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8-20-1837

## Letter from George Sibley to Thomas Lindsay, August 20, 1837

George Champlin Sibley  
*Lindenwood College*

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Sabbath morning, August 20, 1837

Mr. Thomas Lindsay, Sr.

My dear Sir,

A disturbing headache has unfitted me this morning for attendance at church. In truth it will oblige me to remain all day at home. And I learn from Mr. Parker that you too are too unwell to go out today.

The Reverend Mr. Campbell has now been here over a week. He came to St. Charles in consequence of the regular, deliberate, formal, and unanimous invitation of this church thro the Elder and by conquest and approbation of the Presbytery; and yet after the delay of a week, nothing has been done toward his reception in his pastoral character – very little, if any more attention has been paid him by the church, than is customary to manifest, by individual members towards a stranger on a casual visit. In fact, the church as such, has not treated Mr. C. with even that courtesy that is due always from one gentleman to another. And if this neglect is continued for another week it will in my view, amount to such a slight, as to justify Mr. C. in taking offense and declining any connection with this church. I, for one, would not only blame such a determination, but would assent to its propriety. Supposing such to be the result, what then would be our condition? In my apprehension Sir it would infallibly ruin this church and secure to Mr. Chamberlain full and complete sway here – for who would venture again to invite a minister to St. Charles. I can answer for one – never would I do it. And even if such invitation should be gine, what minister would be likely, think you, to pay any report to it?

If there are any serious objections to Mr. C. in regard to doctrinal views, it cannot be said, that we have any satisfactory evidence on the subject, and without such evidence, he surely out not to be condemned and slighted and rejected. As I understand your views – you are apprehensive that Mr. C. is too much of a New School Doctrinsire to suit our orthodoxy. I do not think, however, as I have before said to you, that you have yet had sufficient opportunity to decide satisfactorily on that point for yourself – much less for the church. So far as I am initiated in fundamental principles of the Old and New School Parties, I am a decided adherent if the former. But I am not prepared to denounce any one as unsound, without a much more particular inquiring than any of us here have had opportunity to make as to Mr. Campbell's views. In all events, we ought to receive and treat him as an invited friend and guest, and by all means avoid any cold uncivil formality. Mr. C. is surely entitled to our kind and respectful attentions personally as well as officially.

Should he leave us in displeasure, we shall most assuredly lose all the sympathy and kind offices of our very numerous friends; and our church, New House and all, fall into Mr. Campbell's possession. Such are least are my apprehensions.

I trust a full meeting of our church members will be convened as early in this week as possible. Such a meeting everybody expected to take place early last week.

Excuse this hasty scrawl, it is written in pain every way. The subject is painful, and my head is in pain. But I am

Yours ever truly,

George C. Sibley

Mr. Thomas Lindsay, Sr.