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6-6-1840

Letter from George Sibley to Abiel Leonard, June 6, 1840

George Champlin Sibley
St. Louis

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St. Louis June 6. 1840

Dear Sir.

This is to be all about politicks.

You know that my name has been announced as one of the two Whig candidates for Congress; and are probably aware that the announcement has been made throughout the State, + that I am out in the field, and am to all intent + purposes before the electors – Of course you know also that Mr. Samuel is in the Same position –

My reasons for Suffering myself to take this step were, first, that your central Committee omitted to name our Candidates – Second, I was convinced that the Men desired, + would insist on a free ticket I myself So desired in common with hundreds of others, and we knew that we ought not to be denied the ____ of our rights +. - Third, the time was rapidly passing away, indeed it was already too late for a thorough canvas; (?) and no one could be induced to enter the lists - (?)

I done all that I could, to persuade Bates, or Geyer, or Allen or others, but in vain - I wished most anxiously to escape myself, and waited + waited + waited 'till I had waited too long. And when abt. the 15. of May I determined to give my Name, I still waited till the 1. Inst in the hope that I Shd. yet be relieved – All in vain –

the deep interest I feel in this Struggle – My long residence, extensive acquaintance with the wishes of the Voters - propriety of having one candidate from this part of the State, entitled Me to take an earnest part – Well Sir, as nothing better, as nothing else could be done in ____ I became a Candidate, with the determination, as I told my friends, to enter the race actively, and to run through the Polls – The reason why I tell you all this, is because I observed yesterday in the Boonslick Times, an article that I consider, as do all our friends here I believe, ill advised and tending to embarrass our Canvass exceedingly –

You need not be told what I allude to – It is too late now for any Such experiment; and altho' I would have been happy two weeks ago to have given place to almost any other person, I cannot now venture to do it – I am urged by all means to Let forth, + See + Speak to as many of the Voters as possible - and I mean to do So – I expect to be at Rocheport + hope to meet Mr. Samuel there, and with him to arrange our Course. And I trust that nothing will be Said or done to disturb or balk us – depend upon it Sir our cause will be ruined if we are interrupted at this late hour - and besides Mr. Samuel + I are entitled I think to have our feelings Saved from any Such trial as the paper I allude to Suggests – If you can put a Stop to the project, I pray you to do it – Mr. Samuel + I will get every (?) Whig Vote in the State without doubt, and as we go more for victory than office, (I do certainly,) let us alone –

The Rocheport meeting, can aid us much by its approval, but would injure the cause by any other interference - This I am confident will be very apparent to you –

Clark is now, this day, at Manchester, with Reynolds - on Monday they are both to be here – when that is over, Clark ____ below, + I up the Missississippi – From Rocheport I wish to pass to all the rabid low (?) few (?) counties in the S. West and South – Our cause is fast gaining - The Legislature and State Executive ! hope we Shall Secure – the first pretty S____y the congress. possibly – old ____ Surely –

Y. friend, in a hurry,

G. c. Sibley

A. Leonard Esqr.

I promise myself a long confab with you at the great gathering –