed.

Many circumstances has taken place in this place since you were last here, which have produced some astonishment & surprise. The Missouri Bank has stopped. This is among the most prominent ones I can assure you has produced much Consternation & distress, it has shown to the people that a special paying Bank cannot this country if it shall issue any more paper than the amt of its species constantly in its vaults- for while the Balance of Trade keeps up a constant Drean & nothing to bring it back banks cannot exist. This circumstance alone has produced such commotion that our neighbors look at each other with suspicion under the present difficulties. There is one thing certain that many must quit the business in which they are now employed. Among the rest I am one, what Business I may pursue its uncertain but I will be compelled to change.

I have again had the ware house broken open & a pack of Beaver stolen from thence.

This is a circumstance that I dislike much, the first time it was done I accounted to the Govt- for the property which was stolen, rather than report it- But now, I am not able to do it again. I have no family news to give you in another month. I expect an heir Genl. Clark is well and is out of all Business of a public nature.

I have shipped all the goods for your quarter by Berthold & Chouteau's boat. Since when there has arrived for Osage Branch & Boxes. 2. Barrels 4 tierces & 30 Kegs powder for which an opportunity has not occurred for shipment- I neglected to Sand Mrs. Sibley's portrait. But should and opportunity occur when I send the balance of the goods will send it- our friend Capt. G- I understand is hard---. Indeed sir I am much afraid many of our citizens that are thought in easy circumstances will be Sued (?) and such times will shortly be as never was before. I see the approaching storm, and am resolved to meet it firmly. And but for my health being afflicted severely with that horrible complaint the Gravel I believe I could encounter any other of the trials of life, with composure & manly resignation- our town is healthy. I have not written to you lately. Partly attributable to sickness & partly to thought of Business- please present Mrs. Ks.

Best respects & friendship to Mr. S. We join in our respects to Mrs. S. Mrs. E and you- & with

I am your friend

Jas. Kennerly

G. C. Sibley Esq.

much esteem