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2-7-1844

Letter from George Simpson to George Sibley, February 7, 1844

George Simpson

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George Sibley
St. Charles
Missouri
U S of A
Per fav
Mr. J. B. L. Doyle

Geo S. Simpson

Arkansas River, Lat. 31 23-Lon 31

Feb 7th or 8 9 1844

Well, my dear sir, I confess that I have been a sad delinquent- I have no excuse to offer, but humbly sue for forgiveness- I promised you that I would keep a kind of diary or Journal for your especial amusement and edification (?) Someone has given a definition of the word “promised”- to wait- “Things made to be broken,”- or for “duns” Jeremy Didler was of this opinion- But as I am not of the Didler school I shall hasten to escape from a “protest” by offering this meager epistle in the way of interest, whilst the principal is renewal indefinitely, drawing the same interest annually or semiannually as opportunities may offer for remittance. Now in this I shall promise you neither edification nor amusement. I have few resources to draw upon, or it may be that I have been so long in this country that what appears interesting or peculiar to a new comer is to me somewhat dull and common place. One who makes Nature his study, whether animate or inanimate will here find numerous subjects for speculation.

12th I am desultory man- Even in writing I am addicted to a rambling and disjointed style- For that, my exercises in composition, in my school days were often condemned- It must be a species of mental disease- I often think it grew from a misapprehension of the rules of Rhetoric- When very young I learnt much by rote and understood nothing- My mind too feeble to comprehend, nevertheless, formed its own erroneous construction- and impressions formed in early years are so many cross readings in the Book of Wisdom- (My humble opinion) Verily I

must have looked but seldom into that same book or I would not have wasted many of the best of my life in idleness and----- but n'emporte- I am a philosopher in some respects,- and I think that some of Solemon's proverbs are much better than others (I did not say more sensible)

San Buenaventura de los tres Arollos

March 31st it is some time since I wrote the above- since then I have moved, "traps and all"- I am now resident in the Republic of New Mexico- The settlement where I now live has been located and peopled within the last six weeks. It can number already about 70 souls- I have a plenty of good land and have built me a very substantial house next week I commence plugging- This is a delightful climate-April 10th I wish that you would send me some apple seed- and indeed all kinds of seed that you grow- I will send some of this country's productions next spring. There is fruit of different kinds here in abundance, such as plums, (excellent) Cherrys, (sorter) Strawberries (delicious) Game, Buffalo, Elk, Black and white-tail deer, grizzly bear (crowders) and turkeys; but they are not called game in this country- I don't intend to go to the State this spring. Indeed I am not going home until I make something. Give my respects to cousin Mary, Aunt and Medora and Alby and Miss Rochester and- Everybody- I am writing by firelight and I have 2 other letters to finish to night for the bearer starts early in morning so I must say farewell; wishing you health and happiness and a kindly remembrance of your affectionate and respectful cousin

Geo. S. Simpson

Write to me

As soon as possible

P.S. Your old acquaintance W S. Williams Master Trapper left here a few days ago for together side of the "big hills"