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7-10-1817

Letter from George Sibley to Samuel Sibley, July 10, 1817

George Sibley

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Mr. Sam^l. H. Sibley
Natchitoches
Louisiana

Geo. C. Sibley
Franklin, Mo. T.
July 23

Fort Osage, July 10, 1817.

Dear Hopkins,

I have just received your favor of the 26. May, in Reply to mine of the 21^t. March- I can easily enter into your feelings on the Subject of Removing your family to this Country,- the difficulties and embarrassments you enumerate are doubtless very Serious obstacle in the way, and as it would seem are not easily Surmounted or Removed- However great my anxiety may be to have you permanently Settled near me, that our families may as it were form a little world of our own- yet I cannot for one moment think of asking you to make the sacrifice you state to be inevitable, to accomplish that object- As there is yet Some doubt on this Subject, however, which cannot be fairly Settled, but by your Seeing this country, I cannot but think it proper to urge you to pay us a visit this fall- indeed I fully count upon your coming, Since the receipt of your last letter- At all events, let what would be your decision about removing, you ought to See and judge for yourself first of all- When we are together, perhaps, I may be able to overthrow or to Remove Some of the difficulties that Seem to be in our way- Possibly I may have it in my power to make you Some proposals or offers that you may think advantageous, when you have visioned the whole ground- We will therefore drop this Subject for the present; and take it up more understandingly when we meet.

It is quite possible that I may be called to Washington next Winter, if So I Should leave here early in November- In Such an event, it would be desirable that you Should reach here in October

pretty early at farthest; which would not only give us time to make all our observations and arrangements here, but might possibly Result in my accompanying you to Natchez.

I mention this however, as a thing barely possible, but by any ((Line cut off))----- if I am allowed to consult my own interest and convenience will not take place- I am just commencing to build a Saw and Grist Mill on a pretty expensive plan. The contractor with his workmen are looked for daily- the mills are by contract to be Set in motion by the first of November next- you will judge from this, that if I can help it I will not go from home this year.

In compliance with your desire, I have Sketched a Map of part of the Snae Ebar (?) country, with a description annexed thereto. in addition to what you will find therein, I have to observe, that altho', I do not look for any very lucrative trade or commerce ever to exist in this country, I am perfectly Satisfied that a prudent and industrious man, with a moderate capital may Spend his days more at ease, more independently and more healthfully than any place, I know of- Hogs, Cattle, & are raised in the greatest numbers, with very trifling expence.

An outlet and good market, for vast quantities of Flour Pork and Whiskey, will exist for many years to come among the numerous Traders, Garrisons & on the Missouri above this, besides what may be sent below- As Soon as I get my Stock Farm, & Mills going, I Shall hope to be able to furnish from 2 to 3 thousand Doll^{rs} worth of Provisions-----which I shall count on selling at my door.

It is doubtful how the Slave question (which is involved in our application to become a State) will be decided- Should the

Restriction proposed by Congress be finally adopted, as I am most heartily wish may be the case) we shall be the happiest State in the World. But unless Congress perseveres in its right to annex the restriction, I fear our new State will become, not a free one, but a mere colony of the Southern Slave States- No question has ever been agitated Since '76, so delicate and deeply interesting to the whole Union as this one I allude to- the discussion and decision Seems to be inevitable. God only knows what will be the consequences- perhaps on this ----- hands the permanency or dissolution of the Union.

I expected to have been able long ago to remit Henry \$200. on acc^t. of George, but I have never yet Received a cent for him. the money was to have been paid in October last, and judging from the character and Standing of the Gentleman to whom I sold George I fully expected to have Rec^d. the money when it became due- He has deceived me however, and I have put his bond in suit a few weeks ago, and as he has a great deal of valuable property, the money will doubtless be Secured in the end; the moment it comes into my hands, I shall remit to Henry the Am^t. promised- Please to inform him of this.-

In consequence of what Father wrote me from N. Orleans I have, for some time past, been somewhat in hopes of Seeing him in this country this Summer- your last letter contained the first information I had Rec^d. that he had given out his journey to the North- I have nothing worth communicating to him or I would write him now- Our great Yellow Stone Expedition about which you have seen so much in the papers, has not yet got above this place, except a Detachment of 260 men which passed here last fall and are now about 80

miles above, waiting for the Rest- 5 or 6 Hundred men are expected here every day- when they arrive, this Fort will be broke up, and I Shall be left here pretty much alone- This expedition is very badly managed, and will, I fear fall very far short of the public expectation- The Steam Boats intended to accompany it, are not found to answer very well, and will probably be abandoned- There is no doubt but the Missouri can easily be navigated by Steam Boats, but they must be of peculiar construction & and have greater power than those used elsewhere- All the Indians seem to be quiet and well disposed.

My wife joins me in affectionate Regards to yourself and family. present my love to Father, Ann E. and Henry.

y^{rs}. Affectionately,

G. C. S.

Mr. S. H. S.