

INDIAN HOSTILITIES IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

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MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

*Information relative to Indian hostilities in the Territories of Oregon and Washington.*

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APRIL 17, 1856.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

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*To the Speaker of the House of Representatives :*

I transmit herewith reports of the Secretaries of the War and Interior Departments, in response to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 31st ultimo, calling for information in relation to the origin, progress, and present condition of Indian hostilities in the Territories of Oregon and Washington, and also of the means which have been adopted to preserve peace and protect the inhabitants of said Territories.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *April 17, 1856.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, April 4, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith copies of all official letters and other information on file in this department, and not already communicated to Congress, touching the origin, progress, and present condition of Indian hostilities in the Territories of Oregon and Washington, and also the measures which have been adopted to preserve peace, and protect the inhabitants of said Territories, as required by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 31st ultimo.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFFERSON DAVIS,  
*Secretary of War.*

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES..

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Adjutant General's Office, Portland, October 24, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor, herewith, to enclose certain papers, which I deem it my duty to forward to you, relating to an Indian war now waging in this Territory.

The intelligence of the late engagements of Major Haller with the United States troops under his command, against the Yakama Indians in the vicinity of Fort Dalles, has, doubtless, reached your office by the last steamer, and apprized you of the serious and threatening nature of Indian hostilities in this quarter.

The reports and letters of the governor of this Territory, George L. Curry, which go out by the same mails with this, will fully apprise the department at Washington city of the character of the war, and of the military force called into the field in this country against the combined hostile tribes, comprising the Yakama, Pelouse, Klikatat, Walla-Walla, Cayuse, Dechute, Umatilla, and other tribes on the north, and the Rogue-river, Klamath, Shasta, and other bands in the south.

The extent and number of those hostile tribes which have joined the confederation against the whites is at this time not fully known.

Copies of newspapers published in this place, and herewith sent, will give the particulars of those hostilities more fully than time will permit at the present to give.

The rough draught from which was taken the accompanying sketch of the theatre of war on the north, has been furnished by an old mountaineer, an agent of the Hudson Bay Company, and may be relied upon as very correct.

Of the progress of the war, and its termination, I will endeavor to keep you fully advised; meanwhile, allow me to ask for instructions in the further duties of the office of which I am the incumbent.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General of Oregon.*

Gen. SAMUEL COOPER,  
*Adjutant General's Office, U. S. A.*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Portland, O. T., October 13, 1855.*

SIR: You will purchase, at market prices, the following articles, and in such quantities as are herein given, for the use of the troops called into service by the proclamation of the governor of Oregon Territory, dated Portland, O. T., October 11th, 1855. You will purchase such articles to be approved and accepted by yourself, and upon the condition that the payment for the same will be made from appropriations made by the Congress of the United States, to be applied to defraying the expenses of the campaign under said proclamation, viz:

1,000 horses and mules.

400 saddles and bridles.  
 100 pack-saddles and rigging.  
 300 guns.  
 2,000 pounds buck-shot.  
 2,000 pounds best rifle powder.  
 3,000 pounds bar lead.  
 100 revolvers.  
 100,000 percussion caps.  
 300 powder-flasks and shot-pouches.  
 10 coils lasso rope.

Forage for thirty days for all animals procured ; also, stationery as required by the several regiments ; also,

1,500 heavy blankets.  
 1,000 heavy flannel-shirts.  
 1,000 pairs pants.  
 1,000 pairs shoes.  
 1,000 pairs socks.  
 200 iron or tin six-quart camp-kettles.  
 200 tin two-quart coffee-pots.  
 1,000 tin pint-cups.  
 1,000 tin plates.  
 1,000 sheath-knives.  
 200 tin eight-quart pans.  
 25 camp tents.  
 50 axes, with handles.  
 100 hatchets, with handles.

And you will forward all of the said ammunition, one half of the horses and mules, saddles and camp equipage, clothing, &c., to the Dalles, at the earliest possible despatch ; and the remainder of said supplies you will retain at this point (Portland) to await further orders, and report to this department.

By command of the governor :

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

A. ZIEBER,  
*Assistant Quartermaster General.*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Adjutant-General's Office, Portland, O. T., Oct. 15, 1855.*

M. M. McCarver, commissary general, will be prepared to furnish subsistence, for at least thirty days, for the entire command which has been called into the field by proclamation of the governor dated the 11th of October, 1855. Meanwhile he will have ample time to procure further supplies if the campaign shall be prolonged beyond that number of days ; and he will hold himself in readiness for that purpose upon further orders from this office.

By command of the governor :

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Portland, O. T., October 15, 1855.

By proclamation of the governor this day made, two battalions of mounted volunteers have been called for from southern and middle Oregon, for the purpose of suppressing Indian hostilities in those sections of our country; and in view of the probable concert of action among the tribes upon both our northern and southern borders, it is indispensably necessary that a free communication should be kept open between the Rogue river and Willamette valleys.

The officers who may be chosen to the command of these battalions, as soon as they are mustered into the field, will therefore employ their respective commands in protecting the settlements in those sections from which they have been raised, and at the same time will keep open the line of communication between the Umqua and Rogue river valleys. Their movements for those objects must necessarily be left very much to their own discretion. For the purpose of effectually chastising those savages who have perpetrated the merciless outrages in their midst, they will treat all Indians as enemies who do not show unmistakable signs of friendship, and deal with them accordingly; and they will also bear in mind, that so far as is practicable, a concert of action will be maintained with the United States forces that may be engaged in that section of the Territory. No change in the plan of operations for carrying on a vigorous war against the Indians at the north will be made in consequence of the call for battalions from the south.

The commanding officers will keep this office fully advised, from time to time, of their operations and success.

By order of the governor:

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 4.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 16, 1855.*

The regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers, authorized by the proclamation of the governor of the Territory, of the 11th day of October instant, for the suppression of Indian hostilities on the northern frontier, will establish its base of operations at the Dalles of the Columbia, and with all possible despatch subdue the enemy's country, secure indemnity for the past, and conquer a lasting peace for the future. The means necessary to effect the object of the campaign will be left very much to the prudence, skill, and experience of the colonel in command of the regiment, who will, as far as practicable, co-operate with the commanding officer of the United States troops which now are, or may hereafter be, in the field.

Great care will be taken not to confound friendly with hostile Indians; but unmistakable evidence of friendship will be required of any of the Indians within the field of the regiment's operations, or they will be treated as confederated with those openly in arms. As far as possible, under the circumstances of the case, respect will be paid to

the property of the enemy, and the campaign conducted to a successful issue with that humanity which should characterize a brave and powerful people in the infliction of merited chastisement upon a treacherous and savage foe.

The chief of the commissary and quartermaster's departments will make such arrangements immediately as are necessary to promote the efficiency of the regiment for a campaign of three months' duration.

The surgeon of the regiment will organize the medical department, and report to the commanding officer of the regiment.

By the governor :

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 5.]

HEADQUARTERS, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Portland, O. T., October 16, 1855.*

Commissary general M. M. McCarver will proceed without delay to southern Oregon, and make all necessary arrangements to subsist the two battalions called for by proclamation of the 15th of October, 1855.

He will inculcate the necessity, on the part of his subordinates, of the exercise of perspicuity and carefulness in the records of all official transactions, and of the utmost prudence and economy in purchasing the supplies that may be requisite for the war.

By the command of the governor :

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 6.]

HEADQUARTERS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Portland, O. T., October 16, 1855.*

Quartermaster general Jno. F. Miller is required without delay to make the necessary arrangement for insuring efficiency and despatch in his department in furnishing the arms, ammunition, and other supplies which may be required by the volunteer force called into the service to suppress Indian hostilities, by proclamation of the governor of the 15th October, 1855.

He will inculcate the necessity on the part of his subordinates of the exercise of perspicuity and carefulness in keeping the record of all official transactions, and of the utmost prudence and economy in purchasing the supplies that may be requisite.

By command of the governor :

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 7.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 17, 1855.*

Hostile Indians, in straggling parties, are reported to have recently passed and repassed the Cascade mountains by the immigrant road. Companies "C" and "D" will therefore constitute a detachment of the regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers, and proceed immediately to the Dalles of the Columbia, by that road, and report to the senior officer of the regiment there.

All Indians that may be encountered on the march will furnish unmistakable evidence of friendship, or be treated as enemies.

On the line of march, the detachment will afford every assistance and protection to our citizens and their property.

By the governor:

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

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[GENERAL ORDER No. 8.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 18, 1855.*

The urgency for a force at the Dalles of the Columbia imposes a necessity for the utmost celerity on the part of the troops authorized by proclamation of 11th October instant; forty-eight hours only will, therefore, be allowed to each company of the regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers to rendezvous after being mustered into service.

At the Dalles facilities will be afforded for completing the equipments of any company unavoidably compelled to leave the rendezvous without being fully equipped within the time allowed by this order.

By the governor:

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

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[GENERAL ORDER No. 9.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 19, 1855.*

Companies "E" and "F" of the regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers will constitute a detachment, and proceed to the Dalles of the Columbia forthwith, by way of the mouth of the Sandy, and report to the senior officer of the regiment there.

All Indians that may be encountered on the march will furnish unmistakable evidence of friendship, or be treated as enemies.

On the line of march the detachment will afford every assistance and protection to our citizens and their property.

By the governor:

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

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[GENERAL ORDER No. 10.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 20, 1855.*

Information having been received that armed parties have taken the field in southern Oregon, with the avowed purpose of waging a war

of extermination against the Indians in that section of the Territory, and have slaughtered, without respect to age or sex, a friendly band of Indians upon their reservation, in despite of the authority of the Indian agent and the commanding officer of the United States troops stationed there, and contrary to the peace of the Territory: It is therefore ordered that the commanding officer of the battalions authorized by the proclamation of the governor of the 15th day of October instant, will enforce the disbanding of all armed parties not duly enrolled into the service of the Territory, by virtue of said proclamation.

The force called into service for the suppression of Indian hostilities in Rogue River and Umqua valleys, and the chastisement of the hostile party of Shasta, Rogue River, and other Indians now menacing the settlements in southern Oregon, is deemed entirely adequate to achieve the object of the campaign; and the utmost confidence is reposed in the citizens of that part of the Territory that they will support and maintain the authority of the executive, by cordially co-operating with the commanding officers of the Territorial force, the commanding officers of the United States troops, and the special agents of the Indian Department in Oregon.

A partisan warfare against any bands of Indians within our borders, or on our frontiers, is pregnant only with mischief, and will be viewed with distrust and disapprobation by every citizen who values the peace and good order of the settlements. It will receive no countenance or support from the executive authority of the Territory.

By the governor:

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 11.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 20, 1855.*

So much of "general order No. 9," heretofore issued to companies "E" and "F," of the regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers, directing said companies to proceed to the Dalles of the Columbia, by way of the mouth of the Sandy, is hereby recalled.

They will hold themselves in readiness, on and after the morning of the 21st inst., to proceed to the Dalles of the Columbia, by way of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, as far as the Cascades, on steamboats provided for their transportation, and from thence as indicated in general order No. 9.

At the Dalles the detachment will report to the senior officer of the regiment.

By command of the governor:

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

TO COMMANDING OFFICERS  
*of Companies "E" and "F."*

[GENERAL ORDER No. 12.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 22, 1855.*

Company "G," of the regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers, will proceed, immediately upon receipt of this order, to the mouth of the Sandy, and there await transportation to the Cascades; from thence it will proceed to the Dalles of the Columbia without delay, there to report to the senior officer of the regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers.

By command of the governor :

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

[SPECIAL ORDER No. 1.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 16, 1855.*

COLONEL: You will proceed at once to the Dalles, after the receipt of this order, and superintend the organization of the regiment under your command. The object of the campaign in which it is to be engaged is stated generally in "general order No. 4," herewith.

On your arrival at Fort Dalles, although you will hold your command at all times subject to the orders of the governor of the Territory, you will confer with Major G. J. Rains, commanding officer of the United States troops in Oregon and Washington Territories; and, so far as is practicable, co-operate with him in a vigorous prosecution of the campaign.

Before the complete organization of the regiment, should you deem the disposable force at your command sufficient to warrant such a step, you will commence field operations against the enemy. The passes into the settlements in the Willamette valley will demand and receive your constant and vigilant attention, so that a surprise shall be avoided. Indians professing friendship, especially those on the south side of the Columbia river, you will require to place themselves wholly under the protection of our people. The advanced state of the season is favorable to the enemy, and demands the utmost celerity in your movements.

If executed promptly, by a detachment in sufficient force, a *detour* by the John Day's, Umatilla, and other rivers towards Fort Colville, might afford protection to many of our fellow-citizens at or returning from the neighborhood of the Pend d'Oreille mines, and enable you to fall upon the rear of the enemy, should retreat in the direction of the swamps and low lands of the Fraziers river be resorted to as an escape from attack in front, in the Yakama country proper.

This suggestion is left to your discretion, with the entire active operations of your command in the field, relying with the most complete confidence upon your experience, prudence, and bravery, to achieve the object of the campaign, and return with your brave officers and men to receive with them the congratulations and applause of your fellow-citizens.

Be assured always of my cordial support and implicit confidence in

yourself and command; and, from time to time, report your progress in the delicate and responsible duties intrusted to you.

By the governor:

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

Brig. Gen. J. W. NESMITH, *of the Oregon Militia,*  
*Col. commanding Regt. Oregon Mounted Volunteers.*

[SPECIAL ORDER No. 2.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 18, 1855.*

COLONEL: To expedite the movements of troops from the rendezvous, general order No. 8, herewith, has been issued.

Information has been received that the steamboat Wasco, usually plying between the Cascades and the Dalles, has been laid up at the latter place; and that, in consequence, great delay is experienced by the departments of subsistence and supply in forwarding the movements of the regiment under your command.

You will make the necessary arrangements for obviating any delay, from this cause, involving (if requisite and unavoidable) the seizure and appropriation of the boat to the service of those departments.

Company "A" you will mount as soon as it can be done, either before or after its arrival at the Dalles. The exigencies of this campaign render this order imperative and without condition.

By the governor:

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

Colonel J. W. NESMITH,  
*Commanding Regiment Oregon Mounted Volunteers.*

[SPECIAL ORDER No. 3.]

TERRITORY OF OREGON,  
*Headquarters, Portland, October 19, 1855.*

The medical department for the Territory will be organized forthwith under your superintendence, Commission herewith.

That branch connected with the regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers, in service on the northern frontier, has been hitherto under the superintendence of T. A. Nicholson, surgeon to the regiment; he will report to you.

Dr. R. W. Shaw has been commissioned an assistant surgeon, and is under orders to report to the commanding officer of the regiment of Oregon mounted volunteers.

Dr. Lucius Danforth has been commissioned an assistant surgeon, and is under orders to report to the chief of the medical department for service. He will be employed with the forces in the field in southern Oregon.

The emergency requires the utmost promptitude on your part in organizing the branch of your department for service in the south.

Surgeon Nicholson's report will advise you of the present efficiency of that branch in service on the northern frontier. Great care will be requisite to secure and maintain perspicuity and accuracy in the reports and accounts of your department.

You will report immediately in person at headquarters.

By the governor :

E. M. BARNUM,  
*Adjutant General.*

A. M. BELT,  
*Surgeon General of the Territory of Oregon.*

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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Fort Vancouver, November 17, 1855.*

SIR : I have the honor to report my arrival at this post yesterday. The enclosed detailed report from Lieutenant Withers conveys a clear view of the state of affairs in this quarter.

I have little to add, except that, finding a reinforcement more necessary at Steilacoom than in any other section, I have ordered Captain Keyes there with his company. The route hence to Puget's sound, *via* the Cowlitz river, is next to impracticable at this season, owing to rapid currents of that river and its numerous tributaries. I accordingly ordered the charter of the mail steamer to convey the troops and a quantity of stores now required at Puget's sound. Besides the hardships and exposure of health saved to the troops by this arrangement, there will be a saving of from one to three weeks in time, and I shall be enabled to throw upon Puget's sound an ample supply of stores, which it might be impossible to do if the Indians of the northern possessions should make a descent upon the sound—one of their war canoes being quite able to capture an ordinary sail transport.

Finding it impossible to cross the bar at Humboldt bay, I did not bring with me a company from Colonel Buchanan's command.

I shall order it to Crescent City, to guard and escort the supplies for Forts Lane and Jones.

I hope that the successes of Major Rains and Captain Maloney have already effectually destroyed the combination among the various tribes, which at first appeared so formidable.

