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3-8-1808

## Letter from John Mason to George Sibley, March 8, 1808

John Mason

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Office In<sup>o</sup>. Trade  
Gen. Store (Washington) 8 Mar 1808

Sir

I have only time to day to enclose you a check for \$400 on the Branch Bank of this date to your order, to put you in cash for ready money purchases, and to say that you will use your discretion as to come to pack in on the wharf but it strikes me you will find as ready & perhaps safer, to leave every thing where you buy till you are done & then let each merchant pack and label his own articles where there are enough to make proper packages, in other cases send the little articles from one store to another to come in with longer articles, or to be packed by yourself together. This honor I leave to you who can best judge on the spot is white Mallow is what you suppose I attach a sample, except that is thinner than Neg<sup>o</sup> cotton & of better quality.

The order for the Beige runs thus / from Ft Wayne  
" 1/2 pt thick white Beige or half thick not less than 7/8 nor more than 1/2 wide for leggings

" 8 pr thick white Baize 7 pr  $\frac{1}{2}$  wide"  
 in saying 12 pr of same price I was wrong  
 I should have said 8 pr narrow & 4 of the  
 wide you may buy then 8 pr of the half  
 thick you describe and 4 pr of what is called  
 Boeking Baize - all white - as to the mock  
 garnets - I find they have been bought from  
 1/2 to 30 ct pr m<sup>o</sup> - If mesels will put them  
 as low as 5 ct & m<sup>o</sup> you may take  
 5000 m<sup>o</sup> add<sup>d</sup> - If above and not higher  
 than 10 ct take 1500 m<sup>o</sup> add<sup>d</sup> - as to  
 cartouch knives buy if they are good in  
 their kinds 50 doz if thou you describe with  
 bone handles. The extra Blankets from Cape  
 may be kept as they may be wanting in  
 future. I see you have found Bush shot.  
 Do they impart Balls if they do get from 2500<sup>th</sup>  
 from 40 to the 60 lbs.

It will be desirable to procure the  
 Muskrat Traps if enough can be found  
 at the price you mention, without waiting  
 to have them manufactured, or as many as  
 you can get - I beg you will induce the  
 German Smith, to try his hand on the beaver  
 traps, as it is an important article, let me  
 know the wt of the sample of the calhouns  
 including chain and length of the chain  
 and what the smith will do them for yet.

Yours respect fully  
 J. M., Sup. S. S.

82  
 W. Geo. C. Sibley.

Balto

The above letter with its inclosures  
 was put in the post office by

W. Sibley