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Letter from Thomas McKenney to George Sibley, February 18, 1818

Thomas L. McKenney

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Office Indian Tra

George C. Sibley Esq

18th Feb 1818

Sir

I have duly received your return for the quarter ending 30th Sept. last_ The accounts and vouchers are correct_ Your letter of 20th Nov. accompanied them. I note the contents of it_ If possible the obstacles which have hitherto interrupted the progress of your supplies between Pittsburg and St Louis shall be put down. I don't know whether any thing ought to justify a suspicion which invoked the honor of any body, but as these goods left Pittsburg in due time, I am unable to repress the belief that the boatmen were hired to a detention of them by men whose intent it is to shackle our policy; and against whom, if they ----- on the banks of rivers there can be no force applied, they can tempt the avarice of any sort of boatmen however honorable the boat owners may be, provided they are not along. Wampum is yet scarce I have been forwarding you parcels by the mails which before this you must have begun to receive.

I am a little disappointed in my expectations from the Osage Country_ respecting the costume of the nation. I expected their dress was very commanding as well as its parts is in their arrangement.

I hope to possess you of prime goods this year.

I received the sequel of your letter, and also copies of those to Gov. Clarke & have read them with great pleasure_ That is so far as your efforts are implied But the details of avarice which you have spread over the page give me a very bad opinion of the actors in the Missouri. I shall always be gratified to peruse your circumlocutions or the result of your day thinking either. I have taken care that these ample voices of yours shall not be lost and hope they may serve the public interest when the generation comes up which invested the Indian Trade yet anything had been done, but the preparation of a very excellent bill which has been twice read and committed. How it will get along for the balance of its course there is no telling.

I am of opinion the Government should hold the reins by which Indians are guided in their own hands.

T L MK