A report from Lieutenant Kantz, received at Crescent City, confirms the details of Captain Smith's engagements, except that it does not mention that Lieutenant Gibson was wounded.

Enclosed is a memorandum of the force now in this portion of the department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

Lieut. Colonel L. THOMAS,  
*Assist. Adj't General, Army Headquarters, New York.*

*Memorandum of entire force, regular and volunteer, (mustered into the service) in Washington Territory, November 17, 1855.*

MAJOR RAINS'S COMMAND.

- 480 Regulars, (20 dragoons included.)
- 62 Volunteers, Yakama, Captain Strong, mounted.
- 50 Volunteers, Yakama, Captain Newell, mounted.

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Total 592

STEILACOOM COMMAND.

- 168 Regulars, 4th infantry.
- 54 Regulars, 3d artillery, (Captain Keyes.)
- 84 Volunteers, Puget's sound, Captain Hayes, mounted.
- 84 Volunteers, Puget's sound, Captain Wallace, mounted.

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Total 390

RECAPITULATION.

Major Rains's total force.....	592
Steilacoom, total force.....	390
Total strength.....	982
	982

Regulars, total, 702; volunteers, total, 280—all mounted.

This memorandum is correct, or nearly so.

JOHN WITHERS,  
1st Lieut. 4th Infantry.

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FORT VANCOUVER, W. T.,  
November 12, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to submit a brief summary of the events of this district, so far as heard from since the sailing of the last steamer.

As you will already have learned, the Indian war has become general, and a combination for purposes of hostility to the whites been formed on a scale which those most intimately acquainted with Indian character have heretofore believed impossible. Upon the east of the Cascade range, it may be now assumed that every tribe in Washington Territory, as far as the Rocky mountains, is engaged in the war, with the exception of the Flatheads, the Spokanes, Pend d'Oreilles, and part of the Nez Percés; and even of them, a great many of the young men are with the Yakamas.

The total number of warriors in the field is variously estimated at

from three to four thousand. It is certain that they are greatly out of proportion to the supposed population of the country.

In the distance, bordering on Puget's sound, hostilities have also been commenced, but I have no information as to their extent. The number of fighting men among the Indians within our own Territory in that neighborhood is from 2,000 to 2,500, of whom a small part (those between the Nesqually and White) are connected by intermarriage with the Yakamas. My own opinion is, that the war will be confined to these, if no untoward accident occurs to Captain Maloney's command; but the influence of the white population over the Indians depending altogether upon *morale*, any serious defeat would probably bring out the whole, as well as the wilder tribes which inhabit the coast from Gray's harbor to Cape Flattery. An additional danger to be apprehended is an attack from the Indians of Vancouver's island, and British America generally. The entire population of that country, within reach of our own territory by water, is not less than 40,000, of which one-fourth are warriors. They are well armed, and are much superior to the coast Indians of Oregon and Washington Territories in courage and warlike enterprise.

In southern Oregon the Rogue river Indians, combined with some of those on the coast, the Umquas, Pitt-river, and Shasta Indians, have also broken out into a fresh war, and one of evidently intended extermination, against the whites. The causes leading to this may be different from those which excited hostilities in Washington Territory, where the motive was altogether political, and sprung from no actual grievance; but its result must, of course, be the same. The number of these Indians I am not informed of. Including the Klamath and Trinity Indians, they, however, make a considerable force.

Such is the present state of the Territory. As regards those tribes who have not yet committed themselves, efforts have been made by the Indian agents to bring in and disarm the different parties, placing them under the superintendence of individual citizens, and, by affording them protection from ill-advised attacks, induce them to remain quiet. Pursuant to this policy, I caused the band of Klikatats, amounting in all to about 150 souls, who usually live at the mouth of the Cathlapootl river, opposite St. Helen's, to come in and encamp at this place. The circumstances attending their flight will be mentioned presently.

You have already learned, I presume, that Lieutenant Slaughter, who, with a party of fifty men, had left Fort Steilacoom and crossed the Cascades by the Nahchess Pass, had, on hearing of the force opposed to him, very judiciously fallen back upon White river. Upon this Captain Maloney took command, with about 100 regulars, and a company of volunteers (mounted) under Captain Hayes, and again crossed the mountains, for the purpose of connecting with Major Rains, who it was expected would have simultaneously left the Dalles. As, however, some delay necessarily occurred in the movements of the latter, an express was sent to Captain Maloney advising him of the fact, and he accordingly returned to White river. This movement, so far as the Sound country and Captain Maloney's command are concerned, proved a most fortunate one. The Indians of the country at the west-

ern slope of the Cascades had risen after his departure, killed two men, and compelled a detachment of rangers to post themselves in a house. The inhabitants had all left their houses, and were fortifying themselves at Seattle, Steilacoom, and Olympia. The garrison at Fort Steilacoom being reduced to a handful of soldiers, and a few sailors from the revenue-cutter Jefferson Davis, there was great reason to apprehend an attack upon the post. If Captain Maloney had not returned to White river, he would, most probably, have been compelled to fight the whole Indian force before Major Rains could have rendered him any succor. A party sent back to Fort Steilacoom, by Captain Maloney, with an express, was waylaid by the Indians, and several persons killed within a day's march of the fort. On the 2d instant Captain Maloney reached White river, and on the 3d a party of 50 regulars and 50 volunteers, under Lieutenant Slaughter, detached for the purpose, attacked the Indians, who numbered it is said 150 or 200, and killed 30 of them. Captain Maloney, with a force of 200 men, intended to make another attack upon the Indians on the 4th instant. Concerning this engagement we have heard nothing. The country between the Cowlitz river and the sound is entirely deserted; all the inhabitants having returned to stockades built for their protection. The condition of the road renders communication during the winter always difficult, and, during the heavy rains, often interrupts it entirely for a week or ten days at a time.

Acting Governor C. H. Mason left here on the 3d instant, on his return from the Dalles, taking with him 100 rifles and a quantity of ammunition, furnished, on his requisition, by Mr. Eckerson, as the citizens are lamentably deficient in arms. We have heard of him no farther than the Cowlitz landing.

Major Rains moved from the Dalles on the 30th ult. with about 350 regulars, consisting of parts of companies G, H, I, and K, of the 4th Infantry; L, M, and B, of the 3d artillery; and C and E of the 1st dragoons. He took twenty days' provisions with him, and has plenty more at the Dalles for all the regular force. On the 4th instant, when about twenty-five miles from the Dalles, he broke up some large caches of Indian provisions, taking away ten mule-loads of stores, and destroying about twenty more.

He is reported to have lost about fifteen animals taken by the Indians. He has with him an Indian prisoner, captured as a spy, who pointed out the place where the provisions were hidden.

Governor Mason visited him at Camp Yakama, opposite the Dalles, previous to his departure, and, in view of the probable events of the war, conferred upon him the rank of Brigadier General of Washington Territory volunteers.

About six companies of Oregon volunteers, under Colonel Nesmith, have also taken the field against the Yakamas, and three companies have moved to Fort Walla-Walla, the Hudson Bay Company's post, which had been abandoned. This, it is understood, will be their headquarters, and their supplies are all to be sent there. They have refused to be mustered into the service of the United States, but I do not believe they can supply themselves with provisions or clothing. Major

Rains has not issued either to them, but Mr. Eckerson has armed two companies. They are all mounted.

No intelligence has yet been received, either from the regulars or volunteers, since they passed thirty miles into the enemy's country, and it is apprehended that the expresses have been cut off.

From the south I learn, through General McCarver, the commissary general of the Oregon volunteers, that an engagement had taken place with the Indians, near Grave creek, about six miles south of the Oregon trail, on the 31st October and 1st November. The Indians are supposed to have numbered 300. They were posted securely on a steep hill, covered with forest, and had cut down trees to form obstructions to any attack. Some six hundred men are reported to have been engaged, including parts of companies C and E, 1st dragoons, commanded by Captain Smith and Captain and Brevet Major Fitzgerald. Lieutenant Gibson, 3d artillery, who lately left the Willamette valley with a portion of the escort to Lieutenant Williamson, on his way to California, was in the engagement, and is reported to have been severely wounded. Of the regulars, four privates were killed, and five wounded; and of the volunteers, nine were killed, thirteen severely wounded, and twelve slightly wounded. The assailants (the whites) were repulsed on both days.

I have referred to the flight of the Indians from this place. It occurred on the 9th instant. They were evidently frightened by the senseless and mischievous conduct of white men, and do not seem to have contemplated any hostility themselves. As they numbered about fifty men, and proved to be supplied with arms, I detached Captain Strong with a party of volunteers of the Washington mounted rifles, and Captain Newell with a few Oregon scouts, to follow and bring them back. The force amounted to thirty men. They found the Indians encamped on a prairie, about thirty-five miles north of this place, and, after a parley, induced them to agree to return. After the council, their chief, Umtuts, as it would appear, started to come in alone, and was waylaid and murdered by some of his own party. This event induced Captains Strong and Newell to grant them a respite of a few days to perform the usual funeral ceremonies. They have no doubt of their willingness to return to this place, as the death of Umtuts was probably due to his having led them off. They cannot pass the mountains, and, having their families with them, must, unless they return here, soon suffer for provisions.

Captain Strong has already forwarded two detachments of his company, amounting to forty men, to Camp Yakama, opposite Fort Dalles, and will follow immediately with the remainder. All the Washington Territory volunteers have mustered into the service of the United States.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. WITHERS,

*1st Lieut. 4th Infantry, Com. Post.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington, D. C.*

N. B.—*November 16.*—On account of an accident, by which some of the machinery of the mail-steamer was rendered useless on her trip from San Francisco to this place, the mail for the Atlantic coast was not closed at the usual time, and I am, in consequence, enabled to give some little additional news from the Yakama valley. The command under Major Rains reached the Yakama mission on the Atahnam river, having met with no great opposition from the Indians, except in crossing the main Yakama. Colonel Nesmith, with 270 volunteers, accompanied by Lieutenants Hodges and De Steinberger, together with Lieutenant Sheridan in command of twenty dragoons, started out towards the Nahchess Pass, to see what has become of Captain Maloney and his command. It seems that Major Rains expected Captain Maloney to remain on the eastern slope of the Cascade mountains until he marched out to meet him, but the express conveying directions to that effect did not reach the latter until after he had recrossed the mountains.

Major Rains discovered several large *caches* of provisions, and one of powder and arms, near the Mission. The Catholic priest has left the Mission—whether by compulsion of the Indians, or not, is yet unknown.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. WITHERS,

*1st Lieut. 4th Infantry, Com. Post.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General U. S. A.*

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BENICIA HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Fort Vancouver, December 13, 1855.*

COLONEL: Since my arrival, the 17th ultimo, at this place, and my communication, with Lieutenant Withers's report of affairs in this region, nothing has occurred worthy of special notice, except the return of Major Rains with his command of 350 regulars and three howitzers to the Dalles, and, I regret to say, the destruction of the Yakama Mission, by the volunteers, who followed under the command of Colonel Nesmith, and ordered into the field at an enormous expense by Governor Curry, where they were not required, without my sanction or that of Major Rains. The latter, on the course of his march, three hundred miles going and returning, encountered the Yakamas, authors of the war in Washington Territory; and after several skirmishes with them, they fled beyond his reach, over mountains deeply covered with snow. On his return from the Mission, to the Dalles, he reports that he passed over mountains covered with snow from two to five feet deep.

The Indians will not engage in a field fight with any considerable number of regulars. Their mode of carrying on war is not by regular engagements, but one of ambush and surprise. Their country, both in Oregon and Washington Territories, except Puget's sound, being mountainous, is well calculated for that mode of warfare, and which seems to have been practised by the Indians of Rogue-river

country, where they appear to have successfully maintained themselves in their mountain fastnesses. Under these circumstances, it is scarcely necessary to remark that it would be exceedingly difficult, with my present force, however well prepared, (which is not the case,) to either conquer or bring the Indians to terms in this region, by chasing them, all being well mounted, through the mountains; and certainly not at the present moment, the mountains being generally covered with snow several feet deep. They can only be conquered or brought to terms by occupying their country, and such positions as would command their fisheries and valleys, where their cattle and horses must graze; their main dependence for subsistence being on fish, cattle, and horses. This I propose to do—that is, to occupy their country; and I am now, with my staff, actively preparing an expedition for that purpose. This, however, after a critical inspection of the troops, supplies, &c., I find cannot be accomplished as soon as I could wish, owing to the want of a sufficient number of troops, the means of transportation, and the want of clothing for the 4th infantry.

I intend, however, with what troops I have, as soon as they can take the field, to occupy the Walla-Walla country. The several expeditions, viz: to Fort Boisé, the recent expedition of Major Haller to the Yakama country, and the more recent one of Major Rains, have reduced the greater part of the horses and mules of the command, including Major Fitzgerald's company just arrived from Fort Lane, to a condition which renders them, for the time being, unfit for service. As soon as the animals have recruited and are rendered fit for service, my present force will be ready to take the field; and if I should receive in the mean time an additional force—at least a regiment, which would supersede the necessity of employing so expensive a force as volunteers—I have no doubt I will be able in a short time to either conquer the Indians in Oregon and Washington, or compel them to sue for peace or abandon their country.

Owing to the arduous services of the 4th infantry for the last six months, many of the rank and file have worn out their clothing. Estimates for clothing for these companies were forwarded to Washington in June last, and it has not yet arrived. Major Cross has, by my order, sent to Benicia for one thousand pairs of shoes, many of the men being barefooted, and for other clothing, if it is in depôt. I believe, however, it has all been issued or sold.

After the partial defeat of Major Haller, which created a great excitement and alarm in Oregon and Washington, lest all the Indian tribes should combine and come down at once upon the settlements, Major Rains called upon the acting governor of Washington Territory for two companies of volunteers, and on Governor Curry, of Oregon Territory, for four companies. The call was responded to by acting Governor Mason, and two companies were ordered immediately to report to Major Rains. Besides these, he has ordered out several other companies to co-operate with the regular troops at Puget's sound. Governor Curry, however, refused to comply with the call, on the ground that Oregon volunteers would not serve under the command of United States officers. In the meantime, he called out a much larger force, all mounted, whose operations were to be exclusively

under the orders of Territorial officers. It may not be improper here to remark, that I have in no instance received or authorized the raising of volunteers in the Pacific department. (See correspondence, herewith forwarded, between Colonel Nesmith and myself, marked No. 47.) I have adhered to this rule, because I applied to the Secretary of War for authority, which was not granted. If this authority, it appears to me, should be granted, being six thousand miles distant from the seat of government, whilst it takes two months and a half before a response can be had to communications. An Indian war, extending from northern California through Oregon and Washington Territories, has suddenly sprung upon us, without the slightest warning, at the same time we are threatened with a war with the Indians on the Colorado, and yet I have no authority to call for volunteers, no matter how great the necessity may be.

The regular force under my command, in order to give equal protection to the inhabitants of the frontier, was dispersed in small companies from the northern to the southern extremity of the department, extending over more than sixteen hundred miles, but not a sufficient force at any one point, to overcome a combined attack by several tribes of Indians. Under such circumstances, before reinforcements could be received from the east, or authority to call for volunteers, which would occasion a delay of at least two months and a half, the Indians, in a general war, might inflict an irreparable injury on the country; for it would be utterly impossible, with my limited means, to guard and protect so extended a country at all points at the same moment. If the Indians on the Colorado should make war, which is threatened, on the people in that section of the country, I could send no relief beyond the troops at Yuma and San Diego, (which, with Lieutenant Banke's escort, would not, probably, exceed two hundred and fifty rank and file,) except by withdrawing troops from this region and Rogue river. This could not be done at this time without endangering the safety of the settlements in Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

It may not be improper to remark, that the horses sent with Colonel Stebbins's command to mount three companies of dragoons (the only mounted troops I have in the department,) after marching last spring and summer nearly on quite a thousand miles, have not been in a condition, since their arrival, to do efficient service. (I wish to say in Major Bains received and mustered into the service two companies of volunteers: one, under the command of Captain R. Newell, in the aggregate 25; and the other, under the command of Captain William Strong, in the aggregate 62. These truly patriotic officers, with their companies, have rendered important services in restraining the Kibickat Indians from joining in the war with the Yakams. I have ordered these companies to be disbanded, and I would, however, recommend that provision be made for them by Congress; also for the companies of Captains Hays, Wallace, Hennessy, and Hewitt, all volunteers, and employed in conjunction with the regulars against the Indians at Puget's sound. It would seem they were indispensable necessary to assist in restraining and repelling the Indians from their

savage depredations in that region. I have received no return of the strength of these companies.

