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5-9-1837

Letter from George Sibley to Mrs. Hale, May 9, 1837

George Champlin Sibley

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Linden Wood, May 9th, 1837.

MRS. HALE.

Madam—I observe in some of the last numbers of the Lady's Book that you are collecting information in relation to the interesting subject of Female Education in the United States; and to comply with your general request, I use the freedom to send you the annexed circular. Mrs. Sibley and myself have no other object in view in our school, than to promote as far as our means and ability will allow, the *proper* education of our Female Youth. Occupying a lovely spot, and having much leisure time, we were persuaded a few years ago, to receive some of the young daughters of our relations and friends into our family; and Mrs. Sibley undertook to give them some instruction in the common English Branches, and in Music; and also in the important matters of *Housekeeping* and other domestic duties. Our friends were much pleased with our plan, and would have us, *volens volens*, to advance still a little farther, and a little farther, till by degrees we found ourselves actually embarked in the very serious enterprise of establishing a public school, which, since we have determined on it, I really hope we may be able to maintain. I have just had some additional accommodations as to house room completed, and have made arrangements for competent assistants, to enable us to announce (as this circular sets forth) our ability to take charge of forty Misses, at the opening of the next Session, on the 22d inst. Our School is *materially* different in several particulars from the ordinary plan of boarding-schools. It is intended to be adapted to the peculiar manners and habits, and necessities of our western people, and will probably succeed to as great an extent as it is desirable that any one school should ever be allowed to reach. It is the *first* school of the kind, and except some Jesuit nunneries that are so unsuitable, the first boarding-school established in this state. But we do most ardently hope, that by the blessing of Heaven, it may prove the forerunner of many others in our land; and I believe it will, for it is very apparent, that there exists an increasing disposition among our people to promote the intellectual and moral improvement of the *better* portion of the rising generation.

GEO. C. SIBLEY.