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Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, October 21, 1826

Benjamin H. Reeves

Fayette, Missouri

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ALS B.H. Reeves, Fayette, Mo.

To: G. C. Sibley, Fort Osage

Der Sire,

Mr. Brown arrived at my house on yesterday evening & handed me your letter of the 17th inst. enclosing your accounts of your hands, description, and kind of public property forwarded me by you. The message was not arrived but I presume it will in a few days. I attend to the payment of the hands as early as possible.

I discover from your letter that it is your wish that the commissioners should have a meeting as early as convenient in. In my last letter to you I mentioned that Col. Mather & myself had concluded not to make our report until spring & before we done so that we would take a review of work & make some necessary correction as far perhaps as little ___ by which time we concluded (of even) the arrangement would have been made with the Mexican Govt. for the continuation of the road. We were led to this conclusion from the fact of having been unfound from working ___ as I was last winter that the ___ concerning the road was mixt up in the ___ provisions of the treaty that was then pending & until the ratification of which the consent of that govt. would not be obtained. Having recently understood but that the treaty has been concluded I am now strengthened in the belief that the road will be continued & have no hesitation in believing that a suitable appropriation can be had to treat with all the intervening tribes of Indians which in any estimation is the great ___ in relation to that highway. This belief strengthens me in the correctness of the conclusion entered into between Col. M. and myself. Nevertheless if it is deemed advisable to make our report before we can hear from the Govt. on the subject I will present no barrier. But it is due to Col. Mather that I should converse with him before I depart from that course which we had agreed upon before your arrival. I have already addressed the Col. On that matter but do not expect his answer until the mail of the 4th or 14th proximo, upon the reception of his answer I will immediately write you.

To Jubilee an arrangement made previous to your arrival at Ft. Osage. I will be necessarily compelled to be absent from home in Ralls country & cannot return until about the 14th or 15th of Nov. I have mentioned this to Mr. Brown (who leaves Franklin for St. Louis on Monday) and also said to him that in the event of a meeting between the comrs. In Jefferson City early in Decr. At which place he would be attending to his senatorial duties & in the mean time he could be ___ the necessary notes & maps to accompany our report when made.

With respect & esteem yrs truly,

B.H. Reeves

George C. Sibley esqr.