Herewith I forward a copy of a letter from Captain E. D. Keyes, 3d artillery, marked No. 2, which exhibits the state of affairs in the neighborhood of Steilacoom. It contains the last information which I have received from that quarter.

I have no reliable information of affairs on Rogue river further than was transmitted in a former communication, except that it is rumored the Indians had left their mountain fastnesses and dispersed.

I also transmit two communications, marked No. 3, from Joel Palmer, esq., superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon. They contain much truthful and interesting information, and deserve attention. He, however, is mistaken in regard to the Walla-Walla Indians; they have commenced hostilities against the whites. I have granted all that he asked for. I think, however, that it is very doubtful whether the Indians will consent to remove to the reservation selected for them. The Indians are uniformly averse to leaving the home of their fathers and of their nativity.

You will also receive herewith an able and interesting report from Captain Cram, chief of the topographical engineers in this department. It is an important document, and will no doubt receive special attention. I approve of his recommendations to make and improve certain roads, viz: To improve the portage road around the Cascades on the Columbia river, at an expense of \$30,000. (See report, page 4.) To improve the military dragoon trail between Fort Vancouver and Fort Dalles, at an expense of \$25,000. (See report, page 6.) To open a military road from Fort Dalles through the Yakama country to Selah fishery, on the Yakama river, at an expense of \$25,000. (See report, page 12.) To improve the military road between Fort Dalles and Fouché river, at an expense of \$15,000. (See report, page 15.) These improvements and roads are indispensably necessary to afford facilities in passing through the country, and for future military operations. The cost of all which will be about \$95,000.

In conclusion, it is justly due to make known that the sudden, unexpected, and arduous duties which the officers of the line, as well as the staff, have been called on to discharge, were zealously, promptly, and efficiently executed. All deserve high commendation, and especially Captain D. A. Russell and Lieutenant W. A. Slaughter, of the 4th infantry, both of whom distinguished themselves in their gallant bearing on the field of battle.

I have this moment received by express from Captain Keyes, commanding at Steilacoom, information that the Indians on the 5th inst. killed Lieutenant Slaughter and two corporals, and murdered six privates. It appears to have occurred about 7 o'clock p. m. Lieutenant Slaughter and Captain Hewitt, of the volunteers, had just encamped and made fires, which attracted the attention of the Indians, who were enabled, by the darkness of the night, to crawl up within rifle-shot, and kept up their firing until 10 o'clock, producing the result as already stated. Lieutenant Slaughter was a gallant and en-

terprising officer, and had rendered important services in the defence of the inhabitants of Puget's sound.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

Lieut. Colonel L. THOMAS,  
*Asst. Adj't General, Headquarters of the Army, New York.*

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No. 1.

HEADQUARTERS REGIMENT O. M. V.,  
*Dalles of the Columbia, O. T., November 21, 1855.*

GENERAL: On my return to this place from the Yakama country on the evening of the 19th instant, I received an express from Major Chinn, who had been ordered by the governor of Oregon Territory to advance in the direction of Walla-Walla, that his front was menaced by a force of one thousand Indians, led on by the notorious Pu-pu-mux-mux; that, as his command consisted of only about one hundred and fifty men, he had called a halt on the Umatilla river, and desired to be immediately reinforced. I have this moment sent forward to his relief a force of seventy men, and shall send one hundred more to-morrow. It is represented that Pu-pu-mux-mux, with his one thousand warriors, had taken a strong position. To dislodge him, it is desirable to have the service of artillery. I have therefore to request you will furnish me with two or three howitzers or other equivalent artillery, with officers and men requisite to manage the same, for that purpose. I can furnish a mounted escort to forward the artillery to the command on the Umatilla, provided you, in the plenitude of your power, see proper to grant my request. If, in the exercise of your superior judgment, you should conclude to comply with my request, I would suggest it is very desirable the movement should be executed with all possible despatch. Hoping we may shortly have the pleasure of seeing you at this place,

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. NESMITH,

*Colonel Commanding Regt. Oregon Mounted Volunteers.*  
Major General JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Commanding Pacific Division U. S. A.*

I certify the above is a true copy of the original.

RICHARD ARNOLD,  
*First Lieut. Third Art., A. D. C.*

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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Fort Vancouver, November 24, 1855.*

SIR: I have but this moment received your communication of the 21st instant, by Major Haller. In reply, I have only to say that I have no authority either to employ or to receive volunteers in the

service of the United States, and, therefore, unable to comply with your request.

I will, however, observe, owing to the condition of the United States troops, animals, and other requisite supplies necessary to carry on an efficient campaign, or even temporary operations against the Indians, I have ordered a critical examination of the United States troops and supplies of every description, embracing wagons, horses, and mules—all which is with reference to an efficient preparation for future operations. Hitherto, the operations against the Indians have been made in too much of a hurry, unable to act efficiently, and without supplies to keep the field. Unless prepared to keep the field, it would be worse than folly to attempt to encounter the Indians with any expectation of success.

In conclusion, I regret that I have not the power to give you the assistance you ask for.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 J. E. WOOL, Major General.

Colonel J. W. NESMITH,

Commanding Volunteers, Dallas, O. T.

HEADQUARTERS, PUGET'S SOUND DISTRICT,  
 Fort Steilacoom, W. T., November 27, 1855.

SIR: When I had the honor to address you on the 24th instant, the day of my arrival at this post, I was led to the belief, from all the sources of information at hand, that the Indians this side the mountains had separated into small bands. I accordingly continued the plan of operations I found in practice, of keeping the troops in detachments, and of directing affairs from here as the most central point.

It appears now that the Indians are embodied, and it is not certain that they have separated. I have just received information from Lieutenant Slaughter, that on Sunday night, the 25th instant, his camp on the Puyallup, 21 miles from here, was surrounded by more than 200 Indians. They appeared to be excessively bold, fired on the sentinels, and yelled around the camp all through the night. It being exceedingly foggy, they got among the pack animals cut the picket ropes, and drove off 32 horses and mules, the loss of which cannot be over-estimated. 13 of the animals driven off belonged to Captain Wallace's company, and the balance to Lieutenant Slaughter's train.

Immediately on the receipt of the news of Lieutenant Slaughter's situation, I sent an express to Captain Hays to march immediately to the support of Lieutenant Slaughter, and to encamp to-night, if possible, at Montgomery's, about 10 miles from here. Captain Henness, with 25 volunteers, will be left in the neighborhood of the Nesqually river, with orders to be active and vigilant, and to keep his men together.

I shall take the field myself to-morrow, leaving Captain Malouin, with about 100 men, in charge of this post. To reduce the force here much lower would be imprudent, as we are threatened by the near approach of the Indians; and if the stores and ammunition at this station should be lost, we should have no other reliance. There being no steam communication between this part of the Territory and California, the people along Puget's sound must be considered, so far as supplies and succor are concerned, as nearly cut off from all connexion during the winter months, with the rest of the world.

As our pack animals are small in number and nearly broken down by hard work, and as there is a lack of feed in the places where the troops have to operate, we may be reduced shortly to the necessity of acting entirely on the defensive, and must wait for the summer and a larger force before we can subdue the Indians.

The Indians are principally located in a densely wooded country, admirably adapted to ambushes, and full of trails crossing each other in every direction. We have no guides that know the country, and must pursue the enemy at random. It rains nearly the whole time, and will continue to rain or snow for three or four months to come.

If the enemy will stand, we can beat them; if not, I shall shortly have to act on the defensive.

After being in the field, I shall be better able to judge the disposition of the Indians. If they are as numerous and determined as they are represented to be, I shall endeavor to get them to fight, and if I fail we must remain on the defensive.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

E. D. KEYES,  
 Captain of Artillery, Commanding.

Major E. D. TOWNSEND,  
 Assistant Adjutant General, Department of the Pacific.

A volunteer named Price was killed by the Indians near Lieutenant Slaughter's camp on Monday morning last.

No. 3.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Dayton, O., November 21, 1855.

Sir: The proximity of the Indian tribes in Washington Territory, with whom war now exists to tribes in this Territory who have recently entered into treaty stipulations with the United States, induces me to furnish you, as the chief of the military division embracing these Territories, with a triplicate copy of the treaty with the Walla-Wallas, Cayuses, and Umatillas, and also of that with the Deshoots bands of Walla-Wallas and Wascoes, which are herewith enclosed.

The strong desire of a portion of our citizens to involve the tribes, parties to those treaties, with those now unfortunately engaged in hostilities against us, leads them to circulate exaggerated reports of

their intentions and actions, well calculated to exasperate our people to acts of violence, with a view of provoking retaliation, which may afford an excuse for making war upon them.

Many regard the act of Pu-pu-mux-mux, head-chief of the Walla-Wallas, in fixing his winter residence north of the Columbia river, as proof of hostile intent. Reference, however, to the 5th article of the treaty of the 9th June last shows this right secured to him for five years, to erect and occupy a building as a trading-post at or near the mouth of the Yakama river; and the 1st section of the same treaty secures the right to these Indians to occupy any tract therein in their possession till the expiration of one year after its ratification.

The usual winter quarters of the Walla-Wallas are on the north side of the Columbia; consequently, the present location of this chief's camp is no evidence of hostile intent or intention of disregarding the provisions of the treaty. His refusal to meet the agent was certainly not a mark of friendly feeling; but this may, in my opinion, be attributed to the false coloring given the message sent him, and to exaggerated and distorted reports of our intentions.

It may turn out that he and his people intend war; they may possibly already have engaged in hostilities; but, if so, I am persuaded that it is from a mistaken idea of our designs, and impressions made on the mind of the chief by evil-disposed persons, who would humble and reduce him to the condition of a slave to their caprices—a mere tool for the accomplishment of their dishonest and selfish aims—rather than from a design to violate the treaty, or in any way to violate good faith towards us. He is a high-minded, haughty chief, with an excellent idea of that position; and while he strives to maintain it with dignity, others, aspiring to influence, seek to prejudice the whites against him. Certain privileges and annuities secured him by the treaty have tended to excite envious feelings among other chiefs—a feeling encouraged by quite a number of white settlers and traders who regard other aspirants with favor. This, being calculated to impair his influence in his tribe, has served to irritate his feelings. But my confidence in him is such, that I am unwilling to believe that he will engage in hostilities against us, unless driven and provoked to do so by overt acts of aggression on the part of our citizens.

I am also satisfied that the Cayuses, as a tribe, are desirous of maintaining peace, and that there must be on the part of the whites a departure from the principles of justice, and a violation of rights secured this tribe by the treaty, before they will become a hostile party in this war. Such a step will be, in their apprehension, a desperate last resort for preservation.

This is also true of the Nez Percés. Their uniform good conduct and friendship for our citizens render all intention on their part to make war on us quite improbable.

The reported combination of all those tribes, with intent to wage a war of extermination against the whites, is, I apprehend, but a phantom, conjured up in the brains of alarmists, unsupported by one substantial reason; and the plot said to have been nearly consummated, of cutting off those engaged in the negotiations last June, I regard as of the same character, originating in the same source.

As to the Yakamas, there is no excuse for their acts of aggression, and there is no disposition on the part of those engaged in the Indian department to screen them or their confederates from the punishment they so justly merit.

Individuals of the bands embraced in those treaties may be co-operating with the enemy; but whether their numbers are such as to involve the tribes to which they belong, or not, I am not advised. I, however, think it highly probable that their tribes will repudiate the acts of such, give their names, and aid us efficiently, if necessary, in their arrest.

The Wasco and Deshoots bands of Walla-Wallas are generally collected in encampments near the Dalles; a few of the Deshoots have fled to remote points, but whether actuated by fear or hostile designs I am unable to determine.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, O. T.*

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COLUMBIA BARRACKS, W. T.,  
*December 1, 1855.*

GENERAL: The existence of a war of extermination by our citizens against all Indians in southern Oregon, which by recent acts appears to evince a determination to carry it out in violation of all treaty stipulations and the common usage of civilized nations, has induced me to take steps to remove the friendly bands of Indians now assembled at Fort Lane and upon Umqua reservation, to an encampment on the headwaters of the Yamhill river, distant about sixty miles southwest of Vancouver, and adjoining the coast reservations.

This plan has been adopted with a view of saving the lives of such of those Indians as have given just and reasonable assurances of friendship. The tremendous excitement among the miners and settlers in that country, goaded on by restless and lawless miscreants who slaughter alike innocent and guilty, of both sexes, induced those friendly bands to abandon the reservation and claim protection of the United States troops stationed at Fort Lane. Over three hundred of those people are now encamped at that point, and as many more in the Umqua valley, but little less menaced. These people are deprived of their usual means of obtaining subsistence, and must necessarily be furnished by the government. The enormous expense attending the transportation of supplies at this season of the year will, I think, alone justify their removal.

In my instructions to the Indian agents directing this movement, they were required to call upon the commandant at Fort Lane for such an escort as was deemed requisite to secure a safe passage through the disturbed districts. Since those instructions were given, I have received intelligence that meetings of the citizens of the Willamette valley residing along the route to be travelled by these Indians in reaching the designated encampment, as well as those in the vicinity of the latter, have resolved upon resisting such removal, and

avow a determination to kill all who may be brought among them, as well as those who sought to effect that object. This feeling appears so general among our citizens, I am apprehensive they may attempt carrying it into effect. To avoid which, I have to request, if it be deemed by you practicable, that a command of twenty men be directed to accompany those Indians on their removal, with directions to remain at or near the encampment so long as their presence may be required to insure the safety of the Indians.

Believing, as I do, that the cause of the present difficulty in southern Oregon is wholly to be attributed to the acts of our own people, I cannot but feel that it is our duty to adopt such measures as will tend to secure the lives of those Indians and maintain the guarantees secured to them by treaty stipulations. The future will prove that this war has been forced upon those Indians against their will; and that, too, by a set of reckless vagabonds for pecuniary and political objects, and sanctioned by a numerous population who regard the treasury of the United States a legitimate object of plunder. The Indians in that district have been driven to desperation by acts of cruelty against their people; treaties have been violated and acts of barbarity committed by those claiming to be citizens, that would disgrace the most barbarous nations of the earth; and if none but those who perpetrated such acts were to be affected by this war, we might look upon it with indifference; but, unhappily, this is not the case.

In connexion with the request for an escort, I may say that the winter's encampment for the Indians herein referred to is situated upon lands designated as a permanent location for residence of Indians, and to be attached to a district declared an Indian reservation; that it is the gap through which is the communication from the white settlements to an Indian reservation destined to contain a population of four thousand souls, and the only practicable route through which supplies can reach them for the northern half of that population. The establishment of a military post for a few years at this point is deemed requisite to insure the preservation of peace between our own citizens and these Indians, as well as good order among the numerous bands congregated. Entertaining this view, I would respectfully request that a competent officer be directed to accompany me to the contemplated anchorage prior to the arrival of the Indians from the south, that I may have the benefit of his experience and suggestions in the particular location and arrangement of the encampment, and the improvements designed for the use of Indians upon the reservation. This examination may be made in a few days, and may be of the utmost importance to the government in its intercourse with Indian tribes and the preservation of peace.

I have the honor to be, dear sir, your obedient servant,  
 JOEL PALMER,  
 Superintendent Indian Affairs, O. T.  
 Major General JOHN E. WOOL,  
 Commanding Pacific Division, U. S. Army.

(Endorsement of letter of December 19)

This report and a previous one dated November 17th, (and their enclosures), from Brevet Major General Wool are highly interesting and important. I fully concur in all the views of the reports. Fortunately, the 9th infantry (having sailed from Panama without, up to that time, sickness or accident) will be soon at hand to meet hostilities in the north and south of the Pacific department.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

New York, January 15, 1856.

BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,

Fort Vancouver, December 25, 1855.

