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Letter from George Sibley to Thomas Mather, May 10, 1827

George Champlin Sibley

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H. H. Hays May 10th 1827.

D. Sir,

Being just about to set out, in a few days, upon my Road marking Trip to the Prairies, and presuming you would like to have something further in relation to this movement, I avail myself of a moment's quiet Hour (in the middle of the bustle of my War &c.) to afford you that information - Col. Beever has declined going altogether, in consequence of the continued illness of his wife, which obliges him to take a trip to Kentucky with her, upon which he will probably start about the 20th of this Month.

Knowing your disinclination to the Trip, and being satisfied myself of the entire uselessness of more than one of us going; I made up my mind to do this work without Col: Beever, as he appeared very anxious to be exempted on account of the sickness of Mrs. B. -

I have engaged 12 Hands to accompany me, and expect to be under way before the

the 20th Inst. - In some particulars the expense of this
Trip will exceed, & in others fall short of, the estimates
we made last Winter at Ft. Lewis - The cost of the Hauls
will be greater - 1st in respect of the Wages given & 2^o
in the time they will be employed - Having no Saddles
& bridles, & finding it difficult to procure any here,
I have engaged each man to fix his own for the Trip,
& if he finds such as will not hold his Mule, I am
to allow 2^o of months wages instead of 1^o, which was
the Price first agreed on - Some of the Men will prob-
ably be in Service near 3 Months, this I do not expect
to be out from home myself quite two - The expense
is somewhat lessened by Col. Beaver declining to go -

The Property left at Branklin has been sold for
much less than its Cost, in fact it is sold for a mere
trifle - And upon the whole view of the matter
I am now just as I am nearly prepared to start,
and cannot withdraw on account of my engage-
ments & purchase, &c. Surprised to discover that
in all human probability the funds will
fall short several hundred dollars - I really
fear Sir that "The Pumpkins will hold out"

and if I had not advanced as far as I have, I should
most unquestionably decline the trip altogether -

But I must proceed now, even if I do it at my
own expense - It would be so damn'd ridiculous to
break up now, having pledged myself to the Men,
(who have put themselves out of business & to some
expense to go) and actually pitched my tent, and
collected all my Mules &c. - Every day, but proceed
I must, and proceed I certainly shall with all
possible economy and expedition - When I return
you shall immediately hear from me, and I
shall be anxious to wind up, Repack & wash
my hands of this Post making business as speedily
as may be practicable - It is extremely in-
convenient for me to leave home - Rather than
have gone earlier than I shall go, I would
unhesitatingly have declined it altogether,
but the consequences have been what they
might - With great respect, I am Sir
yours very truly

G. C. Avery

This matters Esq.