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Letter from John Mason to George Sibley, October 18, 1812

John Mason

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29 George B. Sibley

Indian Office 15th Oct 1812

Sir,

I wrote you yesterday on the subject of the Osage annuities for 1812 -

Your Letter of 22 June from Louisville of 20 & 27 July from St. Louis and of 22 August & 8th September from Fort Osage with their Enclosures all which shall be attended to in due time. for the present the principal object of this is to say that the Secretary of War having left it in the discretion of Governor Howard to evacuate Fort Osage in the event of such a state of things with the Indians in your quarter as in his opinion may make it necessary. Should such an order be given, which I trust however will not be found necessary by the Governor. You will pack up the public Goods & other property in your charge and move
with

with them to St. Louis together with your assistants, Books, Papers &c. giving me by triplicate immediate information of such movement and waiting at St. Louis for order - I hope no such state of things will occur but, lest they should it will be best to keep as much of your Goods, Peltries &c. packed and ready to move as you conveniently can - it will be prudent to give no intimation to the Indians of such possible intention - or indeed to any person - lest it get abroad as no doubt the Governor will not let his discretionary power be known unless he means to use it - you will therefore consider this as a confidential communication to be used in cases of need -

Mr. Rawlings, your assistant has requested leave of absence to see his friends this fall or next Spring. I have written him this day and assented to his request for 4 months to take place this fall or next Spring in your discretion as to the time of leaving the Factory which you can best judge of from its affairs -

You will I hope receive from your neighbours the Osage good accounts of their treatment here on their late visit to the President - much attention was paid them and their presents were considerable - I like the men & their professions and I strongly flatter myself they will keep at peace with us as well as the rest of the Tribes in your vicinity

J.M.