GENERAL: Since my communication to the headquarters of the army, dated the 18th instant, winter has fairly set in; the ground is covered with snow, and the Columbia river is frozen over as low down as the mouth of the Willapaette, six miles below this place. This cuts off all communication with the post at the Dalles, until the river is cleared of ice. Owing to high water in the streams to be passed, it has been impracticable to send any reinforcements by land to Steilacoom. I intended to have sent by sea Captain Ord's company of the 9th Infantry, but have failed in my efforts to procure transportation. I had anticipated a conveyance by the steamer Panama, but the captain could not be induced to make the trip on any terms. At the same time he reported to me that Captain Alden, with the United States steamer Active had left San Francisco for Puget's sound two days before the Panama left for this place, intending to volunteer his services with the steamer to take part in the war. I immediately sent an express to Captain Keyes, with orders for the Active to proceed to this place to transport Captain Ord's company and ordnance stores to Steilacoom. The unexpected closing of the Columbia river, I am apprehensive will prevent the Active from reaching this place, at least until the ice breaks up, which may take place in a week, though it may not in three weeks. Until it does, I can send no reinforcements to Captain Keyes. I mentioned in my communication of the 13th that I was actively engaged in preparing an expedition for the Indian country, and I soon found it would be impracticable to execute my intentions as soon as I desired, and I could obtain in this country neither the means of transportation nor forage without paying exorbitantly for them, and which the status of the war in this region does not warrant. This state of things has been caused by the extraordinary course pursued by Governor Curry, who is making war against the Indians on his own account, and without the slightest reference to himself, not having received any condemnation whatever from him on the subject. The quantity of the supplies required for the volunteers, and the enormous prices paid in some, by those authorized by the government to

make purchases for them, has rendered it necessary for me to resort to Benicia for horses and mules, and for forage to San Francisco. In this section of country no danger existed which required either the services of the volunteers or the extravagant prices which have been paid in scrip for the horses and forage, as well as everything else required for the volunteers. If volunteers were required at all, it was in the Rogue-river country and along Puget's sound, but not to defend the inhabitants of either Oregon or Washington Territories against the Indians, who had made or threatened them with war, residing east of the Cascade mountains.

As I have already reported, after the repulses of Bt. Major Haller, which created great excitement and alarm in Washington and Oregon, lest all the Indian tribes should combine and come down at once upon the settlements, Major Rains called upon Governor Curry, of Oregon, for four companies of volunteers, which were not required, as I shall presently show, but which the governor refused, because, as he said, Oregonians would not serve under the command of United States officers; at the same time, instead of furnishing to the United States four companies, he ordered out a regiment of volunteers, all mounted, whose operations were to be exclusively under the command of Territorial officers. Major Rains entered upon his expedition against the Yakamas, and six companies of the volunteers followed, under the command of Colonel Nesmith. The major met the Yakamas some seventy miles from the Dalles, and, after several skirmishes with them, they fled over the mountains, some forty miles distant, to the Yakama river. The major could follow them no farther on account of the snow, then rapidly falling, being several feet deep on the intervening mountains, and commenced his return, during which he passed over mountains covered with snow from two to five feet deep. He left the greater part of his command of regulars, on the 20th November, about twenty-five miles from the Dalles, to build a block-house, and arrived at Vancouver the 24th. The block-house I deemed unnecessary, and ordered all the regulars to the Dalles for a critical inspection and preparation for future operations. During the expedition of the major, he lost fifty-four mules, mostly, it is said, by excessive fatigue, not being able to travel. The volunteers, it is said, killed most of their horses that gave out.

I have said that the volunteers called for by Major Rains were not required in his expedition against the Yakamas, he having three hundred and fifty regulars and three howitzers. I was induced to make the remark from the fact that Brevet Major G. O. Haller, as he reports, with only one hundred and four effective troops in his expedition, after his first engagement, and during the time (thirty-six hours) he remained on a hill without wood, water, or grass, during which he lost, wounded and killed, twenty-two men, made his escape with eighty effective men, and after being separated from his rear-guard, being left with only forty men, his wounded and baggage, he made good his retreat to the Dalles, followed by the Indians until within thirty miles of that post, without losing a man. It is true he had to leave the howitzer, the carriage being broken, and to burn part of his baggage and provisions. If Major Haller could free himself from fifteen hun-

dred Yakamas with only forty men, I did not think such an enemy was to be dreaded. I could not doubt, from what had taken place, that five hundred regulars, with three mountain howitzers, besides other artillery, would be all-sufficient to defend the inhabitants of Washington and Oregon from any and all barbarities by Indians east of the Cascades. None but the Yakamas and Klikatats had, in this region, made open war on the whites, and these were residents of Washington Territory. It was, however, rumored shortly after my arrival, the 17th of November, that the Pelouses, Cayuses, Umatillas, and Walla-Wallas had commenced hostilities. It was said that the proud and haughty chief of the Walla-Wallas, Pu-pu-mux-mux, had plundered and burned Fort Walla-Walla, McKay's, Brooks's and Bomford's residences. This I supposed to be true; hence my remark in my letter of the 13th instant, that I thought Joel Palmer, superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon, was mistaken in his opinion that Pu-pu-mux-mux was not hostile to the whites; since which I have learned, to my entire satisfaction, that he was right, and that Pu-pu-mux-mux was for maintaining peace. This opinion is confirmed by the reports of the volunteers of Governor Curry, sent by him against the Walla-Wallas. It would seem that, unbeknown to Major Rains or myself, Governor Curry, when he authorized or ordered Colonel Nesmith to follow Major Rains in his expedition to the Yakama country, ordered four companies in the direction of Walla-Walla. These companies, under Major Chinn, took post at the Umatilla, and there waited reinforcements. After the return of Colonel Nesmith from the Yakama country, he ordered several companies to reinforce Major Chinn. During this period of more than two weeks, although the volunteers reported more than one thousand Indians at or near Fort Walla-Walla, they were not attacked nor molested by these Indians. As soon as Major Chinn was reinforced, and with Lieutenant Colonel Kelly in command, the volunteers moved on to Walla-Walla, but found no Indians there. From thence they moved up the Souchet river, where they met Pu-pu-mux-mux and three others with a white flag. He said he was for peace and would not fight, and if his young men had done wrong, he was prepared to make restitution. He was taken prisoner by Lieutenant Colonel Kelly, and sent to the volunteer camp, when a skirmish took place with the Walla-Wallas. During the engagement, this proud and haughty chief, with his companions, was killed. The skirmishing was kept up for several days, with no great loss on either side, and until the Indians crossed Snake river, taking with them their women and children.

The only result, I think, of this expedition will be to unite all the tribes in that region against us, except the Nez Percés, who still remain friendly, and probably will continue so. The expedition has been organized and fitted out at an enormous expense, and when there was no apprehension of any danger from that direction, as far as Oregon was interested. The Cascade mountains, covered with several feet of snow, could not be crossed during the winter. There was no way of reaching the Oregon settlements, except by way of the Dalles, where we have a sufficient force to repel any number of Indians that might come in that direction. It is reported that Governor Curry purchased

a thousand horses, varying from \$150, to \$700 each; that he ordered to be purchased 250,000 bushels of oats at one dollar per bushel; and the transportation to the Dalles would be another dollar per bushel. Everything purchased, as I am informed, is in the same ratio, and, as the volunteers themselves say, there is no system in furnishing rations, and every man helps himself. On fitting out the last reinforcement from the Dalles, Bomford and Brooks sold them a certain number of cattle, for which scrip was given. Not having all they required, they called on Brooks and Bomford for about the same number which they had previously received; they refused to furnish them. The volunteers paid no attention to their remonstrances, and took the cattle. This is but one of many like cases which have been reported.

In conclusion, I would remark that the above statement is not made from any official reports, but from those who have served with the volunteers; and others who appear to be well acquainted with the course pursued in supplying the volunteers. If one thing is true of what is daily reported, the expedition under Colonel Nesmith to the Yakama country; and the one to Walla-Walla, will be by far the most expensive ever fitted out in the United States; at least they will exceed the expenses of any expeditions I have ever heard of, and, in my opinion, without accomplishing any favorable results, at the same time subjecting the regular service to great additional expenses and great inconvenience.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
JOHN E. WOOL,  
Major General.

Lieutenant Colonel J. THOMAS,  
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
Benicia, January 2, 1856.

COLONEL: In order to a more full understanding of the subject of your letter of December 5, and its enclosure, I deem it proper, in the absence of Major General Wool, to forward the enclosed copies of letters on Indian affairs.

The letter to Colonel Henley, of August 10, is referred to in Commissioner Mayhew's letter of November 1, as not having been furnished. Captain Gardiner's letter of July 7, and the reply, dated July 28, will show that the general principle of not furnishing troops to force the Indians to move on the reserves against their will, was all that General Wool intended to lay down as a rule for commanding officers of posts. In cases where it was supposed Indians would move if protected on the route, escorts have always been detailed. (See, for instance, paragraph 4 of departmental special orders No. 83, of September 24, 1855; which related to the Scott's Bay Indians.) Colonel Henley consented to receive them on the Yakama reserve; but they refused to move, and Captain Judah has repeatedly reported their miserable condition since that time. In a letter of December 13 he says,

enclosing a communication to Colonel Henley: "I am powerless, either in my capacity as commanding officer or acting Indian agent, to alleviate the sufferings of the Scott's valley Indians in camp at my post. Their neglect, under the severity of the weather, amounts to cruelty." The copy of his letter of November 2 sets forth the wants of the Indians, and Colonel Henley has been informed upon the subject.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.*

Sur: In recent communications from the commanding officers of Forts Jones and Lane, I am informed of an outbreak among the Indians on the Klamath river, about eighteen miles from Yreka in which a number of whites are reported to have been murdered. Capt. Lane, Major Hittgerald from Fort Jones, andrevet Major Hittgerald from Fort Jones, Scott's valley, dated the 25th, Benigna, July 28, 1855.

Sur: In reply to your letter of July 17, enclosing the letter of Mr. Biddey, sub-Indian agent, asking that a command of dragoons may be sent to collect a band of Indians and bring them on the reserve; the commanding general directs me to say that he has no authority to order the troops upon such a service. He supposes the residence of the Indians upon the reserves to be optional with them, and that the government guarantees to them protection from aggression while they do reside there. The troops are stationed upon the reserve to carry out this guaranty, and to prevent outbreaks or disorders which may suddenly occur among the Indians there collected. In case of such outbreaks if a band of Indians leaves the reserve in a state of excitement, which might lead to bloodshed or disturbance among the settlers, the troops may properly pursue them to prevent such difficulties, and may, if possible, bring them back to the reserve. It is now assumed that the troops may also be employed properly in punishing Indians who have committed acts of hostility upon the whites; and if these Indians have refused to avail themselves of the advantages of living upon the reserve after they have been offered to them, they cannot expect that the troops will be employed to protect them against aggression from the whites. It is well known that the Indians are easily influenced by military authority, and it is expected that assistance will be given by all proper means to the Indian agents in carrying out the views of the government; but, as is believed, this assistance does not extend to collecting the Indians and keeping them against their will on the reserve. I shall direct that to be withdrawn. The duty of placing and retaining Indians on the reserve belongs to the superintendents of Indian affairs, or their agents, who are supposed to possess the requisite qualifications to induce the Indians to accept the proffered boon of the government. The general desires you to make a report in detail of the number of Indians on the Sebastian reserve, the mode of managing and feeding

them, the number of citizens employed, and the number of acres of land under cultivation.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Captain J. W. T. GARDINER,  
*1st Dragoons, Fort Tejon, California.*

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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Benicia, August 10, 1855.*

SIR: In recent communications from the commanding officers of Forts Jones and Lane, I am informed of an outbreak among the Indians on the Klamath river, about eighteen miles from Yeeka, in which a number of whites are reported to have been murdered. Captain Judah from Fort Jones, and Brevet Major Fitzgerald from Fort Lane, moved promptly with detachments of troops to the scene of difficulty. A report from Fort Jones, Scott's valley, dated the 2d instant, states that the inhabitants of the valley had assembled with the avowed purpose of exterminating the unoffending Indians known as the Shasta tribe; but some of the better disposed of the people aiding the commanding officer of Fort Jones, about 100 Indians of all ages and sexes were collected at that post on the military reserve.

The officers of the army in that quarter, acting under their standing instructions, will do all in their power to suppress hostilities, bring the offenders to punishment if they be Indians, and protect the inoffensive savages from destruction. Nevertheless, I must strongly concur in the suggestion of one of the officers commanding a post, that a special agent be sent there as soon as practicable, to provide for the sustenance and protection of the Indians in a suitable manner, which it is not in the power of the military authorities to do. Those now assembled on the military reserve at Fort Jones are subsisted for the present by issues of the army ration; but this is only authorized by the emergency, and cannot be continued.

I learn from Lieutenant Colonel Buchanan, commanding Fort Humboldt, that the Red Cap and other tribes in that vicinity are at present all quiet. There seems to have been little or no concert between the Indian agent, Mr. Wipple, and the officers, Captains Judah and Floyd-Jones, who have commanded detachments in that quarter, the indisposition seeming to be on the part of the agent to communicate with the officers. The troops will remain in their camp on the Klamath until the approach of the rainy season, when I shall direct them to be withdrawn to Fort Humboldt, as it would appear there will be no necessity for keeping them out during the winter.

I have to request that you will take such measures as will insure the payment of certain debts incurred in that quarter by Captains Judah and Floyd-Jones, for "provisions furnished to Indian allies and Indian prisoners." The amount contracted by the latter officer,

he represents to be from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars. You are aware that when the troubles first commenced, the officers commanding the detachment were obliged to employ Indian allies and scouts, to discover the hostiles in their lurking-places, and to keep the prisoners brought in, to protect them from massacre by the whites. It is for the subsistence of these Indians that I understand the debts were incurred.

I have only to add that the public interest seems to demand your immediate attention to the foregoing subjects.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your very obedient servant,  
 JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

Hon. T. J. HENLEY,  
*Sup't Indian Affairs, San Francisco, California.*

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FORT TEJON, CALIFORNIA, *July 17, 1855.*

MAJOR: I have the honor to enclose an application from Mr. Ridley, sub-Indian agent, for a force to bring in certain Indians.

Not being informed whether it is the intention of the general commanding the department to employ the troops on such duty, and believing that it will impose a very great amount of harassing service on the troops, and in some instances bring them in hostile collision with the Indians, I have declined furnishing a command until I should receive instructions on the subject.

Mr. Ridley informs me that the Indians near Tule lake will probably come in peaceably; but there are some others near Walker's pass who, in his opinion, will resist the troops. He further informs me, that in all probability, from time to time, it will be necessary to send out parties to bring back such Indians as may leave.

In view of the probability of bringing on hostilities with Indians now peaceable, and the constant harassing of the troops in bringing in such Indians as may be discontented, (and they will be numerous,) I would very respectfully suggest that it would be better to leave the Indians unmolested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 J. W. T. GARDINER,  
*Captain 1st Dragoons, Commanding.*

Maj. E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

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FORT JONES, CALIFORNIA, *November 2, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith, for transmission to Colonel Henley, superintendent of Indian affairs, a letter written by me in the capacity of acting Indian agent.

The recent murders, by Indians, of women and children on Rogue-

river valley, were literally retaliatory of, and immediately succeeded, the massacre by Major Lupton and his party of eighteen women and children out of twenty-five killed.

The Scott's valley Indians, unless located upon the military reserve, are at any moment liable to an attack similar to that made by Major Lupton, and the whites in the valley and its vicinity to the same deplorable results.

The Indians have as yet enjoyed no opportunity of laying in food for the winter, and the necessity for provision of some kind in the way of blankets and clothes, is imperative. As soon as I can receive another wagon from Fort Lane, I shall endeavor to supply them with slabs from a saw-mill about five miles distant, for sheds, to protect them from snow.

In view of the unexampled previous good conduct of the Scott's valley Indians, the neglect they have experienced at the hands of the Indian department, and their present necessities, I trust that my communication to Colonel Henley will not be considered by the general commanding as unwarranted in tone or character.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. JUDAH,

Captain 4th Infantry, Commanding.

Major E. D. TOWNSEND, U. S. A.,  
Asst. Adj. Gen., Department of Pacific, Benicia, Cal.

BENICIA, HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
San Francisco, January 19, 1856

COLONEL: You will perceive that I have returned to San Francisco, on the way to my headquarters, after being ice-bound three weeks.

The severity of the season in Washington Territory and Oregon has cut off all communication with the military post at the Dalles, Oregon, and a heavy vast mass of snow on the Cascade mountains, there is no route, during the winter season, to that post, other than by the Columbia river, and that has for several weeks past been frozen over as low down as St. Helens. It is now, however, open to Vancouver.

The 9th Infantry, under Colonel Wright, has arrived, and passed on to Vancouver and Puget's sound. Colonel Wright, with eight companies, to Vancouver; and Lieutenant Colonel Casey, with two companies, to Puget's sound; and Captain Ord's company of the 3d artillery has been ordered to return, with an intention of sending it to the Colorado, where an Indian war is threatened.

