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Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, May 19, 1826

Benjamin Reeves
Fayette, Missouri

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ALS B.H. Reeves, Fayette, MO

To: G. C. Sibley

I regret Mr. Poinsett's efforts have proved unavailing to effect an arrangement with the Mexican Govt. for the purpose of the road thro' their territory, for I wished very much to have joined you this spring; but owing to the ignorance or jealousy of the Govt. it is very likely that nothing further will be done, at least this season. Rumor says the Mexicans fear it is designed not for the purpose of trade but for the purpose of invasion, and that they will not hastily give their consent to its passage through their territory until the motives of our Govt. are more fully developed. This may be a diplomatic artifice to evade the thing altogether, or the rumor is not well founded. I have not read a line from Mr. Barbour or the Secy. – but from other members in congress I have frequently understood that in all probability nothing further will be done to the road this season. Or at least Mr. Poinsett has communicated nothing to his gov't. in relation to the ___.

Our political horizon is quite stormy and threatens a dreadful explosion. Poor Clay is still the subject of abuse for having made the president. Mr. Randolph who is transferred by good old Virginia from the House of Representatives to the Senate and Mr. McDuffie from South Carolina seem to deal in strong terms against him. For “___ and corruption” ___ the former of those gentlemen seems to have availed himself of Mr. Clay's accidental presence in the Senate and used language strong and exceptional so much that Mr. C conceived he was expected to notice it. A meeting took place, two shots exchanged & neither wounded & so the affair was terminated. Another report says a “few drops of Pocahontas blood were spilt”. Messrs. McDuffie and Trimble of KY Some hot sparring on the floor of Congress. Public expectation is on tiptoe as to what must be the result.

I send you a small packet of newspapers from which you may partially glean some of the passing events. I regret that I am unable to procure the National Intelligence for you, there is but one gentleman in this neighborhood who takes that print. To him I applied for it but without success. The editor of the print in Franklin is now here, here informs me that he was applied to for that paper which is forwarded to Mr. E. ___ which you can see but doubtless some other of your friends from St. Louis may have forwarded it to you.

Genl. Miller of Franklin is Gov. of this state by a considerable majority over Carr, Todd, and Easton, opposing candidates. E. Bates and J. Scott are candidates for congress. If no other candidates, (and I know of no other) Bates will succeed. Col McNair's death has created a vacancy in the Osage agency, which is said to be filled by a Mr. Hamtramck, stepson of Mr. Thomas, senator from Illinois.

I am rather inclined to think that party will not leave Franklin tomorrow. If so, or whether they do or not, should I receive any further intelligence from Washington by Tuesday's mail in relation to the road I will pursue the company and forward it to you but, I do not expect anything further will be done with the road this season.

With Much Esteem,

Yours sincerely,

B.H. Reeves

G.C. Sibley esqr.