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Letter from Thomas McKenney to George Sibley, September 2, 1816

Thomas McKenney

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To

152 Geo. C. Sibley Esq

Indian office

Geo Town 2, Sept. 1816

Sir

I have to day received your returns for the quarter ending the 31 June last, accompanied by your vouchers for expending in the erection of your buildings.

The retrenchment in your expences, which you say will take place in a day or two by the discharge of all your workmen save one man, whose business it will be to take care of the furs & peltries, when connected with the increased activity of your trade, will tend, I hope, to throw the balance on the other side of the sheet, in your next returns - This to accomplish this, I have no wish that you suspend the completion of your additional improvements, which I am sure will be necessary for the Indians to take shelter in, who may come, during the winter from a distance to trade. - There is but one item of disbursement that seems to me to be large for the nature of the service performed - and that is, the price paid the undertaker at St. Louis, for his services, and the services of his men for the trip to Ft. Osage.

Yours

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In all points where a just economy can be observed, I am sure you will regard it; and in this instance, I am satisfied that you made the best bargain in your power.

I have addressed a letter to Mr. Kennerly at Saint Louis, by the mail of to-day - respecting bal. No. 12 - that seems to have miscarried - I hope he will be able soon to recover it, from its lost course and put it in its proper channel.

'Tis gratifying to learn that the Indians in your neighbourhood are all well disposed, excepting such only as are usually inclined to be troublesome, are there no means of pacifying these Ioways? or are they troublesome from their long habits of being so, and without any desire to enjoy the pleasures of a better humor? -

Respectfully T. C. M. K.