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Letter from George Sibley to Alcade, August 19, 1826

George Champlin Sibley

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Señr. Alcalde:

I am very busily engaged and cannot attend your Summons. I cannot possibly imagine what business you can have with me. A man took the liberty yesterday evening to take one of my Horses from my pasture where he was tied to graze. Some of my men went after him to take the Horse—the Spaniard attacked the man, and in the Scuffle got what he richly deserved. I saw nothing of it, and can give no testimony in the case. I have had examination made, and found that the Horse was not tied so near the wheat as to allow him to eat any. No man is more particular than I am to prevent my Horses from doing injury to the crops. No man is more ready to make just compensation for any injury they do.

I am, and have been, extremely particular in this respect. On the other hand, I will not suffer any person, Spaniard, French or American, or Indian, to take liberties with me or my Property.

In this particular I make no distinctions. If I had caught the man who took my Horse yesterday, I should have ordered him to be tied and sent him to you for punishment—for he did most unques-

tionably deserve punishment, & I trust you will see that he has it.

Being entirely ignorant myself of the transaction except from information, & being busily engaged preparing for my journey homeward, I cannot but decline going to your office, it being entirely useless. Meaning not the least disrespect towards you, Sir, in this determination, I am

Your Mo[st] Ob[edien]t S[er]v[an]t:

August 19th, 1826

G. C. SIBLEY (rubric)