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Letter from Isaac Rawlings to George Sibley, September 22, 1828

Isaac Rawlings

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George C. Sibley Esq.
Saint Charles
Missouri

J. Rawlings
Octo. '26
Answd Feb. 12, 1829

Philadelphia, September 22nd 1828

My Dear Sir:

While in Baltimore, I had the very great satisfaction to receive your very acceptable & esteemed favor from St. Charles of the 12th ult., in the perusal of which I recd: much gratification, as well from the various Subjects you presented me, as from the interesting & candid manner of your remarks, indeed I feel the force of all your arguments both on the Subjects private & political- I very much hope, that your time will not be so entirely engrossed at your new residence, as to deprive me of the hope of seeing you before long at Memphis, where I expect to be by the 1st Decr:.. I would fain provoke an intercourse by making you the first visit, were it not, that just at this time my political, mercantile, & courting engagements, keep me of themselves on the run- ere long I look for a respits; but too far off, however, to make it the commencement of friendly intercourse, but time enough to return a friendly visit from you, without improper delay.

I recollect the years I spent on Missouri, with entire Satisfaction, and know no country where the real pleasures of life, rural & innocent, can be more fully enjoyed. To me it would be a Source of much gratification to see again my old walks, & to witness the extensive improvements which have no doubt been made since my departure, to behold the survivors of my old acquaintance, many of whom, however, I apprehend have been released from the cares of this world- our amiable & much valued friend Mrs. Robinson, I hope Still lives, when you see her be pleased to remember me kindly to her, I hope she enjoys both health & happiness- As to my own health, which you have been pleased to refer

to, with the exception of a diseased stomach, the dyspepsy, I am, perhaps as well as I ought to calculate on- whether matrimony is a specific for my disease I am unable to say, but I would cheerfully compound & agree that its effects Should be neutral, if of no advantage, of no aggravation- many of my friends have preceded you, in the wish that I would marry forthwith, and I assure you from none, have I been more flattered by their notice, than I feel myself by your expressing the same sentiment- really Such is the influence of public sentiment over me, & in this matrimonial matter, it has in the circle of my acquaintances assumed Somewhat of that character, that I have therefore made no very childish efforts to do So. but they were all confined to the same object, year after year for about seven Years, & perhaps in my whole acquaintance, I could not have directed them to a Lady, I was less capable of pleasing. during the whole time my friends at a distance, who did not understand this matter at all, were incessant in their inquiries, why I did not marry & that forthwith, those hard by knew pretty well the reason- fortunately for me, as I have no doubt it is, about 6 months ago the Lady married and I was considered by all hands as released from attentions every way fruitless. but the notion was induced, I was full of it, that I must marry, So I was not long making another debut in the field of gallantry, Selecting an object for whom I had Strong feelings of partiality, while attentive to the one which lately married, & whose influence over me at times, often created a doubt with me, whether I had not blundered in the first instance- but this last indeed foils my advances more effectually if possible than the first, by reminding me, that She was not my first choice, that She could never love him who admired another, that other too her own Sister- believe me this is no fiction- the Ladies are all that can render their

sex endearing- you see the mountain I have to remove- my chances of marrying- besides as I was never known to give up a Lady, to whom I once gave my attentions, until She married Some one else, so the benefit of a variety of opinion on the part of the Ladies is deprived me- with this prospect before me, as gloomy as it is, I have no doubt but before long, my friends will be again enquiring why I do not marry & that forthwith, for which object this is presented you in confidence, to show how far it may be practicable. It takes two to make a bargain- on receiving Your excellent Letter I made free, knowing that you were not scrupulously exact, to Show it to her I am now in pursuit of; but I did not just then get her to understand it as well as I intend She Shall- particularly that part which affirms "that no man ever yet married the most perfect woman in creation" & "that no man need remain Single who wishes to marry." So much for marrying. Now Should anything serious occur upon the Subject with me, & I confess I am doing my best to give the matter a serious character, I shall claim the privilege of our acquaintance to advise you-

I very much hope that you have made a change from Fort Osage to Saint Charles much to your advantage, you will certainly be more within the circle of your friends & bustle of the world, this last, by the bye adds nothing to one's happiness, tho' it may be no detriment to it, & Sometimes convenient. Johnson I learn is Somewhere near or in Baltimore as yet I have not met with him, probably I shall soon, when I shall not fail to present him your respects. I cannot account for his long detention in Md.

Your Remarks upon politics I admire, they characterize justly the partizans of the day- I have not despaired of Adams' re-election, vast are the changes in this quarter, & I really believe if New York will

let her electoral Law alone, (which her legislature may possibly alter) that Adams is safe enough- I noticed yesterday in a paper of this City, a bet offered of 300\$ that the administration will yet receive at the next election the support of Pennsylvania- In Maryland both Sides are doing their best but Adams must receive a large majority in the State- So entirely do the journals of the country- convey to every section of our union everything deemed politically interesting, that I feel I could write you nothing new, which you would not thro' other channels previously receive- as to my election, I had no confidence in it, otherwise I would have traversed every County & neighbourhood in the district- the great mass of the people in Tennessee have a kind of State pride laudable in itself, which they can not resist, & therefore the great mass will vote for Gen. J. & without locking at his qualifications, believe & pronounce him every way competent.

I trust you have recovered from the indisposition you complained of in your Letter- Flour has risen here considerably from the news of a Short grain crop in England- & Short indeed is the Tobacco Crop in M^d., it must therefore rise too, - Should England take part with Turkey in the war with Russia, our staples may be still more in demand- do I pray you let me hear from you often, address me at Memphis, I should like to hear how your new farm progresses, how the colts & Mules multiply- how you will provide for them in the absence of winter range about St. Charles, at Fort Osage, you had fine rushes for them.-

Kindly remember me if you please to your amiable family- I must insist on your visiting me, which you can do in two days, & Shall calculate on seeing you at your leisure- I am on here buying goods as usual, tho' every year I threaten to discontinue merchandising- 3 or 4 days more & I Shall return to Balt^o. to renew my devotions at the

Shrine of Cupid- I must submit this illegible Scrawl to you as
it is, which tho' very imperfect, Sincerely conveys to you the
high Respect, regard & esteem of Dear

Sir Your Ob Servant

Isa: Rawlings