Noble and Simonson to John H. Eaton

In this letter to U.S. Secretary of War John H. Eaton, Department of War agents Noble and Simonson report on the property held by the Baptist missionaries at Carey Mission, Michigan Territory. The report contains a detailed breakdown of the assets at Carey, including the 11 "hewed log" buildings, mill, and other items.

Date: September 2, 1830

Callnumber: Robert Simerwell Coll. #500, Box 2 Correspondence and records, 1830 September-October

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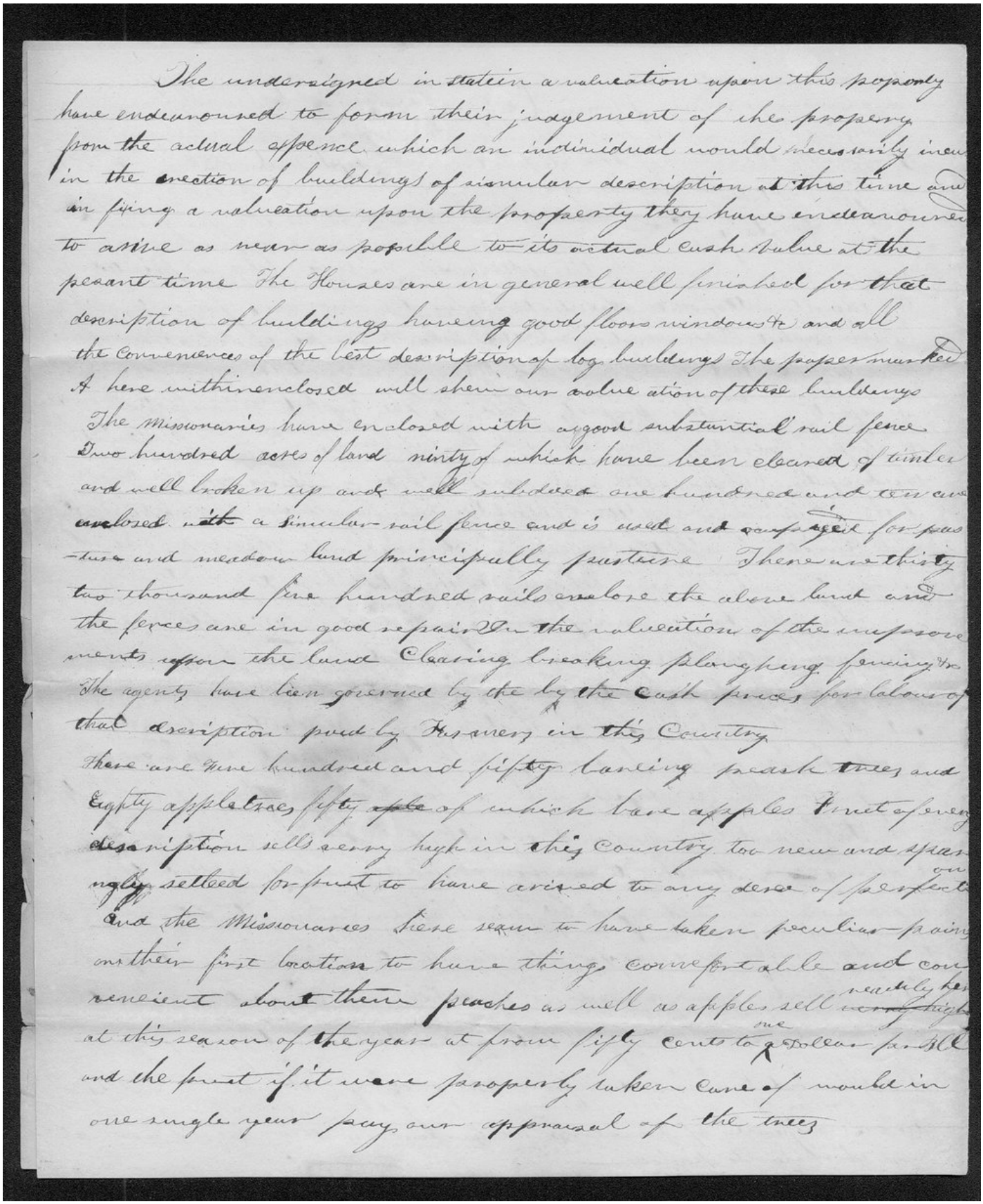
Carey Missionary Establishment
St. Josephs of Lake Michigan
Sept 2end 1830

