

Samuel S. Hamilton to Robert Simerwell

In this letter to Robert Simerwell, Samuel Hamilton discusses the latest developments with regard to the removal of the Native Indians located at the Carey Mission, Michigan Territory. Included is a short reply from the U.S. Secretary of War's Office of Indian Affairs in which the author states that Secretary of War John Eaton has decided to allow Simerwell to remain at the Carey Mission for a brief time after the appraisal of the property on September 1, 1830. Hamilton's letter also includes a letter that he sent to Reverend S. Bolles explaining the Secretary of War's decision regarding the transition period that followed President Jackson's signature of the Indian Removal Act. Finally, the last part of Hamilton's letter is addressed directly to Simerwell. In this section, Hamilton explains that the Baptist Board of Missions believes that Simerwell should remain at the Carey Mission until all the details concerning the removal of the Native Americans to the lands West of the Mississippi have been finalized between the Board and the U.S. Government.

Creator: Hamilton, Samuel S.

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Hamilton, S. S.

Boston September 10. 1830.

My dear Sir

Your letter of August 17th. came to hand this day and the subjects it embraces are so important as to demand an immediate notice. Mr. McCoy, before he left home on his exploring tour, requested liberty of the War Department to have you remain for a time on the Mission premises after the appraisement, and the following is a copy of the answer which has been forwarded to me,

Department of War Off. Ind. Affairs
24th August 1830.

To the Rev. L. Dolan

Sir A letter from the Rev. J. McCoy to the Secretary of War has been received, in which he requests that the missionaries and their charge, at the St. Joseph establishment may be permitted to remain in the buildings and to have the use of a small portion of the farm for pasturage of their stock while preparing to move, after the valuation of the property which is to be made on the first of September next; and desires that the answer on this subject be addressed to you.

I am directed by the acting Secretary of War to state in reply to Mr. McCoy's request, that there is no objection to the missionaries remaining at the St. Joseph establishment for a reasonable time, after that fixed on by the Treaty for its evacuation by them and the improvements there, provided the buildings &c. are not required for some public purpose.

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servt.

(Signed) Saml. S. Hamilton.

By this you perceive you have liberty to remain, and it will doubtless be the wish of the Board that you should remain, until they gain further light what course to recommend. Deacon Lincoln and other brethren whom I have been able to consult, are very decided in the opinion that matters are not ripe for you to go West of the

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Mississippi just yet. No preparations have been made there to receive Indians even the few children of which you speak, nor have any measures been taken by the Executive towards their immediate removal that are known to us; and I presume that no one has expected that we should remove them at our own expense, or if they have, we cannot do it. Indeed this is ~~a~~ manifestly a concern in which we cannot anticipate but must follow the measures of Government, and should we proceed faster than they, it would only involve us in embarrassments, and possibly in total disappointment. While therefore you dissolve the school at the station, which by contract we are obliged to do, you will remain where you are, and reserve an ample supply of the produce of the farm for your support. We may perhaps ascertain this fall what the present Executive intends to do, but it is more likely we shall have to wait till spring.

I was sorry to hear of your indisposition and at a moment too when your multiplied and perplexing cares and labours seemed to demand perfect health; but by a letter received from Mr. Sykes I am induced to believe that he came to your relief before the 1st. instant. If he reached you in season, the information he bore, with him served to prevent I hope, a great sacrifice of property arising from a forced and hurried sale of cattle and crops.

We can but regret exceedingly that men are found around you anxious to prevent a fair indemnity being given by Government for the great improvements made at the Station, and the more so, since whatever we should receive would be reinvested at the West for the benefit of the Indians.

With affectionate regard to Mrs. Simerwell, I remain
Yours truly, L. Polles

Mr Robert Simerwell

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