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Letter from Archibald Gamble to George Sibley, March 12, 1838

Archibald Gamble

St. Louis

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Recommended Citation

Gamble, Archibald, "Letter from Archibald Gamble to George Sibley, March 12, 1838" (1838). *George Champlin Sibley Papers*. 153.

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St. Louis March 12th 1838

Dear friend,

The matter of the paint * the ___ shall be attended to.

I send by mail to day an answer to Eliza's interesting letter which I suppose you will see. I consider it a difficult matter to deal with the young and tender mind in matters of religion, it is easy to lead them to make declarations and do things the full impact of which they do not understand. And I believe it a dangerous experiment to make children public professions ___ they fully understand what that professions means. You must not understand me as doubting whether young children can be ___ and turn into the Kingdom of God, I believe it, but I also think that the child may, and indeed is apt to, be mistaken in the appreciations of its own mind, and without a proper foundation upon which to build would fall away to the judgement & injury of its soul. I rejoice & think that at this interesting period of her life she is under the care of those so competent to direct.

Religious revivals are spreading over our favored land. In Boston it is said about 1,000 have been converted in a short time. Calculate if you can the effort of this upon the city of Boston, the state of Washington, the states of New England states, the states of our union. And even the world, does it not create a thrill of delight in your bosom In the western bank of the Missouri and will not this and after similar events in all parts of the land awake the sacramental host to the duty of calling upon the Lord until the whole land becomes as a well watered garden. The church here although not in a very lively state are endeavoring to do something for the cause. We have raised the funds necessary to employ two additional ministers beside the regular pastor, and as there are some praying souls here it is hoped the Lord will bless their efforts.

Save to all yours & country

Archibald Gamble