As soon as an opportunity occurs, I shall also order Captain Keyes's company to return, in order, if it should become necessary, to send it to the Colorado. With the 9th and 4th Infantry, I have no doubt of being able, in a short time after we can take the field, to terminate the war in the north and in southern Oregon, unless they should of Governor Curry, of Oregon, against all the Indians inhabiting Washington Territory, should prevent it, by sending his volunteers against

the Walla-Wallas, who had not made open war against the whites, he has added several tribes to the ranks of the enemy. This opinion is founded on information derived from men who were well acquainted with the Walla-Wallas, Cayuses, Pelouses, and Umatillas, who are now united against us. This is confirmed by the volunteers themselves—four companies having established themselves at the Umatilla, and for more than two weeks sent out, almost daily, small parties to reconnoitre the country, and within a few miles of Walla-Walla, without being attacked or molested, and at the same time reporting one thousand Indians at that place, and within twenty-five or thirty miles of their camp.

Again, when the volunteers marched against the Walla-Wallas, the chief, Pu-pu-mux-mux, met them under a flag of truce, and declared "he was for peace, and did not wish to fight; that his people did not wish to fight, and if his young men had done wrong he would make restitution;" and at the same time offered them cattle for food. He, however, was taken prisoner, and afterwards barbarously murdered, scalped, his ears and hands cut off, and these preserved and sent to the friends of the volunteers in Oregon. All which was reported by volunteers.

In my communication of the 25th December to the headquarters of the army, I mentioned that Governor Curry called out but one regiment of volunteers, and purchased or hired one thousand horses. I have learned since that he called for two regiments, one for Washington Territory and the other for southern Oregon, both mounted, and which required about two thousand horses. The horses of Colonel Nesmith's regiment, it is reported by the volunteers, are no longer fit for service, and the governor intends—so it is reported—to furnish them with a fresh relay. The expense of all which, together with the enormous prices paid for everything the volunteers have received, will amount to more than two millions—some say three millions; and General Adair, collector of customs at Astoria, says it will amount to four millions.

In my communication of the 25th December I also mentioned that during the expedition of Major Rains he lost fifty-four mules, mostly, he said, in consequence of excessive fatigue, not being able to travel. Since which, on further inquiry, I find the fifty-four mules were captured and driven off by the Indians; the cause of which may in some measure be accounted for by the want of foresight and attention of Major Rains. This opinion is confirmed in the charges preferred against the major by Captain Ord, which I herewith enclose for the consideration of the War Department, not having a sufficient number of officers of the proper rank under my command to form a court-martial for his trial, without depriving important posts of their commanders. In transmitting these charges, it is due to Major Rains to say that I believe him to be exceedingly honest and a conscientious officer, who, no doubt, has performed his duty to the best of his ability; but it cannot be concealed that he does not possess the necessary qualifications for conducting with efficiency extensive operations of troops in the field, and especially against Indians.

Captain Kayes, commanding at Steilacoom, in his last communica-

tion informed me that in the region of Puget's sound not to exceed two hundred Indian warriors were in arms against the whites. With the two companies of the 9th infantry, Lieutenant Colonel Casey will have five companies to operate with against the Indians; and these will be, I think, all-sufficient to bring the war to a close in Puget's sound without the aid of volunteers.

I have no reliable information in regard to the war on Rogue river. It is reported by Indian agents that only about one hundred Indians are in arms in that part of Oregon. These carry on the war with great skill on their part. To contend with them I will have at Forts Jones and Lane three companies of infantry and one of dragoons, amounting to three hundred and twenty rank and file.

Captain Judah reports, November 2, that "the recent murders by Indians of women and children in Rogue river valley were literally retaliatory of, and immediately succeeding the massacre of Major Lupton and his party of eighteen (Indian) women and children out of twenty-five killed." "The Scott's valley Indians, unless located upon the military reserve, are at any moment liable to an attack similar to that made by Major Lupton; and the whites in the valley and its vicinity to the same deplorable results." "The Indians have as yet enjoyed no opportunity of laying in food for the winter, and the necessity for provision of some kind in the way of blankets and clothes is imperative."

"As soon as I can receive another wagon, from Fort Lane I shall endeavor to supply them with slabs from a saw-mill about five miles distant, for sheds to protect them from snow."

It appears to me that something ought to be done for these Indians by the superintendent of Indian affairs in California. It is a cruel policy to leave these poor creatures in so miserable a condition, more especially as they have, under all circumstances, remained friendly to the whites.

In Oregon, as well as in the northern part of California, many whites are for exterminating the Indians. This feeling is engendered by two newspapers that go for extermination, and is more or less possessed by the volunteers, as well as others not enrolled under the banners of Governor Curry. As long as individual war is permitted and paid for by the United States, and which is expected by all the citizens of Oregon, we shall have no peace, and the war may be prolonged indefinitely, especially as it is generally asserted that the present war is a God-send to the people. See orders and instructions to Colonel Wright.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,  
*Ass't Adj't Gen. U. S. Army,*  
*Headquarters of the Army, New York city.*

[Endorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*New York, February 15, 1856.*

Respectfully referred to the Adjutant General.

The charges referred to, preferred against Major G. J. Rains, 4th infantry, by Captain Ord, 3d artillery, have, by direction of the general-in-chief, been returned to Major General Wool, to dispose of according to his judgment.

L. THOMAS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

BENICIA, HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*San Francisco, Cal., January 21, 1856.*

SIR: I had the honor to receive yesterday, through General Kibbe, your communication of the 19th instant, relating to the protection of the people of Crescent City.

In reply, it affords me pleasure to say that not only your wishes, but those of the people of that city, were anticipated some two months since, when I ordered a detachment of fifty men for their protection. This force is now there under the command of Captain J. F. Jones, a very efficient officer, who no doubt will be able to defend them in any attack that may be meditated by the few remaining Indians in that section of California. I would further remark that it is my intention, should it be deemed necessary, to send another company for the protection of the inhabitants of that region and Rogue River valley.

These, with the three companies now at Forts Lane and Jones, one at Humboldt, and another at Fort Orford, constituting a force of more than four hundred regulars, will, I trust, be all-sufficient to protect the people of southern Oregon and northern California from Indian barbarities, without the aid of volunteers; and especially as I am well informed that there are not now more than one hundred—at most one hundred and twenty-five—Indians in arms in all that region against the whites.

It is, however, greatly to be regretted that there are too many white inhabitants, both in Oregon and northern California, who go for exterminating the Indians, and, consequently, do not discriminate between friends and foes; the result of which has been the cause of the death of many innocent and worthy citizens, both in southern Oregon and in northern California. Could the citizens be restrained from private war, I have no doubt peace and quiet would soon be restored to the people of that region of country.

Captain Judah, who has been exceedingly active and efficient in his efforts to protect the inhabitants on the frontiers, says, in his report before me, of the 2d of November, that "the recent murders by Indians of women and children in Rogue River valley were literally retaliatory of, and immediately succeeded, the massacre by Major Lupton (a volunteer) and his party of eighteen (Indian) women and chil-

dren out of twenty-five killed." These were friendly Indians, going on to the reserve for protection.

Captain Judah further says that "the Scott-valley Indians, unless located upon the military reserve, are at any moment liable to an attack similar to that made by Major Lupton; and the whites in the valley and its vicinity to the same deplorable results. The Indians have as yet enjoyed no opportunity for laying in food for the winter; and the necessity for provision of some kind, in the way of blankets and clothes, is imperative." Such are the fruits of private warfare; in most cases, the innocent and most worthy are the sufferers.

It seems to me that, with the ample means furnished by the United States for the Indians in California, something might be done for the Scott-valley Indians. It is a cruel policy to leave these poor creatures in so miserable a condition, more especially as they have, under all circumstances, remained friendly to the whites. The superintendent of Indian affairs says he is not authorized to give assistance to any Indians who will not go upon reserves.

All who are acquainted with the Indian character, know that they cling with great pertinacity to the land of their forefathers and of their nativity; and these Indians, then, will not do the bidding of the superintendent so long as they can possibly exist without compliance. Last fall I called his attention to this tribe, with the hope that he would lend an assisting hand, but he declined for the reasons above given. I then asked him if he would receive them on the Tekama reserve, if I could get them to remove. He answered in the affirmative. I sent my aid-de-camp, Lieutenant Bonnycastle, who was well acquainted with and had exerted considerable influence over them, to remove them; they, however, refused to leave their country. I have thought proper to say thus much in relation to the Scott-valley Indians, because I have been informed that the superintendent has said that I had taken upon myself to manage them, and he thought he would not interfere. I have no authority whatever to interfere, nor means to provide for the Indians. It belongs exclusively to the Indian department, and it was the special duty of Colonel Henley to have looked after these naked and miserable creatures. He had the means to provide for them, and he might at least have made an effort to remove them; which he refused to do when I offered my services in his aid, if they could be induced to remove.

In conclusion, I have only to remark that I shall ever be ready to co-operate with your excellency in any measure that will, in any respect whatever, tend to preserve and protect the inhabitants of the frontiers of California from Indian barbarity.

I have the honor to be, with considerations of the highest respect,  
your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

His Excellency J. N. JOHNSON,  
*Governor of California.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Benicia, California, January 26, 1856.*

SIR: I have just received your communication of the 25th instant. In reply, I would remark that I have nothing to do with removing the Indians to reservations; that is a duty which belongs exclusively to you. Escorts to give them protection from the whites, both in travelling and when on the reserves, will always be furnished.

Owing to the peculiar condition of the Scott's-valley Indians, apprehensive of being destroyed by the whites, they sought protection of the troops at Fort Jones. Over a hundred are now on the military reserve of that post, and are supplied with subsistence by Capt. Judah from the army stores. To relieve Capt. Judah from the care and subsistence of these Indians, which does not properly belong to the army, but was temporarily assumed until you could provide for their case, your attention was called to this subject as early as September last. You replied that you could do nothing for them, unless they would remove to some reservation. Anxious to have them removed, I asked if you would receive them at the Nome-Lackee reserve if I would induce them to remove. You replied in the affirmative. Accordingly, I sent my aid-de-camp, Lieut. Bonnycastle, who was well acquainted with, and had exerted considerable influence over them, to make the attempt. He, however, failed, the Indians refusing to leave the country they had so long inhabited.

The Indians have since remained on the military reserve, whilst they have been subsisted from the military supplies of the post, no attention being paid to them by the Indian department. Thus the matter stood until, I think, Tuesday last, when you proposed to remove them to the Nome-Lackee reservation if I would furnish you with mules, as you had none to transport their baggage. I replied that I would, and that I would do all I could to aid in their removal. I have, however, no means to aid you beyond furnishing mules for the transportation of their baggage. I have neither money nor goods to give them to induce them to remove, nor authority even to furnish them with provisions whilst travelling from Fort Jones to the reservation. The Indian department has all the means necessary at its disposal, and it should not hesitate to apply them. You have only to appoint an efficient agent to conduct them, at the same time furnishing him with the means of subsisting them and a few clothes to cover their nakedness.

The superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon removes the Indians of that Territory to reservations at the expense of the Indian department. He asks no assistance to remove them. He furnishes subsistence and transportation. He simply asks military protection to the Indians after they have removed to the reservation.

I have thought proper to say thus much, because in your communication you say "it is with the understanding that you are willing to remove the Indians, provided I can induce them to go willingly, that I make this agreement with Major Steel." I repeat that I have nothing to do with removing them, except by way of advice. That duty belongs to you, and not to myself.

Captain Judah will be instructed to do all in his power to aid you in inducing them to remove.

As soon as you will let me know when you will attempt the removal of the Indians at Fort Jones, and the name of your agent, I will give orders for the mules necessary for the transportation of their baggage. The mules must be taken from Fort Reading, as we have not a sufficient number, at the present time, to spare from Fort Jones. The mules must be foraged at the expense of the Indian department. It would be well to ascertain the number of Indians who will remove. This is necessary in order to determine the number of mules that will be required for the transportation of their baggage.

Herewith I forward a copy of a letter dated November 2, 1855, relating to the condition of the Indians in question.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

Col. T. J. HENLEY,  
*Sup't Indian Affairs for California, San Francisco.*

P. S.—I would remark that I have no authority to furnish mules for the transportation of Indian baggage. I consent in this case, with the hope that it will be sanctioned by the War Department. I would also remark, that whether or not I can furnish them will depend on the number required. Most of the mules on hand will be required for Oregon and Washington Territories in the transportation of supplies for the troops there.

J. E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

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FORT JONES, CALIFORNIA, *November 2, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, for transmission to Colonel Henley, superintendent of Indian affairs, a letter written by me in the capacity of acting Indian agent.

The recent murders by Indians of women and children in Rogue River valley were *literally* retaliatory of, and immediately succeeded the massacre, by Major Lupton and his party, of eighteen women and children out of twenty-five killed.

The Scott's valley Indians, unless located upon the military reserve, are at any moment liable to an attack similar to that made by Major Lupton, and the whites in the valley and its vicinity to the same deplorable results.

The Indians have as yet enjoyed no opportunity of laying in food for the winter, and the necessity for provision of some sort in the way of blankets and clothes is imperative.

As soon as I can receive another wagon from Fort Lane, I shall endeavor to supply them with slabs from a saw-mill about five miles distant, for sheds, to protect them from snow.

In view of the unexampled previous good conduct of the Scott's valley Indians, the neglect they have experienced at the hands of the

Indian department, and their present necessities, I trust that my communication to Colonel Henley will not be considered by the general commanding as unwarranted in tone or character.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. JUDAH,  
*Captain 4th Infantry.*

Major E. D. TOWNSEND, U. S. A.,  
*Comdg., Asst. Adjt. Gen. Dept. of Pacific, Benicia, Cal.*

True copy:

RICHARD ARNOLD,  
*1st Lieutenant 3d Artillery, A. D. C.*

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*San Francisco, California, December 29, 1855.*

SIR: I am this day in receipt of yours of 1st November and December 13.

This is the first information I have been able to get (though I have made frequent inquiry) in regard to the Indians at Fort Jones, to which you allude. It is true, I have not paid an official visit to Fort Jones. I am not, however, ignorant of the condition of those Indians. The enclosed correspondence will acquaint you with the fact that I had already made such provision for them as met the approbation of the commanding general—an arrangement entirely consistent with the plan of colonizing the Indians on reservations, and perfectly within the scope of my powers. I was informed by General Wool in September last that he had despatched an officer to Fort Jones to remove them to Nome-Lackee, in conformity with this arrangement, and I was for some time in the daily expectation of their arrival. It was only very recently that I was informed they were not to be sent; of the cause of this, or the influences which prevented the removal, I am not advised. It must be obvious to you that I could not have been expected to provide for the subsistence of those Indians at Fort Jones, at the time that I was expecting their arrival at Nome-Lackee, where ample provision had been made for them.

Your letter of the 1st November was not forwarded to me from General Wool's office until this date, or it would have received an immediate answer.

I have been informed verbally by Generals Wool and Cross, that the reason why those Indians were not removed was because they were unwilling to leave their present location. Now, what I understand to be my duty on this subject is to provide as speedily as possible for the reception of all suffering Indians on the reservations. This I have done, and have no doubt of being able at all times to receive and take care of Indians situated as those are to which you allude; and though it may appear, and no doubt does appear to you that "something must surely be amiss either in the organization or administration of the Indian department in this State," I am at a loss to perceive the particular appropriateness of the rebuke. In regard to the question of providing for those Indians under existing circumstances, if they have,

under the advice of the acting agent, declined the relief and protection offered them at the reservation, it would seem to be a doubtful question whether they are entitled to any other.

I have no doubt of the meritorious character of those Indians, but I regard the policy of feeding those who refuse to go on the reserves as injurious to the policy of colonization, as contemplated by the system now in operation.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS J. HENLEY,  
*Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

Captain H. M. JUDAH,  
*Commanding Fort Jones.*

A true copy :

D. R. JONES,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

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FORT JONES, CALIFORNIA,  
*January 21, 1856.*

SIR : I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the answer of Colonel Henley, superintendent of Indian affairs in this State, to my communication to him forwarded through your office.

Colonel Henley should be, and is, acquainted with the duties of the Indian department in this State. I must, however, confess my surprise at their limited character ; and, according to the statement of Colonel H., that their exercise is confined to the administration of Indian affairs upon an *established* reserve, I *had* supposed that the necessary preliminaries to the removal of Indians upon a reserve, including their preparation for the so serious a change to them, was one of the most delicate if not difficult portions of the duties appertaining to the Indian department.

