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12-1-1819

## Letter from Thomas McKenney to George Sibley, December 1, 1819

Thomas McKenney

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George C. Tibby Esq  
 W & Foster St. Bay  
 Sir

American Trade Office New York 15<sup>th</sup> 1819

I had been led by your advices of  
 of the excellent qualities of the Guns, and of the fine condition  
 in which Mr. Ely parted with them at St. Louis, to expect on  
 their arrival here, to realize the fine hopes, which your letters  
 had raised. It is mortifying however, to state, that the  
 arrival of these Guns, presents a spectacle such, as it is believed by  
 never before been exhibited at this Office.

Not only are the Guns about half rotted, as well  
 as to size as to Gun, but the worms have cut them literally to  
 pieces.

This exhibition has led to some apprehensions  
 that an exchange has been made of your Guns, for these, on  
 the route, but where, I am at a loss to conjecture. If Mr.  
 Kennedy were absent from St. Louis, during their stay there,  
 some advantage might have been taken of his absence,  
 and the work of fraud committed at St. Louis. If he were  
 at home, and had these Guns in his particular & personal care,  
 it were impossible not to believe that the exchange happened  
 somewhere else. I am solicitous that you should, as  
 you come on, look into this matter, as well as you may

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be able. I have sent this letter unsealed to Mr. Kennedy,  
that he too may be enabled to detect the furs, which must  
have been committed somewhere, if the furs taken in by  
you were not worse by half in quality, than any ever  
taken in by you before. In future I wish (though some  
as it may seem) a mark put on each skin with Paint  
Respectfully &c J. L. H. 1893