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Letter from Elijah Lovejoy to George Sibley, April 27, 1837

Elijah P. Lovejoy

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Alton, April 27. 1837.

Maj. G.C. Sibley

Dear Brother,

Your note of the 25th has been Recd. In reply to part of it, I would state that one of the papers directed to you would have discontinued had not the Rev. Mr. Strong when here in the winter, said that he would hold himself responsible for one of the copies. Then as he was residing in your family I did not take the trouble to change the direction. It has now been done. By looking at the books I find you are credited as having paid only that copy sent to your father up to Jan. 1836. My impression is that there is a mistake and that you have paid up to last Jan. from which time Mr. S.'s commences. If I am incorrect please inform me. The other copy is paid up to the 4th volume.

As to what you say, my good friend, about the "humming" and "humming" ETC. ETC. about negro slavery, we differ in our views on this matter, and I suppose must agree to differ for awhile longer, where, I doubt not, you will come over to my way of thinking. If I could hold my peace on this subject with a clear conscience, I would most assuredly do it. My course has cost me many a valued friend. But I cannot, and I am sure Major Sibley is not the man to ask or wish a Christian to connive at what he believes to be sin, for the sake of popularity.

I have no doubt of the sincerity of your confidence in the fact that I and others who act as I do are injuring the cause we would advance, yet my convictions nevertheless, are directly the reverse, and I think, I will not say Know, I think I have some good evidence of the correctness of my opinion.

I have just read a pamphlet concerning the St. Charles Church difficulties. May I ask, did you write it?

Have you not leisure to write now and then for the "OBS."? _ I should be much gratified to have you do it.

My best wishes attend Mrs. S. in her efforts to educate young ladies as they should be educated.

Mrs. L. joins me in affectionate regards to yourself and Mrs. S.

Your Friend and brother,

Elijah P. Lovejoy