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6-17-1817

Letter from Thomas McKenney to George Sibley, June 17, 1817

Thomas McKenney

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219.

Geo b Libbey Esq
 U.S. Factor at
 Ft Osage

Ind^l: Trade Office June 17th 1817
 Sir

Your letter of the 8th ultimo together
 its accompanying accounts for the Quarter ending on the
 31st March last; also that of the 20th ultimo, are
 before me. I am gratified to learn that the Guns are
 so fine - and trust they may arrive in good Order.
 They will come in very opportunely for a full sale
 and being good Guns will I hope, tend to benefit our
 depot at this place. (I can readily conceive
 the necessity you have been under to sell off your
 Stock at reduced prices - Many articles were
 purchased at prices higher than they have been
 since.) If the Guns & Petty arrive safe, and

in good order, they may produce profit notwithstanding,
 in favor of the Factory. The Goods arrived & those on
 their way to your Factory, will render it unnecessary for
 you to reduce your prices in future - You will have
 power I flatter myself to cope with the Traders, if
 that power consists in good & cheap Goods -

I regret to learn that disorders have arisen among the
 Cree Indians, so as to render it good policy to withhold
 their annuities. It is no doubt a good plan to bring selfish
 people to their senses - and I hope it may answer in this case

Your accounts, I am happy to say are generally
 correct, and well arranged. There appears an error however in
 your method of keeping your exchange, or barter account
 or rather you are not so explicit as to enable us at this
 Office to test the correctness of your returns. This is
 exemplified in the error referred to in your last of \$800
 respecting deer skins - which it seems you kept in produce
 acc^t - made dⁿ to Merchant^d - where you charge so
 much dispose of in trade (for example N 79ⁿ 27ⁿ - with
 the advance 33¹/₃ - making 2,105.70) without noting what you
 rec^d in exchange. Please in future state, what it is you
 receive; at what price; and of what quality - This will enable
 the Clerks of this office to examine, and detect errors; without which
 it appears impossible to do so.

You state also a loss in produce acc^t for the March
 Quarter 304.25 - which it appears, you only amounted to
 about \$40. - It should seem from this, that the prices allowed
 in barter, were higher than that the prices ^{you} allowed in or
~~barter~~ valued them at, in the Inventory.

Have the goodness to make those points more
 plain in future; and all will be well. Respectedly,
 J. L. Clarke