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3-20-1808

Letter from John Mason to George Sibley, March 20, 1808

John Mason

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W. Geo. L. Selby

109

141 1/2 St Baltimore

Sir

Office Indian Trade
Geo Town 21st March 1808

I have received yours of the 19th Inst and its enclosures and am glad to hear you are shipping it so nearly ready to close your business. I have seen and examined the trap last sent. there are yet some defects, in the upright standards in which the jaws play, there wants a small projection inwards to come in between the saws when sprung on each side, to keep them steady when they take hold. The holes in those standards in which the jaws play are too far apart, as by that means the jaws dont both lie square when the trap is set. The one confined by the trigger lies too high otherwise the saws play right, but the trigger and plate still play in split pieces which is wrong. The screws and nuts on the under side of the frame, to secure the upright pieces in which the saws play are unnecessary simple setting is better as by that means the trap lies more steady & the spring is lifened. The piece in which is the notch to catch the trigger is too thin, it will as now made soon be destroyed by rust and wear.

I send you by the stage this evening a trap I have had made here which will explain what I mean at these points, the in some other parts it is a not so good a trap as Sambls.

I enclose you an order for him in the usual form from this office in which you will please insert Mr Sambls full name and deliver him he may count the two traps him in the number of 50. but send me chains for them when the others are ready as soon as he compleats one on the plan now directed he may send it by the stage, and in mean time Sambls go on with the order. I like the manner of fixing on the chain to the trap better in Mr Sambls trap than that in the one I send. The quest

Points like Mr Savitt, in a beaver trap one that
when set the jaws should lie open square and
flat, so as the more readily to be covered with hair
&c and thus concealed from the view of the animal
next to spring quick and lustily to hold fast.

I hope I shall soon see both yourself and
the goods here

Yours Respectfully

J. M. Lupton