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Letter from Dr. Archibald Dorsey to George Sibley, October 22, 1827

Archibald Dorsey
Bush Town, Maryland

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To George C. Sibley Esqr
Fountain Cottage near Fort Osage
Jackson Co. Missouri, U. S.

Dr. Archibald Dorsey

Bush Town, Narfd Cy, M D
Octr 22, 1827

Sir

The very friendly notice and the long and minute answers You have given to my inquiries: in Your's of the 30th of august last have afforded me much information and satisfaction; for all which kindness and trouble: be pleased to accept my most unfeigned thanks; to persons desirous. to have a correct view of the advantages & disadvantages of. migrating to Missouri Your letter is a truly valuable and interestg document. & as you have had the goodness. to give it to my disposal. I shall get it published either in Niles. Register or some other of our public journals as soon as I can find it convenient to visit Baltimore

At the age of 56: & a constitution a good deal impared necessity will ere long drive me to seek an asylum some where in the Western World: the great fall of real property here immediately after the close of the late war: has brought ruin & devastation on a vast number of individuals many fine estates has been crippled and others so completely broken up, that scarcely a vestage of the older opulence of their possessors now remains.

Your country in several respects would seem to meet my views & station: I should have it in my power to obtain a quarter Section of first rate Land and could bring me 8 or Ten negroes- & all old enough to be employed on a farm- with these I trust a comfortable subsistance could be attained: cut up by misfortunes & disappointments and Sobered down by "hope deferred" all that I should expect at my time of life would be a present decent Support- with a tolerable certainty of leaving a young & growg family shielded from want hereafter- Give me neither poverty nor riches: was the wise man prayer- Your country would seem well cut out for its exact fulfillment a reputable equality is all republicans should look for, The day is not far distant when a population "en mass" as it were: will be forced hence, to seek a home beyond the mountains daily are the lands here getting worse, & the prospects of him who depends on. the Soil for his subsistance becoming more gloomy- Tied to his birth place by a few hundred acres of poor Land- even our very patrimony becomes a curse instead of a blessing- paralyzed are all our energies, & many of us drag out a miserable existance, such a one as the wandering savage of the Rocky mountains would scarcely envy him

The fertility of Your Soul. the simularity of your climate make it superior to much of ours. would appear to me to give your country a decided advantage to emigration from here: It is true the Sugar & Cotton of the lower States are much more valuable than your Staples can ever be: but the first item in the calculation of an emigrant should be health & there the comparison would be every way in your favor- Indeed there are many districts in MaryLand much less salubrious than the Country you portray- many of your prairie situations must be picturesque & truly delightful: a pretty writer speaking of the west says "I confess that to me nature never wore so lovely an aspect as on the lonely plains of the West- From their dry & unsheltered surface no damp and unwholesome vapours arise to lessen the elasticity of the air. or to dim: the brilliant blue of the heavens, so attenuated & transparent is the atmosphere that a slight smoke can be diserned at a distance of many Miles, which curiously exercises

the caution & sagacity of the fearfull Savage: ever on the watch to destroy or to avoid destruction- and then the sublime immensity which surrounds us: The Sea in motion is a Sublime object; but not to be compared to the various scenes that here present themselves & over which the body as well as the imagination is free to expatiate: The beams of the sun appear to me to have less fierceness or perhaps this is owing to the cool breezes which continually fan the air, and bring upon their wings, the odours of myriads of flowers," The cold & barren hills of ancient Caledonia produced her Ossian can it be possible that a country thus glowingly: described, can want its future bard- It is emphatically the land of poetry & ere long must find its way into her Golden pages-

I am astonished at the high price of Labor with you in your present state of Cultivation. how can the employer be compensated for his disbursements- yrs. must be a first rate stock country where is or will be yr market, our railroad must divert much that now goes down the Mississippi but will not your distance from market; allways put you in the back ground, with respect to these articles of traffic; How does stock rate with you: Horses head Cattle: & Sheep: the latter must be precarious, on acct of wolves-

We are taught to believe much of Missi will not admit of a dense population, on acct of a want of wood: how is the Country round Ft Osage- what are your conveniences for making flour: have you mill Streams - - - or do you have to depend on horse mills- is building stone plenty or is yrs a lime stone Country: & have you mineral(- - - - ?)

In your versus Catalogue You certainly state some formidable objections, but many would recede before a well organized population & proper municipal regulations- I should Suppose yr high & dry prairie situations would exempt from the mosquitoes a Correspt at Potosi - - - - - writes me they are almost unknown there- the Green headed fly was since my - - - - Here; but time has swept them entirely away-

Pray where is situate yr County Town- and its - - - - I should like to locate myself in or near a village: Business will call me to Kentucky this next spring & I will try to extend my journey to Ft. Osage- I hope you will not consider me importunate in thus trespassing on you again- & asking an answer to this- at yr liesure- with such remarks. as your time and inclination should afford,

Respectfully Sir Yr obliged friend & obedient Servt

A Dorsey

If there are any choice garden or melon seed which could be conveyed you by mail: or any thing I could serve you in here say & it shall be promptly attended to- apropos, is yr state for Adams or Jackson we shall give the latter about 9 out of 11 electors- I pray you write me Soon I wish you would inflict on me: the Descriptive page or two you speak of - - - - A D