

Johnston Lykins to Robert Simerwell

In this letter to Robert Simerwell, Johnston Lykins relates some of his activities in the late fall and early winter of 1830, most of which concerned the efforts to ready the local Native Indians for the move west of the Mississippi. Lykins states that, while at Logan Fort, he met a Wea from the Kanza River who had "collected 100 Weas & Miamis who will go on in the spring to Missouri." Lykins then explains that he plans to see the Wea soon so that the two of them can make arrangements for the 100 Native Indians that were ready to leave the Michigan Territory for the "West."

Creator: Lykins, Johnston, 1800?-1876

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Johnston Lykins to Robert Simerwell

Lykins, J.

Prairie Grove Dec. 21. 1830

Dear Brother Simerwell

Your line accompanying a copy of Dr. Kindricks came to hand a short time since. I do not know what to ^{say} in reply to the Dr. have not yet written him. The boys at Hamilton I fear will not add much to our comfort or assistance in the work of Ind reform. However I think after they have made some trial, of doing for themselves, they will do better.

In relation to the exploring party in the spring which you mentioned I can say nothing. Every measure relative to the Indians seems to have been suspended in order to await the decisions of the present session of Congress. I think no exploration will be authorized but that the Indians will be sent off in the spring, at least all that are willing to go.

I have just received a line from Mr. McCoy dated at Fayette. His surveying tour was successful. The country was found to be good & he says the opening for missionary labour is uncommonly promising. He expected to start to Washington the 1st of Jan, & will ascertain as soon as possible what money aid can be obtained from Govt & the Boar. and then we all shall, I hope proceed to work. Let Bro. Blanchard

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(for so I trust he is now) hold himself in readiness to obey a call from the Western field. He is a young man now but may become old & useful in missionary labours. I trust he has that spirit, which is the main spring of all usefulness, & acts of benevolence. I cannot conveniently state him now. In prospect of conducting an educational department let him improve his penmanship.

On my last tour to Logansport I met with a man from Kansas River who has collected 100 Mias & Measles who will go on in the spring to Kipowin. I have agreed to go and see him soon to make an arrangement for the journey, & it is hoped that many more will go at the same time. The fever of War has declined giving them any assistance, until ordered so to do by Congress.

I have yet heard nothing of the Secy's decision on the valuation at Carey - neither have I heard a syllable from Dr. Bodis since I left you. I am in a great strait for want of funds - must write Trowbridge & know whether my salary is available. Since July I have been living & travelling on borrowed money & know not how to refund it. I must therefore come to some arrangement with the Board on this subject. If you have heard any thing from



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from the Dr. please inform me without delay.

I entertain the hope, if providence preserve us, that next season will find us all West of Mississippi at work. Till then let us pray for each other, & put our trust in Him who is able to take care of & preserve us. I have become weary of travelling from place to place & of waiting the result of measures relative to the Indians. But can only hope for other times. Pursuit my affectionate regards to sister Simerwell. I hope to see you all in first of March & shall perhaps accompany you to Missouri.

Be assured that I am yours

Affectionately
J. Lykins

Mr Robert Simerwell.
at Carey

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