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Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, September 10, 1832

Benjamin H. Reeves

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Howard County Mo. Sept. 1832

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 18th inst. Came to hand by Tuesday mail. It found me while in attendance upon a sick family, Mrs. Reeves at this time is quite ill, has been confined to her room indeed to her bed for some days, with a severe attack of her old disease, dyspepsia. She is now greatly emaciated. What circumstances has been the only cause of my not acknowledging the receipt of your letter by Fridays mail.

Your letters from Washington never came to hand, your last is the only line which I have received from you since last fall or winter.

I regret to leave the unclosed state of our accounts, but shall continue to indulge in the hope of a favorable adjustment of that protracted matter, and audit your promised communication from Mr. Hagner. You intimate a probable visit to the upper country this fall. If so I hope you will certainly favor us with a call. It will afford me pleasure to see you at my house.

I have not seen Mr. Leonard since the receipt of your letter. As soon as I do so him, I will mention your request that you need certain labourers, etc.

My mind has been so much abstracted from all political concerns, until recently that I scarcely know any thing about public sentiment on what is going on in the political world. The St. Louis papers have shown me the proceedings of your citizens in relation to an electoral ticket. It may be that O a, pf too desponding a temperament to judge correctly in these matters, but really it occurs to me the prospect of success in this quarter is very gloomy & regret it, but to use candor, I must be permitted to say that I believe no man in this earth, at this time, can get the electoral vote of this senatorial district in opposition to Genl. Jackson. What change public sentiment may have undergone, in other parts of the state I am, I repeat, not sufficiently informed to say.

I have a distinct recollection of Col. Benton having a conversation with you & myself in the tavern room in St. Louis, in the spring of -28, on the subject of the St. Fe road expedition. But with respect to his observation that Mr. Secy Barbour exceeded his authority in fixing the pay of the consrs. At eight instead of ten dollars per day, my recollection is too imperfect to allow me to day any thing positively on that subject.

Very Sincerely your

Friend & old Servt.

B. H. Reeves