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3-25-1831

## Letter from George Sibley to Abiel Leonard, March 25, 1831

George Champlin Sibley

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Linden Wood, St. Charles C., March 25. 1831.

To A. Leonard Esqr.

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Inst. (?) was duly recd. – What you Say of the Suit for the Slaves, +c. affords me Some Satisfaction. The result before the circuit Court, I always considered as extremely doubtful, and I shall continue to entertain Such reasonable doubts as to the final issue of the Appeal as at least to prevent any very great Shock to my mind in the event of ultimate failure - Still I permit myself to believe that I ought in justice to Succeed – due thing is quite certain at least; I shall continue to confide implicitly in your Skill and exertion to obtain a favourable, and a speedy decision by the Supreme Court.

The opinion that I asked of you as to the value of my Land at Ft. Osage was Solicited because I knew you had Seen the property very often, and I thought it likely you had noticed its Situation, local advantages, improvements, +c.+c. Sufficiently to enable you to State generally your opinion of its value - A friend at Washington who has kindly undertaken to negotiate with the Govt. an arrangement by which I may be permitted to discharge the balance of a Security debt that I owe the U:S; with property. informs me that it will be necessary as a preliminary step (?) to Such an arrangement, to forward Some evidence of the value of the property I propose to offer - It was with the view of obtaining Such evidence, from Sources of indisputable respectability, that I addressed a Note on the Subject to you, and to Several other Gentlemen; Some of whom have answered me and Some have Not - I am not aware that I have asked any thing indelicate or at all improper - All I expect is a pretty general opinion of the present value of the property named according to what you remember of its Situation. Soil, + c., and I still beg of you to favour me with yours; it will greatly oblige me.

The questions you propound to me “who I propose for. Congress? Can We elect one of our own party”? Are precisely the Same  
that

[End of page 1. I am typing these pages according to their layout in the photocopy that I am transcribing, because on the third page the formatting changes and some of the text is suddenly centered.]

that I hear, and ask myself, every day – they are questions, that cannot in my opinion, be too Soon Settled – You ought to know, that I am not Sufficiently well informed as to party politics to justify my giving my opinion very freely, or at all confidently – I shall not however

withhold them from you, on the present occasion - And Such as they are, you are welcome to make the most of them. – My impression is that we can elect a Man of our own party; that is to say, one who is decidedly +warmly in favour of “The American System” and Mr. Clay -

At least, I think that the friends of that System, are already So numerous in Missouri, and So fast increasing, that they would be inexcusable, if they omitted to make use of their very best efforts to Send a Man to Congress, capable and willing to promote their views – If the opponents of that System, are the majority, I am willing they Shall be repre=  
=sented by Pettis, or Wells if they have no better men – But if We have the majority – as I verily believe we have, We must take care not to Send forth a Man of Straw to represent us - I rejoice with pride, that we are under no Such necessity, tho’ it is pretty apparent that our opponents are, – In brief Sir, my opinion is, that we are bound to enter the field, with our best Strength – that it is our plain policy to take our candidate from your Section of the State. to Nominate + announce him immediately, and to commence without delay, the most active operations – And it is my most Earnest wish, that you Sir, may be our Candidate – Upon this latter point, I have good reason to believe, that our friends in this quarter, very generally concur with me in Sentiment, or per=  
=haps, I Should Say more properly, I concur with them – E. Bates + I composed notes recently on this Subject, and we agree exactly I think. I am at least certain, that he thinks, the candidate must be a Boonslicker, (?) and that you are his choice – Neither he or Geyer (?) have any intention of running - Scott + Lane are occasionally Spo=  
=ken of, tho’ not confidently; if you are announced Soon, there  
can

[End of page 2.]

can be no doubt but both those gentlemen will at one decline all thoughts of entering the Lists - I pray you, let me hear from you very Soon on this Subject; and [A word is struck through here] it may be well to express yourself decisively, as to your own views of your prospects in your own Section of the State, + your own wishes +c. – I am pretty confident that your friends will desire you to run, that you will be warmly Solicited; and therefore, as no time ought to be wasted in useless negotiations, Suppose you Say to me at once, what we  
May depend upon - I repeat,  
I very much desire myself. that  
You consent to come out, for

The reasons already Stated, and  
I put it to your patriotism (of  
which you profess I know, much  
less than you feel) to make  
the Sacrifice I, in my own,  
+ the name of a great many  
Other friends, ask at yr. hands –

[All text below this note is surrounded by one very large pair of parenthesis. They appear to have been drawn with a different tool than the one utilized to write the original letter, as the ink is clearly different, so they may not be original to the letter. There is also a large X, written with the same material, over a small part of the left-hand portion of the note. Above the note and to the right, is a quarter-sized ink blot that I am guessing was Sibley's seal in the original document. There is also a flourish beneath Sibley's signature; but as this occurs in many letters and I have no way of reproducing flourishing through typing, I usually do not mention or include them.]

When you see our good friend Col. Reeves, have the goodness of Say  
to him, that I have procured the withdrawal of our Acct. from the  
Committee of Claims, and that I Shall attend further to the  
Subject in due Season.

very truly yr friend

G. c. Sibley