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Letter from Archibald Dorsey to George Sibley, February 14, 1827

Archibald Dorsey

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Dr. John Sibley
Fort Osage
on the Missouri River
State of Missouri

Dr. A. Dorsey
Bush Town, Harford Co. Maryland

Harford County Bush Town Maryland
FebY 14, 1827

Doct^r Jn^o Sibley

Sir

Will the Circumstances of my having no one in your State to whom I can address myself, be any Sort of apology for thus obtruding myself: on you: Several other persons, together with myself intend emigrating to some part of the Western world- & wish information on the following subjects, especially as to that part of the Country wherein you reside: permit me therefore respectfully: to solicit you to answer the following: for what price could the first rate wild Land be gotten for Cash- & at what advance when furnished with Cabbins & comfortable outhouses. What is the usual produce of good Lands (well cultivated of) Indian Corn wheat & rye. the acre & what is each bushel worth, does Tobacco grow well with you & its price in the neighborhood- & what the quantity the acre will produce- is your climate healthy & pleasant: or does not the margin of yr rivers produce bilious fevers ague & fever & dysentery: is the high prairie country free from such visitations: do peaches apples Cherries & flourish with you- Is your lands kindly to horticulture: especially the water & cantelope melon & cucumbers does the Bounty Lands sell at a less price than the U. S. Lands and are they of prime quality- do dunghill fowels thrive well & not subject to the gaps, are not your vast Savannas filled with venious snakes- is Salt lime & sand in plenty & the price of the 2 former are yr winters long & Severe with much Snow & rain: does not your local Situation preclude Cotton as a Staple:

what is the price of Tea Coffee & Sugar white & brown. nails per the price of carpenters, Blacksmith & by the day- what negroes, & what do able bodied ones sell for what negro girls, What is the difference paid in Cash & produce. what is the usual Charge of Medical men for a Long Visit & with medicine does it amo^t to- I presume in the youth of yr Country few Situation could support without other aid a professional man, say a physician- do you run stock plentifully especially horses, are springs good & plenty: & well easily come at- are your numerous Rivers well filled: with good fish: do they Salt up, does the Irish & Caroline potato both flourish well with you- would not your climate suit the poppy & yr rich Land produce opium should I remove I intend trying it- But I stop short I fear I have already written too much- I trust you will indulge me with an answer to all or such part as you may find agreeable to yr convenience-

Respec^y

Yr Ob Ser

Arch Dorsey

Any remarks of yr own will be thankfully received & gratefully acknowledged

A D.