To the Hon
John H Eaton
Secretary of War

Sir the undersigned having been appointed by the Apartment of War Agents to value the Missionary property held by the Baptist Denomination on the River St Joseph of Lake Michigan have fulfilled that trust, and beg leave to submit the following by way of report The property held by the Baptist Denomination on the St Joseph Consists of Eleven hewed log buelidings all of which with the exception of one used and occupied as a Mill are the dwellings of the Missionaryes and the Children who have been under their Care and direction and the necessary storeroye and sleeping room for property and persons belonging to the Establishment

The Mill has one run of Stone a good dutch Bolting Cloth and all the necessary Machinerys for a mill worked by four horses it is in good repair makes excellent flour and meal and will grind without difficulty thirty bushels of wheat a day Besides the above there is a good hewed log School house Milk house Meat Corn wash Sheep and poultry Houses together with a log Blacksmiths shop a log stable with stalls and mangers and one other building of logs used as a dwelling — At the time these buildings were erected the Missionaries laboured under much embarrassment not only from the difficulty necessarily attendandent upon an enterprise of this kind Commenced in a Wilderness Country more than one hundred miles any white inhabitance but from prejudices which they had to encounter from the Indians themselves and the extreme difficulty of procuring mechanical or other labour were at most exhorbitant prices —

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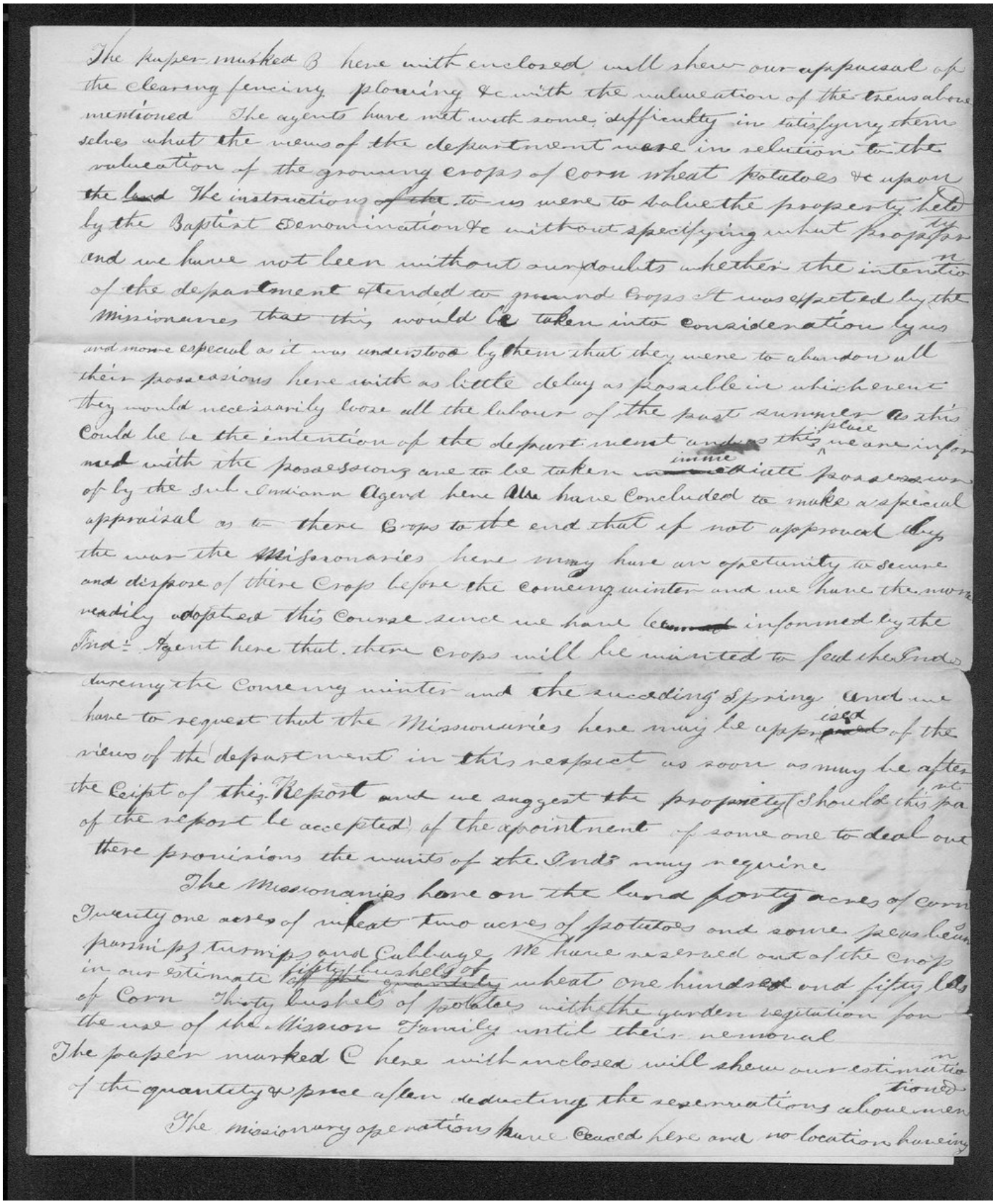


