

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

---

George Champlin Sibley Papers

George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers

---

3-17-1829

## Letter from Isaac Rawlings to George Sibley, March 17, 1829

Isaac Rawlings  
*Memphis, Tennessee*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/george>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Rawlings, Isaac, "Letter from Isaac Rawlings to George Sibley, March 17, 1829" (1829). *George Champlin Sibley Papers*. 88.

<https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/george/88>

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers at Digital Commons@Lindenwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in George Champlin Sibley Papers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Lindenwood University. For more information, please contact [phuffman@lindenwood.edu](mailto:phuffman@lindenwood.edu).

George C. Sibley Esquire  
Saint Charles  
Missouri

Isaac Rawlings  
17. March 1829

per W. Bailey.

Memphis, 17<sup>th</sup> March 1829 .

Dear Sir:

Your esteemed favor of the 12<sup>th</sup> ult: I have had the pleasure to receive in due course, and have derived from its perusal, I assure you, no Small Share of both Satisfaction and amusement, and might add, with an entire regard to truth, edification- I hope your Rural engagements will not so completely occupy your time as to entail a just cause of complaint to your epistolary friends, as you Seem disposed to give me cause to apprehend, from the open declaration you make, that your "hand is out in Letter writing." I am aware that, there was a time, when it was well set, this is the more to be desired, as I am left to infer, from the mass of business on your hand, I can only promise myself, for Some time at least, the advantages of communication with you, alone in this way. which believe me I Should forego with great reluctance; having a direct interest in the continuance of your correspondence, resting as it does, upon the basis, on which you have so judiciously, and so acceptably to myself placed it, that of confidence free and unrestrained, to render you an adequate return, will be more, than I Shall be able to do, were our conditions Similar; but they are not, and I Shall have a decided advantage of you, you can well, however, give the difference, which your characteristic generosity encourages me to claim and which your enviable Situation alone would not permit you to accept. Your valuable treatise upon the blessings of matrimony, could not have been better directed, and I trust will prove efficacious, in leading me on to become "one of you". So Strong was its impression upon me, that I had hardly lain aside your very agreeable favor, before I prepared and mailed, a billet-doux to one of the most charming & innocent creatures of God's creation. You are really right in thinking, it the dearest object of my wishes, to become one of the married number, and I flatter myself I could assign good reasons for being So disposed, but having no room in this Letter, for their disclosure, I shall pass them over, aware that your own fertile mind will bring to your view, all which I could present. I have made Several bold and desperate efforts, to enrol myself in your class, but erred greatly in the direction of them. my views keeping ahead of my merits, discomfiture & mortification have been my only, & invariable reward.- but that you Should not abandon me, as having desponded and being without hope, I very honestly assure you, that I Shall persevere in the good cause, until I Shall elevate myself, to the level, to which I have so long aspired, or Sink by incessant efforts to become So elevated to a condition below woman's contempt- from yourself I Shall expect much encouragement on the way, and Shall therefore look for a continuance of your interesting favors. Your Silver pen conveys your words very legibly, and a regard to your "own ease in this particular" I entirely approve and admire- Happiness, an exotick on earth, Stolen one day from Heaven, we are all in pursuit of, tho' various are our ways and so imperfect seems to be our understanding of its effects, that most of us cherish the thing so erroneously, that its charms are lost upon us, like yourself, I believe it is never so well preserved and enjoyed, as by a chaste and refined intercourse of the Sexes-

I lost my election by a large majority against me, but have Since been elected Mayor of Memphis- our population exceeds 900. business is not as profitable as formerly, indeed it requires close

application and the most judicious management, to make money with us at this time, So many new comers are among us, that all the ordinary avenues, to wealth, are choked by competition- We have nothing decisive here as to the new order of things at Washington, the new cabinet as rumored, with two exceptions, must be common indeed. I presume the changes will be general, and a different course of policy pursued- The Anti-tariff politicians, and those unfriendly to the exercise by the general Government of the right of internal improvement, will I think be most prominent with the present administration- nor do I object to Such a political creed, if not taken too far, which perhaps is Somewhat to be apprehended.

I am Suspicious, that from the newness of our Country, and the paucity of means with the people, that you would not find your amount, in Sending hither for Sale your Studs & Jennets, You will probably do better by sending them to an older & more densely Settled Country-

I have just got into a new House, which I have lately had built, and altho' it is no great things, I Should be happy to welcome you in it, not in Virginia, but in Maryland Style, and anticipate the time, when your leisure, will permit me to do so.

I am in hopes friend Johnson reached Missouri Safe last fall, if within your reach tell him, I reached Wheeling the Same day he departed expect he cuts Some Show in his elegant Carriage. I hope he is well and Should be glad to be remembered to him-

Your relative Jos. Easton of this place is well. I find in the superscription of your letter to me, you have ---- my name with the word "Col." this is an error, which some of my friends at a distance, at the last elections committed, & which Seems to have obtained a notoriety entirely unwarranted.

By Mr. Bailey who is on the point of leaving here for St. Louis, I shall forward you this hasty Scrawl.

very Sincerely wishing that you & your family are well,

I remain Dear Sir,

Yours very Sincerely &

Isa: Rawlings.

George C. Sibley Esq.  
St. Charles  
Missouri