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Letter from George Sibley to John Jay Johns, February 24, 1859

George Champlin Sibley

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24th Feb. 1859.

To Mr. John Jay Johns- Prest. Board of Directors L. W. F. College-

Sir-

Our conference on the 15th. inst. did not Result in anything definite- the committee appeared to think it Right & Reasonable to absolve the Directory entirely from all obligation to pay me any Rent upon my claims as Set forth in my Note to the President of the 24th Ulto. founded on their covenanted promise contained in the Deed of lease of 19th. April last, (which Note & lease please Refer to)

The ground taken by the committee to justify the non paymt. of Rent to me, is that your tenant with whom I have nothing to do in that capacity, Refuses to pay you, or to take the premises that my Removal placed at your disposal, excepting Such part only as he has present use for, and which he claims, as I understand, to have Rented Separately and apart from the Lease of 19th. April- The operation of this derangement as the committee would Settle it, is Simply this- to throw on me the Whole loss and inconvenience for time indefinite- Perhaps your Tenant may find it convenient & desirable to occupy the whole of the premises alluded to after the 1t. Sept. next- Perhaps not- who can tell?- Meanwhile must I Retain & take care of the vacant Rooms &c. and deal them out to your Order, or your Tenant, as they may from time to time be Required? Or Shall I try to make my Rent out of them from temporary tenants as best I may? Such a course might perhaps prove Rather inconsistent with the proper School accommodation- If there is any thing in the Lease, or any thing in Right Reason to authorize the Saddling on me all this trouble & Responsibility, and to delay paymt. of my quarterly Rent, as incidental to a dependence on the uncertainty of the Board's manner of disposing of the property leased to them, I Submit- If not- not- I Stand by that Document So long as it Remains a law to the parties thereby bound, and must Require it to be observed & carried out in good faith by all concerned.

As to the Rent agreed on between Mr. Schenck & Mrs. Sibley for Such of the Rooms as are now in his occupancy, it may be Settled either with [Here there is a word and symbol: "the&" but this appears to be a typo that was crossed out and likely was not a part of the original document.] Me or the Directory, and will go towards my quarterly Rent, when paid to me- I find myself in a very unpleasant position in Respect of this matter, So placed by no fault or default of mine- It is well Remembered that in Repeated instances, I Stated to your Board (pending the proposition emanating from the Board) for my Wife & I to give up to your our home for the better accommodation of the college, that we could not & would not Stipulate any time for our Removal from L. W-- We might perhaps have been excused if we had lingered & lingered Somewhat longer than necessary, at the place where we had Spent 30 years

of our pilgrimage So happily- But we did not linger- We moved away "as Soon as we Could"- and we never promised any More, nor was any More ever expected of us by any one, I am Sure-

It is Severely painful to me to write it; but I may as well Say to the Directors that if they feel disposed to abrogate the Lease, I will not interpose any impediment- But I do not by any means, propose it- Elma 24th. Feby. 1859.

Respectfully- G. C. Sibley

Note- Messrs. Johns, Watson & Alderson, were appointed by the Board of Directors a Committee (alluded to in the above Note) to confer with me in Reference to my Note (See pages 180-1) of the 24th. Jany. last- But nothing definite was decided on.

G. C. S.