The undersigned in stateing a valuation upon this property have endeavoured to form their judgement of the property from the actual expence which an individual would necessarily incur in the erection of buildings of similar description at this time and in fixing a valuation upon the property they have endeavoured to arrive as near as possible to its actual cash value at the present time The Houses are in general well finished for that description of buildings haveing good floors windows &c and all the Conveniences of the best description of log buildings The paper marked A here withinenclosed will shew our valuation of these buildings

The Missionaries have enclosed with a good substantial rail fence Two hundred acres of land ninty of which have been cleared of timber and well broken up and well subdued one hundred and ten are enclosed with a similar rail fence and is used and designed for pasture and meadow land principally pasturage There are thirty two thousand five hundred rails enclose the above land and the fences are in good repair In the valuation of the improvements upon the land Clearing breaking plowing fencing &c the agents have been governed by the by the cash prices for labour of that description paid by Farmers in this Country

There are three hundred and fifty bearing peach trees and Eighty apple trees fifty of which bear apples Finer of every description sells every high in this Country too new and upon ungrafted seedling for fruit to have arrived to any degree of perfection and the Missionaries there seem to have taken peculiar pains on their first location to have things comfortable and convenient about there peaches as well as apples sell nearly high at this season of the year at from fifty cents to a dollar per bll and the finest if it were properly taken care of would in one single year pay our appraisal of the trees

