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Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, October 22, 1833

Benjamin H. Reeves

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Fayette Octr. 22. 1833

Dr. Sir,

Your letter of the 15th just came to hand by Fridays mail. I certainly have been remiss in not previously answering your communication to which you refer. It came safely to hand with the enclosures, & from time to time delayed answering it, thinking every mail I would do so. Still I did not, for which negligence I beg your pardon.

I know not what plan of operations it would be best for us to adopt. Have always submitted to your more experienced judgement in this matter. There however appears but one alternative left for us, that is to apply to Congress. The Secy. Of the Treasury Attry Genl etc. have all decided against us & I know not what else we can do. Possibly as there will be new officers in those departments it ought not be amiss again to press the matter upon their consideration, should you deem this advisable, would it not be bet to submit particularly to the Attry Genl a written argument in favor of our construction of the Instructions under which we acted but should you be of the opinion that we should apply to Congress at once, then be it so. In which event ought __ to impress as favorably as we can as many of our acquaintances as possible, unfortunately for me. I have not many there – but __ them few or many, if you & col. Mather deem that course best, my pen shall know no rest.

Write me as soon as you can your plan of operations. If you __ it advisable I will address Col. Benton myself & cause him, to be addressed by others, in whom he has greater confidence & for whom perhaps he would most kindly and willingly Act.

I barely saw Genrl. Ashley when he was up last summer, at that time my family was quite sickened prostrate & never mentioned the subject to him. Both Lindsay & Dr. Bull, I am sure will do every thing in their power to have the mater adjusted & so I believe Dr. Dun, will of he should fill Col. Buckner's vacancy.

With respect & steem

Yours most truly

B. H. Reeves