Geo. C. Sibley Esq.  
Rev. F. Fort Clark  
Geo. Town 21 Oct. 1810

Sir,

Your letter of the 27th August last, with its enclosures came to hand in due course of mail. I remark what you say on the subject of the present condition of the Indians in that quarter, and their future prospects. There can be no doubt but time will be required to effect these from the pleasures of the chase, and introduce them into the practice of agriculture, and the arts of civil life. But much may be done to facilitate their progress. It is certainly of importance to give
give them a just conception of the value of goods—

because a correspondent conception must be created of their necessity and use, and this again will be

followed by proper exertions to satisfy themselves of

such as are essential to their comfort. So is it the

point that efforts may be made to point out to

them the different methods to obtain means for

the procuration of these goods, and the more

certain products of the soil furnishing at all

times a source of revenue, may be urged upon them

and practically enforced if need be. Efforts must

even by the force you may have when instead of

sold, and in their presence. It is often that

efforts, even of apparently trifling import, in

themselves turn out in their results, and tending
to wide spread and general advantage.

I have made large calculations on the Osage

trading house, and flatter myself I shall not

be disappointed. It will be necessary to have

an eye upon the vendor of merchandise who

break in upon our limits, and also upon their pol-

itics—for these when fired by the heat of what

break out in fierce conflagrations. These traders

having no regard to the happiness of the Indians,

but only to their own advantage and profit, take the

easiest means to answer their end—and to

make drunkard and defraud, being the most direct

way to come to their end. This sounds unhappily

of the too common end, you will have violently
to contend against these appearances in the West.

The best weapons to fight with will be the free-

judges of the Indians themselves. I prefer them

with the belief that such is the design of these

druids, and like the Cherokees who dispute them

I cast them denizen, they will notify the Government, that they must get rid of them. Is

it not to be accountable for their own efforts
to drive them out. (Suppose of your intention to run off your old stocks at 3d. advance. The goods last sent you are most excellent - better blankets you have never had. They have a price attached to them above what is usual; but the Indians will not object to give the usual advance for them.)

It shall be my bussiness to keep you well and constantly supplied; let it be open to keep me properly informed of the descripton of merchandise most in demand, and of all other things having relation to the factory.

Oer expenses are heavy - have an eye upon this, and make quick returns. I notice your demand for labor - your business will I am sure justify it; and this being so, it is important that it should be kept up, and not suffer to lay for want of aid.

Respectfully July 27th.