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Letter from George Sibley to Joel Roberts Poinsett, June 19, 1826

George Champlin Sibley
Valley of Taus

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ALS G.C. Sibley, Valley of Taus, N. Mexico

To: J.R. Poinsett, Minister, etc.

To his Excellency,

J. R. Poinsett,

Minister

Sir,

I have had the pleasure to receive your communication of the 13th __, and on the same day (The 10th of July) I also received a letter from the Governor of this Territory announcing that he has received directions to "permit Mr. George Sibley, comsnr. Of the U.S., to make an examination of the western part of the road from St. Fe to the Missouri without marking or cutting it out or establishing any work of any hand".

This very restricted permission would avail the commissioners but little indeed, if it were not for that fact there is no "marking or cutting out" or any "works" necessary or indeed practicable to be done on any part of the Road within the Mexican Territory.

From the crossing of the Arkansas to this valley, and to Santa Fe the road will not pass through timbered land exceeding in the whole one mile, and is so scattered and open that it can be passed without the land difficulty with carriages with no other labor than removing a few logs and __. And as it will be labors and time cont. to attempt to "mark out the road" by any artificial means that he commissioners can devise and affect, we shall probably no[?] other will mark, than by furnishing a chart of the great frontier upon an accurate examination and survey. Upon which will be noted with great care all the prominent land marks already set up by the hand of nature which now serve as admirable guides to the traveler. Any artificial hillocks or mounds thrown up (unless of much greater magnitude than our limited means will justify) would be destroyed by in a very short time by the immense herds of Buffalo that are continually passing to and fro over the plains. And what they might be unable to destroy would assuredly be leveled by the roaming bands of Indians who are always sufficiently inclined to do wanton mischief.

I have no __ then myself, & I presume the other commissioners will have none to proceed with the examination as permitted inasmuch as we can afford everything under that permission, that we could do if it were ample as our government wished and expected. It is certain that if the commissioners shall determine to proceed as above suggested that their report of the road will be such as to make it entirely unnecessary for the government of the U. States even to take any further order or interest in the matter.

I have determined it proper to state these facts to you for your information.

I the honor &.

(signed) George C. Sibley