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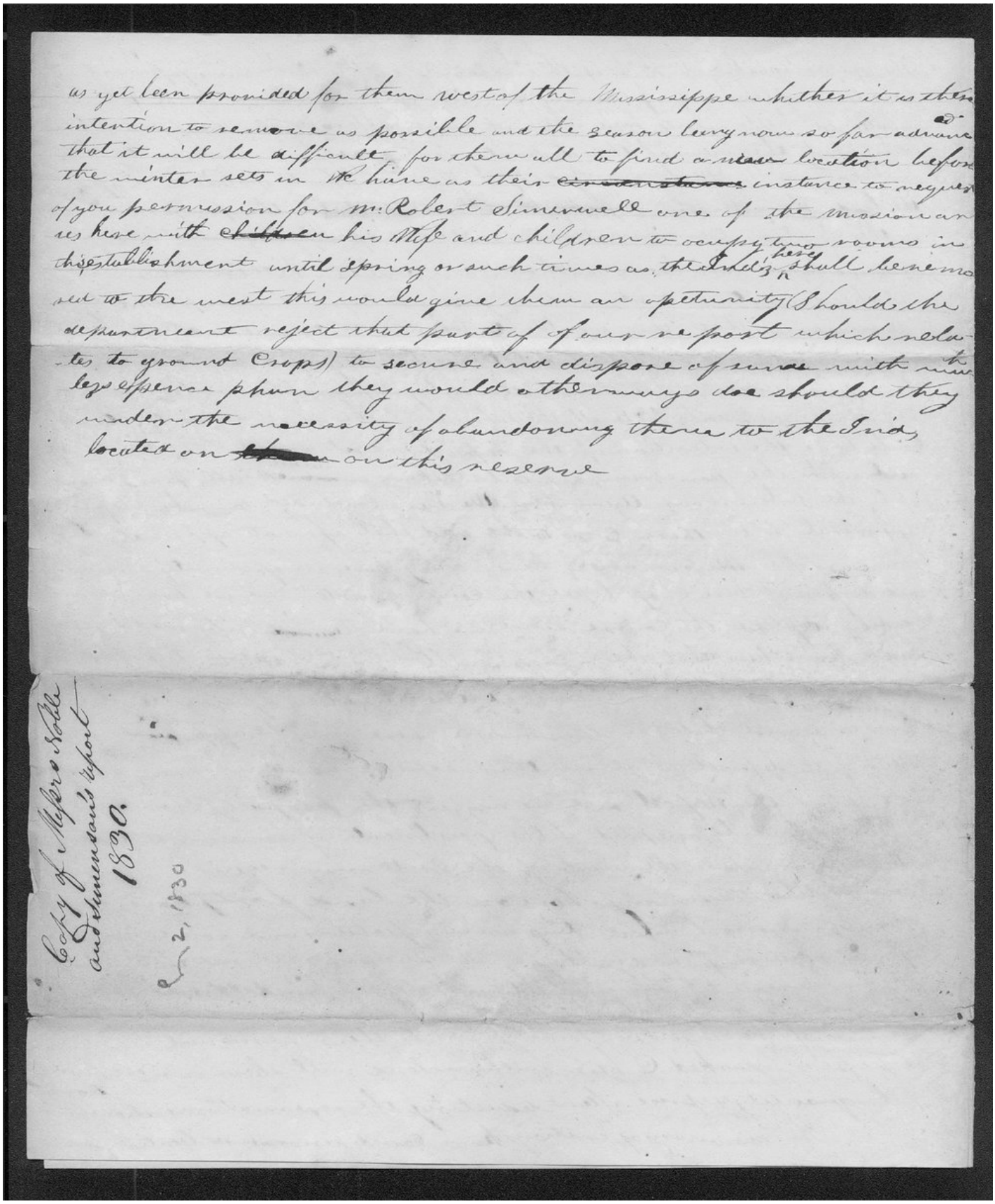
The paper marked B here with enclosed will shew our appraisal of the clearing fencing ploughing &c with the valuation of the items above mentioned The agents have met with some difficulty in satisfying themselves what the views of the department were in relation to the valuation of the growing crops of Corn wheat potatoes &c upon the land The instructions of the to us were to value the property held by the Baptist Denomination &c without specifying what property and we have not been without our doubts whether the intention of the department extended to growing Crops It was expected by the Missionaries that this would be taken into consideration by us and more especial as it was understood by them that they were to abandon all their possessions here with as little delay as possible in which event they would necessarily loose all the labour of the past summer as this Could be the intention of the department unless this place we are informed with the possessions are to be taken immediate possession of by the Sub Indian Agent here Also have Concluded to make a special appraisal as to there Crops to the end that if not approved by the war the Missionaries here may have an opeturnity to secure and dispose of there Crop before the comeing winter and we have the more readily adopted this Course since we have been informed by the Ind. Agent here that there crops will be wanted to feed the Inds during the Comeing winter and the ensueding Spring and we have to request that the Missionaries here may be apprised of the views of the department in this respect as soon as may be after the Reciept of this Report and we suggest the propriety Should this part of the report be accepted of the apointment of some one to deal out there provisions the wants of the Inds may require

The Missionaries have on the land forty acres of Corn Twenty one acres of wheat two acres of potatoes and some peas beans parsnips turnips and Cabbage We have reserved out of the crop in our estimate fifty bushels of wheat one hundred and fifty lbs of Corn Thirty bushels of potatoes with the yarden vegitation for the use of the Mission Family until their removal

The paper marked C here with enclosed will shew our estimation of the quantity & price as seen deducting the reservations above mentioned

The missionary operations have Ceased here and no location having

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as yet been provided for them west of the Mississippe whether it is their intention to remove as possible and the season being now so far advanced that it will be difficult for them all to find a new location before the winter sets in We have as their ~~circumstances~~ instances to request of you permission for Mr. Robert Simerwell one of the missionaries here with ~~children~~ his wife and children to occupy two rooms in this establishment until spring or such times as the Indians shall be removed to the west this would give them an opportunity (Should the department reject that part of our report which relates to ground Crops) to secure and dispose of same with the less expense which they would otherwise be under the necessity of abandoning them to the Indians located on ~~the~~ on this reserve

Copy of Major Noble and Simonson's report 1830.

2, 1830