It, however, appears from the letter of Colonel Henley that such is not the case, and that the Indian department passively awaits upon their reserves the reception of Indians who may be pleased to claim the privileges which they are said to afford. How the Indians are to be reconciled to the relinquishment of their homes, what inducements are to be legally offered them, how the expenses of their removal are to be provided for, Colonel Henley does not pretend to say or advise upon ; his silence in reference to these details is appropriate, if, as he states, or at least plainly intimates, his duties are restricted to the reception of Indians who may present themselves for admission upon the reserves.

I beg to be excused for having been thus explicit in making the above deductions from the communication of Colonel Henley ; for a correct understanding of his views and intentions, particularly in reference to the Scott's valley Indians, is necessarily preliminary to any steps which may be taken towards their permanent disposition.

A small band of the Scott's valley Indians, under a sub-chief named Jack, has for some time past evinced a disposition, if not actually hos-

tile, by no means pacific. With a view to prevent, if possible, any communication with the hostile Indians, I have insisted upon their close and continued residence upon the military reserve, where I could easily detect any attempt at such, as well as any disposition to change their existing friendly relations towards the whites.

Some two weeks since, Jack, with his small party of six, without my knowledge or consent, removed from the Indian camp upon the reserve to the hills some four miles distant. Upon sending after him, he left the rancheria and appeared upon the hills with his men, all armed with rifles, which hitherto had been kept concealed, while I was led to believe that all the guns had been given up to me. Without entering into tedious details, I will merely state that I succeeded, without making any promises of pardon, in getting in his party, who delivered to me their guns. I confined three of them for a few days, but released them, aware that without the influence of Jack they were powerless.

Jack has ever been a bad Indian, and but for the absence of cooperation would, ere this time, have taken up arms against the whites. I am perfectly satisfied that as soon as spring opened he intended to commence his depredations; indeed, he has since his confinement confessed to me that, during my absence in Rogue River valley, he was visited by hostile Indians living in the vicinity of the Cove. His movement as above stated was made with a view to more frequent and unrestrained intercourse of the same description, preparatory to a descent upon the whites in this valley in the spring. Under these circumstances, I have him, with another one-eyed Indian equally as bad, ironed and in close confinement, and shall never feel justified in releasing him—his previous intentions being now confirmed and strengthened by revengeful feelings induced by his confinement.

The public interest demands that some permanent and safe disposition should be made of the Scott's valley Indians before the opening of the spring. Although if unmolested by whites, and while actually present among them, I will be answerable for their good conduct, they may under other circumstances become infected with the hostile feelings which seem to be general among the entire race; and inducements will no doubt, as they have been, be offered them to join their hostile brethren. I cannot safely allow them their usual range, while at the same time it would be cruel to withdraw the supply of food. I have been obliged to furnish them without restoring their guns with which to supply themselves, and this I cannot *under any circumstances* do. I therefore respectfully request some specific instructions as to what steps I may take with a view to their location upon one of the reserves. I would advise that two of their number be allowed to visit both the Nome-Latkee reservation and that upon the Klamath, under charge of an officer, and that they be led to believe that a choice between the two is imperative; otherwise their strong attachment to the land of their birth will render their removal, except by force, impossible. I have no doubt but that hostilities will be resumed by the Indians in the spring with renewed vigor, and should not be at all surprised at the occurrence of depredations in Scott's valley—a contin-

gency which will seriously compromise the safety of the Scott's valley Indians, let their relations towards the whites be of ever so powerful a character.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. JUDAH,

*Capt. 4th Infantry, Commanding.*

Major E. D. TOWNSEND, U. S. A.,

*Ass't Adj't General Department of Pacific, Benicia, Cal.*

A true copy :

D. R. JONES, A. A. G.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*San Francisco, Cal., January 25, 1856.*

SIR : I have had to-day a conversation with Major Steel, of Yreka, who is well acquainted with the Indians now at Fort Jones, having resided for several years in Scott's valley ; and for the purpose of providing for the removal of those Indians according to your wishes, I have made arrangements to appoint Major Steel a special agent to accompany the chiefs of this tribe to Nome-Lackee reservation, and if the chiefs report favorable to removal, to aid in starting them to the reserve. But it will not be convenient for Major Steel to superintend the removal party to the reservation; it will therefore be necessary, in case of removal being consented to, for you to detail an officer for that purpose, with a sufficient number of mules for the transportation. It is with the understanding that you are willing to remove the Indians, provided I can induce them to go willingly, that I make this agreement with Major Steel, who is confident that he can obtain their consent to removal without difficulty. It appears to me necessary, and I would therefore suggest that the officer in command at Fort Jones should be instructed to co-operate fully with Major Steel in preparing the minds of the Indians for the proposed change in their location. You will observe that this proposition differs from the one I made to you in conversation on Monday last, for the reason that Major Steel can only spare time for one trip to the reservation.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. J. HENLEY,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Maj. Gen. JOHN E. WOOL,

*Com. of Pacific Division, Benicia, California.*

A true copy :

D. R. JONES, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Benicia, California, February 1, 1856.*

COLONEL : Nothing has occurred worthy of special notice since my communication of the 19th ultimo, transmitted through the headquarters of the army.

It would seem, from the language of the Oregon newspapers, that the Oregonians are determined to make the most of the Indian war. I perceive that it is said that the time to chastise the Indians is in the winter. Why, then, does not Governor Curry direct his forces against the Yakamas, the authors of the war north and east of the Cascades, instead of sending them against the Walla-Wallas, who were peaceably inclined until attacked by the volunteers? The reason is obvious. It was because they could not be reached, owing to the snow which covered the intervening mountains, and the severity of the winter. The governor had his forces raised, and something was to be done to justify the enormous expense and outlay in bringing them into the field, where they were not required, and which no circumstances called for. There were no settlements between the Cascade mountains and the Yakamas, or the Walla-Wallas. The few settlers in the country—not more, I believe, than five or six—besides the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company, had joined the settlements by the direction of Mr. Olmy, sub-Indian agent. The settlements could not be reached except by way of the Dalles, where we had a regular force sufficient to repel any number of Indians.

The governor determined to avail himself of the alarm and excitement which at the moment pervaded both Oregon and Washington Territories. Hence his expedition against the Walla-Wallas. After several days' fighting, without much loss on either side, the volunteers drove the Indians across the Snake river; and this, too, after the most earnest appeal for peace by the chief, Pu-pu-mux-mux, he declaring that neither he nor his people wished to fight, and that, if his young men had done wrong he was prepared to make restitution, as he was abundantly able to do; while he, at the same time, offered the volunteers cattle for food. This is all that the volunteers have accomplished, with their horses entirely broken down; so much so, that they have called for a fresh relay, or they must abandon the field. They are in no way prepared to follow the Indians. They have no boats with which to cross the Snake or Columbia river. In the spring I will be prepared not only to take the field, but to keep it, with the means of crossing streams that cannot be forded. For myself, I can only say I should have liked very much to have gone into the field immediately after my arrival at Vancouver; but it was impossible from the crippled condition of my command; and, before I could obtain the means necessary to transport supplies, the cold weather set in and closed the navigation of the Columbia river, and cut off all communication with the Dalles—the only route by which the Indian country could be reached.

The country had been exhausted of its resources by the large amount of supplies called for by Governor Curry. This, as I remarked in a former letter, compelled me to resort to Benicia for horses and mules, and to San Francisco for forage; all which produced delay not anticipated. The winter, however, has been unusually severe, and nothing could have been done beyond establishing a post at Walla-Walla, which I was anxious to do, in order to prevent what has occurred—the attack of the Walla-Wallas by the volunteers,

which has only resulted in increasing the ranks and allies of the Yakamas.

Herewith I enclose a copy of the correspondence with Colonel Thos. J. Henley, superintendent of Indian affairs, relating to the Scott-valley Indians, to which I would ask the attention of the Secretary of War. I also forward a copy of a letter to Governor J. N. Johnson, of California, relative to the calling of volunteers into the service.

The board of officers\* instituted by special orders No. 216, War Department, November 14, 1855, assembled on the 25th instant, but adjourned, postponing its decision until an accurate survey and map could be made of the military reservation. This I have ordered to be completed as soon as practicable.

Captain C. Graham, topographical corps, has not been able to perform any active duty since he joined my staff. I believe there is little or no prospect of his becoming able to do so. It is necessary that topographical officers in this department should be able to perform duty in the field.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

Colonel S. COOPER,  
*Adj't Gen'l U. S. A., Washington City, D. C.*

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HEADQUARTERS, PACIFIC DEPARTMENT,  
*Benicia, February 18, 1856.*

COLONEL: Herewith I transmit a copy of a letter to his excellency I. I. Stevens, of Washington Territory. I request that it may be forwarded to the War Department, with such endorsement as Lieutenant General W. Scott may deem proper.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,  
*Adj't. Gen., Headquarters of the Army, New York.*

[Endorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*New York, March 17, 1856.*

In forwarding this communication, the general-in-chief directs me to say that he highly approves of the views and sentiments expressed by Major General Wool, in his letter to Governor Stevens.

L. THOMAS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

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\*Instituted to determine the site of an arsenal of construction at Benicia.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Benicia, California, February 12, 1856.*

SIR: I received your communications of the 23d of December and 29th January, 1856, on the 6th instant, but too late to reply to them by the return steamer. For the information which it imparts, you have my thanks. When you know my instructions to Colonel George Wright, of the 9th infantry, at Vancouver, you will discover that many of your suggestions have been anticipated. In presenting, however, your plan of campaign, which is a very extended one, you should have recollected that I have neither the resources of a Territory nor the treasury of the United States at my command. Still you may be assured that the war against the Indians will be prosecuted with all the vigor, promptness, and efficiency I am master of, at the same time without *wasting unnecessarily the means and resources at my disposal by untimely and unproductive expeditions.*

With the additional force which recently arrived at Vancouver and at the Dalles, I think I shall be able to bring the war to a close in a few months, provided the extermination of the Indians, which I do not approve of, is not determined on, and private war prevented, and the volunteers withdrawn from the Walla-Walla country.

Whilst I was in Oregon, it was reported to me that many citizens, with a due proportion of volunteers, and two newspapers, advocated the extermination of the Indians. This principle has been acted on, in several instances, without discriminating between enemies and friends, which has been the cause in southern Oregon of sacrificing many innocent and worthy citizens; as in the case of Major Lupton and his party, (volunteers,) who killed twenty-five Indians, eighteen of whom were women and children. These were friendly Indians, on their way to the Indian reservation, where they expected protection from the whites.

This barbarous act is the cause of the present contest in the Rogue River country, and, as Captain Judah, of the United States army, reports, is retaliatory of the conduct of Major Lupton.

By the same mail which brought me your communication I received one, now before me, from a person who I think incapable of misrepresentation, which informs me that the friendly Cayuses are every day menaced with death by Governor Curry's volunteers. The writer says they have despoiled these Indians—who have so nobly followed the advice of Mr. Palmer to remain faithful friends to the Americans—of their provisions. To-day he says these same volunteers, without discipline and without orders, are not yet satisfied with rapine and injustice, and wish to take away the small remnant of animals and provisions left. Every day they run off the horses and cattle of the friendly Indians. These have become indignant, and will not be much longer restrained from resisting conduct so unworthy of the whites, who have made them so many promises to respect and protect them if they remained faithful friends. The writer further says, if the volunteers are not arrested in their brigand actions, the Indians will save themselves by flying to the houses of their relations, the Nez Percés, who have promised them help, and then all the Indians

of Oregon and Washington would join in the common defence. This information is in a great measure confirmed by a person who I am assured enjoys your respect and confidence.

I need not say, although I had previously instructed Colonel Wright to take possession of the Walla-Walla country at the earliest moment practicable, that I directed him to give protection, as soon as he could, to the friendly Cayuses, from the depredations of the volunteers. It is such conduct as here complained of that irritates and greatly increases the ranks of the hostile tribes; and if the Nez Percés join in the war against us, which I hope to prevent, we shall require a much larger force than we now have in Washington and Oregon Territories to resist savage barbarities and to protect the whites.

I have recently sent to Puget's sound two companies of the 9th infantry: these, with the three companies there, will give a force of nearly or quite four hundred regulars, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Casey. This force, with several ships of war in the sound, to which will be added in a few days the United States steamer Massachusetts, it seems to me, if rightly directed, ought to be sufficient to bring to terms two hundred Indian warriors. Captain Keyes, in his last report received, says there are not quite two hundred in arms in that region.

Lieutenant Colonel Casey has been directed to prosecute the war with the greatest vigilance and activity. The gallant Captain Swartwout, who goes in the Massachusetts, commander-in-chief of the naval forces in the sound, will, I am assured, zealously, efficiently, and, I trust, successfully co-operate with Colonel Casey to bring the war to a close.

In regard to the operations east of the Cascade mountains, if Governor Curry's volunteers have not driven the friendly Cayuses and the Nez Percés into the ranks of the hostile tribes, and they should be withdrawn from the Walla-Walla country, I have great hopes that I shall be able to bring the Indians in that region to terms, notwithstanding the volunteers killed the chief, Pu-pu-mux-mux, scalped him, cut off his ears and hands, as reported by the volunteers, and sent them to their friends in Oregon; all this, too, after he met them under a flag of truce, declaring he "was for peace; that he did not wish to fight—that his people did not wish to fight," and that if any of his young men had done wrong he would make restitution; while he at the same time offered the volunteers cattle for food. Such conduct may have caused feelings difficult to overcome. I trust, however, I will be able to do it.

As soon as the war is terminated east of the Cascade mountains, I will be able to send all my disposable forces against the Indians on Rogue river and Puget's sound. It is, however, due to truth to say that at no time were volunteers required, or in any sense of the term necessary, for the defence of the inhabitants of Oregon from the depredations or barbarities of Indians occupying the country east of the Cascade mountains.

Nor was there any circumstance to justify Governor Curry in sending his troops from Oregon to Washington Territory to make war on the Walla-Wallas, from whom the Oregonians had no danger

whatever to apprehend. On this subject, I would refer you to the report of the Secretary of War, dated the 3d December, relating to the affairs of the army, in which he says: "The department at this distance, and in the absence of more definite information, especially in regard to the extent of the combination among the hostile tribes, cannot judge what volunteer reinforcements to the regular troops may be necessary. This is a matter which must be necessarily left to the military commander in the department of the Pacific."

At the conclusion of your communication you say: "It is due to frankness that I should state that I have determined to submit to the department the course taken by the military authorities in disbanding the troops raised in the Territory of Washington for my relief. No effort was made, although the facts were presented both to Major General Wool and Major Rains, to send me assistance. The regular troops were all withdrawn into garrison, and I was left to make my way the best I could, through tribes known to be hostile. It remains to be seen whether the commissioner selected by the President to make treaties with Indians in the interior of the continent is to be ignored, and his safety left to chance."

In your "frankness" and determination to represent me to the department, I trust you will be governed by truth, and truth only. Perhaps it is equally due to frankness on my part to say, that your communication is the first that I have received in relation to yourself, or on any subject whatever, touching the Indian war, from any civil functionary either in Washington or Oregon Territories; and I have received but one from the military, and that was from Colonel Nesmith, who requested me to furnish him with two howitzers, which I refused. I have only to add, that I disbanded no troops raised for your relief, and your communication gave me the first intelligence that any were raised for such a purpose.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,  
*Major General.*

His Excellency ISAAC I. STEVENS,  
*Governor of Washington Territory.*

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*Extract of a letter from Major General John E. Wool, dated*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Benicia, California, February 19, 1856.*

It is my intention to leave for Oregon and Washington Territories by the steamer which will leave on or about the 22d instant—at furthest, in the steamer of the 5th March next; whether or not I shall go on the 22d, will depend on the information I may receive on the arrival of the steamer from Oregon. The winter has been a severe one in the north. As we cannot transport forage to the Indian country, I shall not think of commencing the campaign until we can get grass

for our animals. To attempt to penetrate the Indian country without grass, would be the extreme of folly.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL, *Major General.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.*

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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Benicia, California, March 5, 1856.*

COLONEL: Since my communication by the last steamer, the Rogue-river Indians have attacked the settlements near the mouth of that river, where some twenty whites were killed.

In my communication to Governor Stevens, of Washington, I mentioned the massacre of twenty-five Indians, eighteen of whom were women and children, by Major Lupton and his party. These were friendly Indians, going to the reservation for protection. This was in October last.

