

SUNDRY OLD LETTERS.

The four letters given immediately below are copied from the correspondence of Gen. Joseph M. Street, the distinguished Indian agent, who died at Agency City, Wapello county, Iowa, May 5, 1840. An engraving of his decaying monument at that place is given at page 104, ANNALS OF IOWA, 3d Series, Vol. II. This correspondence has been deposited in the Historical Department of Iowa, by Miss Ida M. Street, his granddaughter. The letters are copied without corrections or changes from the originals:

FROM JAMES MONROE, AFTERWARDS PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES.

LEXINGTON, OCTO. 27th, 1814.

DEAR SIR: For the Love of Goodness have the books forwarded—I am on the eve of setting out for the Eastward and cannot make my answer to White's Ex. Bill without them—send them if not done—without one day's delay—cost what it may—

My love to your spouse and for yourself. God bless you.

J. M. STREET, Esq.

JAMES MONROE.

FROM HENRY CLAY.

WASHINGTON, 11 FEB., 1827.

DEAR SIR: I rec'd your letter of the 11 ult communicating your wish to obtain some public employment. I assure you most sincerely that I have all the disposition to serve you which you could desire. With respect to past transactions* to which you advert, I look upon them as matters long since gone by, and I have already given you evidence that they have left no unfriendly impression on my mind.

There is but little patronage in my Department, much less than in any other, and not I presume of a kind which you would expect or desire. With respect to the other departments, from obvious reasons of delicacy and propriety, I but seldom interfere. But if you will at any time indicate any particular mode in which you suppose I can be useful to you, I will give it the most friendly consideration, and do anything I can with propriety.

I am Yrs respectfy

GEN. STREET.

H. CLAY.

WHEELER 17th Dec. 1806.

SIR I forgot before I left Frankfort to request that you would forward

*The "transactions" referred to were the exposure of the Aaron Burr conspiracy in *The Western World*, by Mr. Street, and the action of Henry Clay in defending Burr at his trial.

to me at Washington your paper.* Whatever relates to Kentucky will be peculiarly interesting to me; and you will be so obliging as to transmit to me your paper commencing with those of the two last weeks from this time.

I have thus far advanced on my journey, amidst bad weather and wretched roads, tho' I confess I have found them better than I expected. I still indulge the hope of dining on oysters at the — city on Xmas day.

Very respectfully,

HENRY CLAY.

JOHN GRIMSLEY'S EFFORT TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A SQUAW.

MARCH 20 1839.

IOWA TERRITORY WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Sir, there is at this time a female of the Sioux nation of Indians, now a prisoner in the hands of the Sac and Fox Indians, lately taken by them, according to their own account.

I heard it two or three days ago, and that last friday she was to be put to death, but they have declined killing her. Yesterday myself and three or four others went to the camp of the chief of the indians that are on Skunk River. The name of the chief is Mac-col-wa. He showed us some articles that they say they took from her, and that she was ten miles from his camp, and that he should start late in the evening to [go] after her. He told me they would not kill her; saying she was good to rais corn. I wished to know if they would sell her, he said he would take seven good horses for her.

They say they caught another female the same time, and cut her throate.

They say she cries much, which appears to be sport for them, and I have been informed that they say their females dance around her. I have not where with to purchase her. All I can do is to ac in such a manner as will not be prejudicial to her, and to ascertain the least they will take for her. I hope these lines will reach you as soon as posable, that her nation by your assistance may redeem her from savage and unfeeling masters. If you or the indians should wish me to ac in anyother way for her benefit write to me on the subject, and I will do all in my power for the cause of humanity.

If you should write to me direct your letter to Mount Pleasant Henry County.

JOHN GRIMSLEY.

The Agent of the Sioux Indians.

LETTERS OF OUR TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS.

Reasoning from analogous cases the writer had long been of the opinion that one or more of the Executive Departments at Washington contained many letters by our three Terri-

*The paper referred to was *The Western World* published at Frankfort, Ky., by Wood & Street.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.