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8-26-1820

Letter from Walk-In-Rain George Sibley, August 26, 1820

Walk In Rain

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INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

A few weeks since we gave the particulars of an affair which occurred at the upper part of this county, between a party of Indians, of the Sack tribe, who had stolen some horses, &c. and a number of our own citizens, who had gone in pursuit of them, which eventuated in the killing and wounding of several of the Indians. In order that a correct statement of the transaction might be reported, Mr. Sibley, the U. States' factor at Fort Osage, wrote a letter to the Chief of the tribe, who returned the following answer :

LITTLE OSAGE VILLAGE,

August 20, 1820.

We are glad that you sent us a paper and a good man to tell us about your men killing three of our men. They were good men, but were killed for the bad men's faults. You say they began the quarrel; we do not know it. You call us Americans—then when we go among the Americans and want victuals and to smoke pipe, your children ought not to kill us. When your children come among us, we give them meat, and corn, & tobacco, and use them like brothers—our great father told us to do so, and that his children would do the same to us. We want that you should send us the 5 guns, 1 bow & arrow, and 5 powder horns, that your men took from our men when they killed them. You demand the stolen horses and you shall have them. You tell us to open our eyes and to walk in the good road. Your men have killed 3 of our men, and we cannot walk in the good road, and let your men walk in the bad road. You are very exact to demand of us all the trifling things that our bad men have taken from Americans, and you shall have them, or an equivalent therefor. You cannot think hard when we demand the lives of our good men that your bad men have taken, or an equivalent therefor. We cannot now go to see you, but when you get a good road marked out, and get into it with your men, and send for us, we will go and see you, and give up all the horses and other property, and with pleasure walk the new and pleasant road, and smoke the pipe of peace like brothers. We cannot keep our young bad men from mischief, no better than you can keep your young bad men from mischief. We have done no fault, but are willing that all things should still be right—Your men make me cry by killing our men, but our men don't make you cry by killing your men: All the young men and warriors are very mad, and we can only cry. We have hard work to govern them.

We want that you should take good care of the wounded prisoner, till we go down and see you. We and you have walked in the good road—it may be that we have both missed it—if we have, we will try to find it, and both keep in it, or out of it, but we hope in it. We want to say more, but we hope this is enough, in behalf of the chief warriors and head men of the Little Osage village.

WALK IN RAIN.

Principal captain of the