Captain Smith, at Fort Lane, reports, 8th January, that, "on the 23d December last, a party of volunteers, unarmed, belonging to a company then stationed on or near Butler creek, made a visit to a camp of friendly Indians on the north side of Rogue river, some fifteen miles from this post, and assured the Indians of the friendly disposition of the whites towards them, and of their desire to live in peace. The object of this visit, on the part of the whites, was to ascertain the strength, position, &c. of the Indian camp; and finding them unarmed, with the exception of a few bows and arrows, marched there on the following night, surrounded the camp, and killed nineteen men, burned their houses and stores, and left the women and children exposed to the severe cold weather. The squaws and children are now at this post suffering severely from frozen limbs.

Old Jake, chief of the same band, with his immediate family, was encamped near Butler creek, on the north side of Rogue river; a party from another company of volunteers paid a similar visit to his camp, and for the same dastardly purpose, and at night surrounded his camp and massacred all the men. The squaws and children from this camp are also here, suffering with frozen limbs. Captain Smith further reports, the 23d of February, that the day before, four hundred friendly Indians set out for the coast reservation, under a strong escort to protect them from the whites, who have threatened not only to kill the Indians, but all who might accompany them. The same information has been communicated to me by Joel Palmer, superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon.

It is such conduct that causes all of our difficulties with the Indians, and is the cause of the recent massacres of the whites. It has become a contest of extermination by both whites and Indians. The number of Indian warriors is not to exceed two hundred, although reported by the citizens to be three hundred. Previous to the massacre of the Indians on the 23d of December last, the number of warriors did not exceed one hundred.

I have now in southern Oregon and northern California six companies, stationed at Fort Orford, Crescent City, Humboldt, Forts Lane and Jones. I have ordered Captain Ord's company to Crescent City, and Major Wyse from Fort Reading, to Fort Lane; which altogether, with recruits to fill up the companies, will make a force of six hundred and fifty rank and file. I shall proceed in the steamer which leaves on the 6th instant, to visit Crescent City and Fort Orford, to give such orders as may be necessary, and shall then proceed to Vancouver, when, if they are required, I will order an additional force to the Rogue River country.

Herewith I enclose a copy of a letter to Governor Johnson, of California, which I sent to him on yesterday afternoon, and which is in reply to a letter from the governor, relating to the calling out of volunteers. The letter explains itself.

I have only to add, that if we could get rid of the volunteers, I should soon be able to bring the war to a close.

Please forward this communication to the Secretary of War.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,

*Major General.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York city.*

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,  
*Benicia, California, March 4, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, relative to the calling out of volunteers for the defence of the northern frontier of California, and especially for the citizens of Crescent City and its vicinity. In reply, I would remark that I do not think there is the slightest necessity for any such call. There is no Indian war in California at the present time, and I do not believe there will be, unless unnecessarily provoked. To guard and protect the citizens of Crescent City, I have now fifty men under Captain D. Floyd-Jones. I will send up on the steamship Columbia, which will leave on the 6th instant, 20 men to fill up that company, and Captain Ord's company, 70 strong. I have also ordered Brevet Major Wyse's company, 70 strong, to proceed with all possible despatch to Fort Lane. Altogether, I will have on the southern frontier of Oregon in a few days, at different points, eight companies; making an aggregate force of six hundred and fifty rank and file.

But a short time since it was reported that there were but one hundred warriors in arms against the whites. It is now reported that in the recent massacre of the whites there were three hundred. This is the largest number I have heard of, from any quarter, as being in the field. If, however, the force already, and which will be in the field in the course of a few days, is not sufficient to conquer the Indians in southern Oregon, I will, as soon as I arrive at Vancouver,

to which point I propose to proceed on the 6th instant, send an additional force from that post by the return of the steamer Columbia.

In conclusion, on this subject of calling out volunteers, I would refer you to the report of the Secretary of War, recently made to the President of the United States, and with his message laid before the present Congress.

He says, in substance, in his remarks, that the calling out of volunteers to act with the regulars will necessarily be discretionary with the commander of the department of the Pacific.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
JOHN E. WOOL.

His Excellency J. N. JOHNSON,  
*Governor of California.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, April 16, 1856.*

SIR: To enable you to answer a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 31st ultimo, calling for all official letters and other information in your possession not already communicated to Congress in your last annual message, touching the origin, progress, and present condition of Indian hostilities in the Territories of Oregon and Washington, and also the measures which have been adopted to preserve peace and to protect the inhabitants of said Territories, I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 15th instant, and accompanying papers, numbered 1 to 54, inclusive, containing all the information which this Department is enabled to furnish in relation to the subject.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,  
R. McCLELLAND,  
*Secretary.*

To the PRESIDENT.

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*List of papers sent by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives of March 31, 1856.*

Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior, of April 15, 1856, enclosing—

1. Letter of Captain Cain to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of October 6, 1855.
2. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Captain Cain, of October 3, 1855.
3. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of October 9, 1855.
4. Letter of agent Thompson to superintendent Palmer, of September 28, 1855.

5. Report of agent Ambrose, of September 30, 1855.
6. "Oregon Weekly Times," extra.
7. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of October 16, 1855.
8. Copy of superintendent Palmer's regulations for direction of agents.
9. Letter of agent Thompson to superintendent Palmer, of October 8, 1855.
10. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of October 19, 1855.
11. Letter of agent Thompson to superintendent Palmer.
12. Exhibits A, B, C.—The first two being letters of Olney, the third of Thompson.
13. Letter of E. R. Geary to superintendent Palmer.
14. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of October 25, 1855.
15. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of November 12, 1855.
16. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of November 13, 1855.
- 17, 18, 19, 20. Letters of agent Ambrose to superintendent Palmer, of October 20, 28, 31, and of November 4, 1855.
21. Letter of sub-agent Drew to superintendent Palmer, of October 30, 1855.
22. Letter of R. W. Dunbar to superintendent Palmer, of October 19, 1855.
23. Report of agent Olney, of August 31, 1855.
24. Letter of Captain Cain to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of November 22, 1855.
25. Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs to Secretary of the Interior, of November 8, 1856.
26. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of January 8, 1856.
27. Letter of agent Thompson to superintendent Palmer, of November 10, 1855.
28. Letter of superintendent Palmer to agent Thompson, of December 10, 1855.
29. Letter of agent Olney to superintendent Palmer, of November 22, 1855.
30. Letter of Narcisse Raymond to agent Olney, of November 14, 1855.
31. Letter of superintendent Palmer to agent Olney, of December 12, 1855.
32. Extract from "Weekly Times."
33. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of January 9, 1856.
34. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Major General Wool, of November 1, 1855.
35. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Major General Wool, of November 21, 1855.
36. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of January 14, 1856.

37. Letter of agent Ambrose to superintendent Palmer, of November 11, 1855.
38. Letter of agent Ambrose to superintendent Palmer, of November 14, 1855.
39. Letter of agent Ambrose to superintendent Palmer, of November 22, 1855.
40. Letter of agent Ambrose to superintendent Palmer, of November 30, 1855.
41. Letter of agent Ambrose to superintendent Palmer, of December 2, 1855.
42. Letter of agent Olney to superintendent Palmer, of November 30, 1855.
43. Letter of agent Olney to superintendent Palmer, of December 8, 1855.
44. Letter of agent Thompson to superintendent Palmer, of November 15, 1855.
45. Letter of agent Thompson to superintendent Palmer, of November 19, 1855.
46. Letter of agent Thompson to superintendent Palmer, of November 19, 1855.
47. Letter of sub-agent Drew to superintendent Palmer, of December 3, 1855.
48. Letter of R. W. Dunbar to superintendent Palmer, of November 4, 1855.
49. Letter of Benjamin Wright to Major Reynolds, of November 5, 1855.
50. Letter of Thomas H. Smith to superintendent Palmer, of November 25, 1855.
51. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of January 26, 1856.
52. Letter of superintendent Palmer to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of January 22, 1856.
53. Memorial of Democratic members of Oregon legislature to the President.
54. Message of the President, of March 5, 1856, with accompanying papers, being—
  1. Letter of the Secretary of the Interior to the President.
  2. Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior.
  3. Letter of Governor Stevens to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of December 22, 1855.
  4. Letter of Governor Stevens to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of January 29, 1856.
  5. Report of Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the Secretary of the Interior, of December 1, 1855.
  6. Letter of Commissioner of Indian Affairs to superintendent Palmer, of December 4, 1855.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office of Indian Affairs, April 15, 1856.*

SIR: In compliance with your direction of the 5th instant, when sending down a resolution of the House of Representatives, wherein the President is requested to communicate all official letters and other information in his possession, not already communicated to Congress in his last annual message, touching the origin, progress, and present condition of Indian hostilities in the Territories of Oregon and Washington, and also the measures which have been adopted to preserve peace and to protect the inhabitants of said Territories, I have the honor herewith to transmit the information desired, so far as the same is furnished by the files of this office.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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No. 1.

VANCOUVER, W. T., *October 6, 1855.*

SIR: We are on the eve of an Indian war; how far it may extend, or how long it may last, are at present but questions of vague conjecture.

I send you herewith by this mail copies of the Oregonian and Weekly Times, containing all the reports and rumors that are in circulation, deeming that from them you will obtain the most full and complete account of the existing state of Indian affairs in this quarter.

I regret to inform the department of the death of sub-agent Boland; the particulars of his death are contained in a letter from General Palmer to myself, a copy of which is herewith enclosed. Mr. Boland was a most excellent and efficient agent. The Indian service has lost an officer not easily to be replaced. He has fallen fearlessly in the discharge of his duty, and it is to be hoped will be amply avenged. While in camp in the Spokane country, awaiting the return of Governor Stevens from the Blackfeet council, he was informed by Spokane Garry, the chief of the Spokanes, that the Yakamas had killed eight white men on their way to the Pend d'Oreille mines, and that they intended to wage war against the whites. He determined immediately to proceed to the Yakama country and ascertain the truth of the reports. He accordingly proceeded to the Dalles, and on Tuesday, September 18, left for the Catholic Mission in the Yakama; since which nothing was heard from him till the news of his death was brought in by an Indian despatched by agent Olney, of Oregon, to ascertain his fate.

As soon as information arrived of the hostility of the Indians, acting Governor Mason made a requisition on the military posts at Steilacoom and Vancouver for troops at once to be put in the field to quell the disturbance. Captain Maloney, the commanding officer at

Steilacoom, at once despatched Lieutenant Slaughter with a force of fifty men. Major Rains, commanding at Fort Vancouver, sent orders to Major Haller, at the Dalles, who promptly left with a command of one hundred men and a mountain howitzer for the scene of hostilities. Lieutenant Slaughter will cross the Cascade mountains by the Nahcenas pass, and unite with Major Haller. It is to be hoped that the force will prove sufficiently strong to inflict a severe punishment upon the Indians, and thus check the war at the outstart. Should such not be the case, it is much to be apprehended that they will be joined by a large portion of the Walla-Wallas, Pelouses, and Cayuses, all of whom are turbulent.

The Yakamas and Klickatats, from all the information that can be obtained, have at present in the field about six hundred warriors.

It is only by the most active and energetic means that a protracted Indian war will be prevented. The settlers in every direction are alarmed; the whole country is in a state of extreme excitement.

I shall despatch an express to-morrow to Governor Stevens, to inform him of the state of affairs. I regret his absence, as his thorough knowledge of the Indians, his great influence over them, and his untiring energy would be of much service in the present crisis.

I attribute the cause of the outbreaks amongst the Yakamas and Klickatats to the rumors that have been afloat, and obtained credence amongst the Indians, that Governor Stevens and his party had been massacred by the Blackfeet, and Major Haller and his command had been defeated by the Snakes, in his recent expedition against them. Believing that the whites were about to be overthrown in every direction, and having for some time been disaffected towards them, they deemed that the proper moment had arrived to gratify their enmity.

I have appointed B. T. Shaw, who has been for some time connected with the Indian department in this Territory, special Indian agent, in place of Mr. Boland, who at the time of his death had been assigned to the Yakama agency, and submit the same to the approval of the department. Mr. Shaw left two days since, to join Major Haller.

Mr. Crosbie, of Governor Stevens's party, under instructions of the governor, of which the department, I believe, is advised, has just arrived from Fort Benton, and will return on Monday, to take charge of the camp and the Indian goods and supplies in the Spokane country.

Very respectfully,

J. CAIN,

*Acting Supt. Indian Affairs, Washington Territory.*

HON. G. W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington.*

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No. 2.

DALLES, October 3, 1855.

DEAR SIR: There can no longer be any doubt as to the hostile intention of the Yakamas and Klickatats, nor can there be of agent Boland's death, and that he was killed by direction of Kamiakin. He was shot by the son of Showahway, and then by the aid of three others

seized, and his throat cut. They then shot his horse, and made a fire over both and burned them up. Word was then conveyed to all the surrounding bands, informing them of what had been done, and requesting them to unite with them in hostilities against the whites; and if they declined such invitation, they would be treated as enemies, and their children made slaves of. This invitation has been generally declined; but individual members of the several bands have joined them. This information I received this morning from the chief of the Wacoos, and I feel quite satisfied of its correctness. The Klickatats, he tells me, are divided; the greater portion of those recently returned from the Umqua and Willamette valley having joined the Yakamas, whilst a majority of those heretofore residing in the country have declined to do so.

Reports are in circulation, going to show an unfriendly feeling on the part of the Des Chutes bands of Indians, as also those of the Walla-Wallas and Cayuses; but as yet it lacks confirmation. I think we will be able to keep them quiet.

An Indian by the name of Tum-e-tas, who was recently arrested and placed in the guard-house at Vancouver, is represented as being acting in concert with Kamiakin and Skloo, a band over which he acts as chief, and only awaiting his return to unite with the disaffected or war party. It would be well to keep him in custody.

Major Haller, with his command of 100, is on the eve of marching, having crossed the river last evening. He will, I think, remain till morning, as it is doubtful whether he can reach camp, starting so late in the day. Do not fail to retain in custody Tum-e-tas.

It might be well, if practicable, for you to come up, that we might jointly adopt measures to prevent a combination of the various tribes. A defeat in our first engagement with these bands would undoubtedly swell their numbers one hundred per cent., and I feel a good deal of solicitation on that account.

Major Haller's command are mostly recruits, but in a fair fight they will be able for three times their number. I am of opinion they may, at the start, bring into the field five hundred warriors, and if our troops should be repulsed we may expect a protracted war.

In haste, I am, sir, respectfully yours,

JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

CAPTAIN CAIN,  
*Indian Agent, Vancouver, Washington Territory.*

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No. 3.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., October 9, 1855.*

SIR: A letter from this office of the 3d instant advised you of the reported murder of agent Boland, of Washington Territory, and seventeen other white persons, and of my departure for the Dalles with a view of preventing combinations against the peace of the country.

I reached the Dalles of the Columbia on the 2d instant. Messengers had been sent to the Yakama Mission, to obtain tidings, if possible, of Mr. Boland. Soon after my arrival, one of these messengers returned with a letter from Father Bruien, of that Mission, stating that Mr. Boland arrived at the Mission at one o'clock p. m., on Sunday the 23d September, and left there in about two hours afterwards for the Dalles, accompanied by a nephew of Kamiakin, the head chief of the Yakama nation; since which time he had heard nothing of him.

He further stated that, upon the return of the Yakama India from the Walla-Walla council, their principal theme of conversation had been a war with the Americans, and that during the month of September but few Indians had been about the Mission; that an Indian had arrived at his Mission two hours previous to his writing, informing him that the whites had killed Father Mendoza and three Indians. He had heard of no other murders.

The messenger conveying the letters to and from the Yakama Mission is a chief of one of the Des Chutes bands of Walla-Wallas, and is regarded as reliable by those acquainted with him. He says that when near the Mission he was met by Kamiakin, the head chief, who seized and wrested from him his gun, and stood for some time in the attitude of firing upon him. Finally he inquired where he was going. When told to the Mission, with a letter to the father inquiring after his health, as he had been sick, he then asked whether he was a friend to the father, which being answered affirmatively, the chief ceased his menacing attitude and extended his hand. Kamiakin then told him to accompany him to his lodge, and in the morning he would accompany him to the Mission, which he did. During the night the chief stated to the messenger that his people had determined upon a war with the Americans, and that they would continue that war for five years if necessary; that no Americans (Bostons as he called them) should be permitted to come into their country; that they had killed Boland, and would kill all who came among them; that they had invited all the tribes to unite with them, and had threatened, if they refused, to treat them in the same manner as Americans; that they would kill all the adults and make slaves of their children, and that when they had secured their country they would give it to whomsoever they chose.

