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Letter from Thomas Mather to George Sibley, August 31, 1829

Thomas McKenney

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(George C. Sibley)

T. L. McKenney
31. Augt. 1829
(Private)
Recd_ 14 Sept.
Ansd_ 12 Octo.

Washington August 31. 1829.

Private

My Dear Sir,

I thank you for yr_ letter of the 21st Ultimo; & for the remembrance of Mo in these stormy times which it proves you cherish.

We are utterly confounded here at Duff Green's arrogance. Every man believes him to be the very essence of depravity, and yet -----

He has denounced me- & tried hard to have me expelled. He has not yet succeeded. I believe his object is known. Accounts for spoliation (?) for cattle-stealing, by Indians have to pass me. If Duff Green had a creature here he might make his fortune- especially as it is easy to get proof (if I am correctly informed) on the frontiers even under oath. This brings to mind an acct he got passed when he first came here for cattle alleged to have been lost by him. His acct was supported by oaths of men, & they were believed to be honest, because he was then thought to be so. The acct_ was for several thousand Dollars. Mr. Mc Ginnis told me at St. Louis in 1827, when I was there, that the Citizens had heard it at Jefferson Court said they would swear that Duff Green never lost a bull, Cow, heifer, Ox, a calf; and that the acct was a fraud.

Now allow me, in confidence, to ask you to make some inquiry about it- & move some member of Congress to call for the accounts & for a Committee, in the person to send for persons & papers. This is one of his drops of bitterness agt me. When he was agent for others to a large amt. the Senate passed an act, providing for it, but the house refused. He will never forgive me for not deciding the case as I did the other, to come within the provisions of the intercourse law- if I had- the supt would have asked for the appropriation, and got it, & he would have been paid. His infamy began to disclose itself before the bill got through the house, & and it was rumored that he had got titles by some way or other to the most of the whole amt; & the House squashed it.-

If he could get a creature in here, he could soon send out a few men with cattle, & have accounts made up that would enrich him. He is the most destitute of principle of any man I ever knew; & the most perfect blackguard.

I would like to have facts in regard to him. I shall have some of these days to come out. Do glean them for me from Missouri where he is known. St Louis is full of them. We are all disgusted with him here, except, perhaps. -----

How I lament Pauls failure; & even more so his sickness. Poor fellow, I would love to help him if I could. For your sake I regret his losses. But I rejoice to see how truly you estimate things. With such views, you cannot but be happy.

Paul would make a first rate agent- but I fear there is little hope for him.

Sincerely yours

T. L. McKenney

P. S. I have no doubt Mc Ginnis of St. Louis would aid you in getting facts about Green. But do not approach him as from me.

Sibley Mss. V. II
Missouri Historical Society