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Letter from David Barton to George Sibley, June 2, 1824

David Barton

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George C. Sibley Esq.
Fort Osage
Missouri.

D. Barton
June 2nd, 1824

Washington June 2nd, 1824.

D Sir

I believe I omitted to inform you of Mr. Crawford's decision on your memorial. A few days after he received it he transmitted it to the Genl Land office with an endorsement approving of the decision of Mr Meigs the Commissioner. From the time it was at the Treasury it was impossible that he could have examined it; and from the state of his health during the Session I suppose he did not attempt it.

An appropriation of \$20,000 has been made to restore the relations of peace and commerce with the Indians of the upper Missouri, by commissioners accompanied by a military escort. I named you as one of the Commissioners; but Mr Calhoun tells me that he thinks of entrusting the negotiation to Gen. Atkinson and the Agent O'Fallon- believing that to be the most efficient & economical use of the appropriation. \$10,000 were appropriated for the extinguishment of Indian titles within Missouri, by purchasing country beyond the line for those within it.

The unconfirmed french and Spanish Concessions, only registered, are referred to the District Court for decision of their validity.

An appropriation of \$75,000 was made to experiment on the Ohio and Mississippi below Pittsburg and the mouth of Missouri, by way of removing "Sawyers, planters and snags" as well as bars etc.

Edwards arrived here from Illinois the evening before last, and the committee of investigation will proceed soon to the conclusion of their inquiry- The former report finds all the material facts alleged by Edwards, but acquits of the motives of having done any one of them with an eye to ulterior objects: They do not find the letter said to have been written by Stephenson in fall of 1819, to the Secretary but argumentatively find against that allegation. In this mornings Republican the letter is given, and stated to have been brought on by E. Should this prove to be the fact that such a letter was sent to Mr.C it takes from under him the only ground upon which he built the charge of "false swearing" against E- which provided all this fuss.

The President has not yet decided on his citation of Rector; but has referred the testimony to the Atto. General for a report- and from his reputation for common honesty, I anticipate a proper result. I think a proper decision would have been made long since but for the united efforts of Mc Nair,

Riddick, Scott & Benton who have identified themselves with the old Swindler, and signed certificates and written petitions for his retention in office.

Respectfully

David Barton

George C. Sibley Esq

P. S. Further privilege of relinquishment, or payment with a discount of $33 \frac{1}{3}$ per cent has been given to purchasers of public lands, with a view to extinguish the land-debt.