These statements were corroborated by the report of another messenger, a chief sent out by Major Haller; he, after meeting with several leading Indians with whom he was well acquainted, learned that they were on their way to join the hostile bands. He was compelled to use a good deal of stratagem to get clear of them, they having resolved on taking his life, on account of his being friendly with the Americans.

This messenger had also had an interview with Kamiakin, from whom he received a pressing invitation to join them in hostilities against the Americans.

The chief sent a message by him to agent Olney, whom he regarded, he said, as a son, requesting him not to come into their country, or fight against his people.

Runners have been sent by the Yakamas to all the tribes and bands around, offering them inducements to join them, and threatening, in the event of a refusal, to exterminate the male adults and make slaves of their wives and children. Some could not resist the temptation of the promised rewards, while a fear of the fate threatened had its effect upon others; and, it is believed, that by the accession of individuals from the various bands, the hostile tribes will be able to bring into the field a force of six hundred well-armed warriors.

They have evidently sought to cut off all communication between them and the settlements, but how far they intend carrying their hostility can only be conjectured; the information thus far being chiefly derived from Indians. But that information establishes, beyond any doubt, the death, by the hands of the hostile Indians, of Mr. Boland and three others.

Reports, generally believed by the surrounding tribes, are current that they have murdered forty-five Americans—first, a party of six miners; next, a party of eleven miners; and afterwards, in different parties, twenty-eight others.

Lieutenant Slaughter, with a command of 40 United States troops, was sent out from Fort Steilacoom immediately after the receipt of the intelligence that three men had been killed at the Nahchess pass, and a few days afterwards, on learning of Mr. Boland's death and reports of other murders, Major Haller, with a hundred infantry, crossed the Columbia at the Dalles, and proceeded to the Yakama country, intending to effect a junction with Lieutenant Slaughter on the Yakama river. Their intended route was by way of the Catholic Mission, situated sixty miles north of the Dalles. They marched on the 3d instant, since when nothing has been heard from them. One-half of the command were mounted on mules and Indian ponies, the rest on foot.

Those mounted were unaccustomed to cavalry or dragoon service, and almost all new recruits; it is doubtful whether they will make such an impression upon the enemy as will be likely to deter them from acts of aggression. A mountain-howitzer, however, packed with its accompaniments on mules, may, where the ground is favorable, keep the enemy at bay. But, from the known character for bravery and sagacity of these Indians, I entertain serious apprehensions for the safety of both these detachments; in fact, Indian reports reached the Dalles on the 4th instant, that a party of forty soldiers had been cut off by the enemy while crossing a stream, but the rumor was discredited.

I visited all the bands along the Columbia river, from the Cascade falls to the Des Chutes river; obtained their pledge of fidelity and adherence to the treaty; sent messengers to more distant bands; gave directions for all friendly Indians, residing adjacent to the Columbia on the north, to cross to the south side, and to secure all canoes by which the enemy might cross over.

Agent N. Olney, who has recently returned from the Snake country with the troops, was despatched to the Walla-Wallas, Cayuses, and Umatillas, with instructions to remain among them till matters were quiet, if he deemed it necessary to their rejection of the overtures

made them by the hostile bands to unite against us. Mr. Olney deemed it impracticable to remain in the Snake country, and effect any good results, in the absence of a military force, and returned to the Dalles for further instructions. Owing to the excited feelings of the Indians in Mr. Thompson's district, and the apprehension that these bands might be drawn into a hostile attitude, and the necessity for an agent on the Umatilla, as well as in the vicinity of the Dalles, I have directed Mr. Olney to aid Mr. Thompson in his district until quiet is restored.

There are several causes from which may be drawn reasons inducing the present state of disaffection among the Indians in Washington Territory, among which may be named the following: The Yakama Indians were represented in the Walla-Walla council by four of their principal chiefs, accompanied by a number of their leading men, all evidently at first opposed to entering into any negotiations for the sale of their country. After more than two weeks had been spent in trying to convince them of the importance and necessity of such a course in open council, they gave a decided and peremptory answer in the negative. But during the next week, by interviews with the chiefs separately, Governor Stevens induced them to agree to the terms of the treaty; and Kamiakin, who is declared by the treaty head chief of all the tribes and bands included in that purchase, came forward and signed the treaty, followed by the other chiefs. The head chief, however, stated at the time that he would not receive any of the goods promised, but that his people might take them.

It is pretty evident that the signing of the treaty was adverse to the will of the nation, as expressed prior to the delegation's coming to the council, and that on the return of the chiefs they were beset by their people and denounced as traitors to their tribe. Two of the chiefs, Owhi and Skloo, evidently signed the treaty with great reluctance, and, after returning home and meeting with their friends, were easily induced to join in opposition to adhering to its provisions.

The Klickatats tribe, whose country is included within the limits of this purchase, had declined attending the council, and were not represented by any of their tribe; and upon the return of these Yakama chiefs and people from the council, it is said the Klickatats were much enraged at the sale of their country without their knowledge or consent, and declared they would not abide by an agreement in which they had no voice.

A considerable number of their people had been for many years residents in the Willamette and Umqua valleys, still claiming allegiance to, and regarding the Klickatats country as their home, and avowing their intention of returning at an early day, upon the consummation of the treaty and designation of a reservation for their tribe.

I requested these Klickatats to return to their homes. This I deemed proper, inasmuch as treaties had been perfected with the tribes of the Willamette and Umqua valleys, and from the constant annoyance to which the settlers were subjected from the presence of the Klickatats among them. They have in general large bands of horses, and, owing to the drought and the ravages of the grasshoppers destroying the grass, they were regarded as a grievance, for the removal

of which I was repeatedly petitioned by the settlers. Some left the Territory quietly, and appeared satisfied; while others evinced a bad feeling; and, I am told, sought to produce a similar spirit among the Indians throughout the country.

Some of them still remaining, as well as those already gone, have solicited the Indians of this valley to break from the obligations of the treaty; and, in fact, many exerted their utmost influence to prevent the consummation of the negotiations. The Klickatats from this Territory, with their boasted knowledge of the manners and customs of the whites, derived from their long residence among them, swelled the number, and increased the disaffection among those seeking to repudiate the acts of the Yakamas. The immigration of persons into their country seeking locations for settlements, immediately after the treaty, and before any resulting visible advantages, alarmed them, and placed an additional argument in the mouths of the opposers of the treaty. The rush of miners through their country to the reported rich gold deposits near Fort Colville tended greatly to augment the excitement, for they were not always over-scrupulous in regard to the rights and property of the Indians; and, besides, they were told that the value of their country was greatly enhanced by the discovery of gold so near them.

These causes, and many others, tended to awaken a doubt in the minds of those Indians of the correctness of their acts in signing the treaty. Most of the causes here set forth are equally applicable to all the tribes treated with east of the Cascade mountains; and, should the hostile bands be successful in their first efforts against our troops, we may expect great accessions to the number of our enemies from among the bands south of the Columbia.

Enclosed herewith you will find the report of George H. Ambrose, Indian agent, for the month of September; and also a letter from agent R. R. Thompson.

It appears from agent Ambrose's statement, that but little progress in improving the condition of the Indians on Table-rock reservation has been made, or can be hoped for, so long as a few lawless remnants of bands infest the country. Nothing short of a peremptory order, requiring every Indian belonging thereto to remain constantly upon the reservation, and declaring every Indian found outside an outlaw, will secure peace and order in that community.

I am by no means convinced that all the aggressions reputed to have been committed by Indians are chargeable to them. There are in these mining districts murderers, robbers, horse-thieves, and vagabonds congregated from all parts of the world. Driven frequently from among the settlers and miners, they are compelled to take shelter among the Indians, where the most unwarrantable excesses are indulged in, not only against the bands with whom they associate, but against neighboring tribes; and, by combining with the more reckless of the Indians, they are enabled to carry out their plans of annoying the settlers.

There is reason to believe that very many of the murders and robberies committed in the south of Oregon and northern California within the last three years have been instigated by these miscreants,

or actually perpetrated by them, and, by their management, the suspicion of guilt fastened on the Indians.

Thus, whole communities are thrown into commotion, and the heavy hand of vengeance made to fall upon the natives, frequently for wrongs they have never perpetrated. One result of this state of affairs is to augment the strength of the lawless bands infesting the mountainous region between Rogue River valley and the Klamath, as desperation drives one and another of the Indians from the settlement, by the wrongs and cruelties of which they or their relatives are made the victims.

The heart sickens at the existing condition of affairs in southern Oregon, and there is little hope of a change for the better so long as Indians and whites are permitted to mingle. The proximity of the reservation to the settlements renders the prevention of petty thefts by the Indians of the property of the whites wellnigh impossible; but whether a suitable location, more remote, can be selected, is doubtful. Could peace be maintained till the arrival of tools and materials for constructing buildings and making other improvements on the reservation, we might then interest them in the work, and possibly arrest their further aggressions. The crisis of the destiny of the Indian race in Oregon and Washington Territories is now upon us; and the result of the causes now operating, unless speedily arrested, will be disastrous to the whites, destructive to the Indians, and a heavy reproach upon our national character. Much of the present difficulty is traceable to the mistaken policy of permitting the settlement of this country prior to the extinguishment of the Indian title and the designation of proper reservations. This mistake might now be partially remedied by the immediate gathering of the Indian population on their several reservations; to do which, and make the proper provisions for their comfort, would involve an expense less than that of six months of a two years' war, which must inevitably follow, as I believe, their present situation and a failure to provide for their wants.

The expenditure of thirty-five thousand dollars upon the coast reservation, in erecting buildings, opening roads, and in removing, clothing, and subsisting the coast tribes south of Umqua, during the coming winter, would secure peace in that quarter.

Twenty thousand in like manner on Table-rock reserve, in addition to other appropriations, would effect the same result in that district; and twenty-five thousand on Umatilla and twenty thousand on Wasco reservation would insure the peace of middle Oregon.

With the Willamette and Umqua Indians we have no fear of war; but measures should be taken to erect buildings and open roads to the tracts selected for these tribes. The delay in the shipment of tools and materials from the eastern markets, for the various objects in this superintendency, is a serious obstacle to carrying out the provisions of the treaty; and as such articles may now be purchased at reasonable rates on this coast, I think it would be well to

give discretionary power for their purchase here or in California, when deemed advisable.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,  
JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

HON. GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs,*  
*Washington City, D. C.*

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No. 4.

AGENCY OFFICE,  
*Dalles, September 28, 1855.*

SIR: We are at this time in painful suspense as to the fate of sub-agent Boland, of Washington Territory. Some time since it was rumored, and confidently believed by many, that several of our citizens had been murdered by the Yakama tribe of Indians. With a view to ascertain the truth or falsity of these rumors, Mr. Boland left this place for the Catholic Mission on the Yakama, some ten days ago, stating, at the time he left, that he would return in three days; but since which time nothing has been heard from him except Indian reports that he is killed. The reports are made by friendly Indians to the effect that the Yakamas, under the control of Skloo, are determined to make war on the whites, and overtures have been made to the tribes and bands in this vicinity to join him, which were, as I am informed by the Indians, promptly and unqualifiedly refused. The plan of operations is said to be, first to attack and destroy Mr. Joslyn and family, who reside at White Salmon river, Washington Territory, twenty miles below this place, to take his stock, and make a large feast, that their hearts may be made strong. They are then to make a descent upon the people at the Cascades, and cut off the communication with the Dalles; after which they are to destroy the people at the Dalles, together with all they may find in the country. A rumor reached here yesterday, which runs thus: that Mr. Boland reached the Catholic Mission on the Yakama, and was midway on his return, when he was overtaken by three or four Indians, who seized and bound him, and subsequently put him to death by cutting his throat. This rumor was brought in by a squaw, who lives on the Des Chutes river; she represents that she was in the country on the north side of the Columbia river, engaged in gathering berries, and was about to return home, when seen by the Yakamas; they made her prisoner and detained her two days and nights, when, finding an opportunity in the night, she eluded them and made her escape. She further states that they are detaining all who are suspected of sympathizing with the whites.

These are but a tithe of the many rumors afloat in this community, and, as would be naturally expected, have caused general and intense excitement, not only with our own citizens, but also with the friendly Indians.

I have had an interview with the chief of the Umatillas, who represents all peace and quiet in his country; also with the chiefs of tribes and bands in this vicinity, and, unless very much deceived, this hostile movement is confined exclusively to the north side of the Columbia river.

The proper steps have been taken to ascertain the facts in regard to these rumors, and the military stand in readiness to move in any direction circumstances may demand.

Since writing the foregoing, I have seen and conversed with Mr. Brook, of the firm of Brook, Bomford, & Co., who live in the Walla-Walla valley; he represents the Indians quiet in that region, but thinks there is some dissatisfaction on the part of the Cayuses and Walla-Wallas with the extent of their reservation; they claim that it is too small, also that Pu-pu-mux-mux claims that he did not sell that portion of his country lying north of the Tusha, east of the Walla-Walla, and south and west of the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Major Haller, with one hundred men, starts for the Yakama country to-morrow, October 1st. Sentinels are kept at the crossings of the Columbia; also at the ferry on Des Chutes river, which latter place has been threatened with destruction.

The Tiach Indians are much frightened, in consequence of the many deaths that have occurred since the treaty, which they attribute to disease having been placed in the goods presented to them. They have left the Tiach plain, and say they will no longer live on it.

Agent Olney returned with the troops. I have not yet seen him.

Twenty-two or three emigrant wagons are on the road between here and *Grande Ronde*. They are from Missouri, and are going to Washington Territory.

Something definite will be known in a few days, in regard to these troubles, and as soon as I have anything reliable I will write you.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. THOMPSON,

*Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 5.

OFFICE INDIAN AGENT,  
*Rogue River Valley, O. T., September 30, 1855.*

SIR: In reviewing the affairs of this agency for the past month, I am forced to the conclusion that the prospects of peace are anything but flattering. The month has been passed in one continued series of aggressions; although, taken singly, each item in itself appears small, but in the aggregate the sum total presents a formidable appearance. It would seem as though they had studied how far they can go with impunity, and seemingly have endeavored to go no farther. I think nearly or quite all of the mischief that has been done was perpetrated

by a few Shastas and Scotans. The settlers' patience has become exhausted; they are quite irritable, and will not bear the least offence from an Indian any longer; petitions are handed me weekly, and in some instances, I may say, almost daily. One day a theft has been committed in one portion of the valley, in a few days another and different part of the valley. The thefts are quite small, as a general thing, not amounting to more than four or five dollars; in some instances, a gun; another, some powder or lead, or both; again, a miner's cabin will be broken open, and his little stock of provisions taken. It must be borne in mind that our frontier settlers are, many of them, bachelors, and when they are absent from their houses at work, no one is left to guard what they may own; and not unfrequently, when they return from their work at night, do they find their little stock of provisions minus; it has been abstracted during their absence by Mr. Indian crawling down the chimney, or knocking a board off and crawling through a crack. In most instances, the houses are of rude logs, and not very securely fastened, which offers a temptation to Indians hard for them to resist, especially when we consider they have been trained to steal from their infancy. After a repetition of the thefts a few times, and the individual, after a hard day's work, has had to walk two or three miles to get his supper and lay in another small lot of provisions, which in a few days may probably go the same way, he gets peevish and angry, and embittered against the Indian race, and would about as soon shoot an Indian as eat his supper.

In order that you may form a better idea of what is going on, I will give you a brief of last week's work: On Monday, I was called upon by Mr. Hamilton, who lives twelve miles below here on the river; his house had been entered in his absence, and its contents abstracted, amounting to eight or ten dollars' worth; from there I was called to Mr. Shough's, whose house had been entered, and six shirts, half a sack of flour, and one chopping-axe purloined; next, I was called to Mr. Tuff's, who had three head of cattle shot, from appearances, by a revolver; none of the cattle were killed, but some of them badly wounded, apparently done in sheer wantonness; next, to Mr. Gilbert's, whose house was entered through the chimney whilst he was in his field at work, robbed of a sack of sugar, sack of flour, small quantity of bacon, and a pair of boots; saw the Indians break and run at his approach—was not near enough to recognise any of them; next comes Mr. Walker's, whose house was robbed of a pair of boots, one pair of blankets, one pair of pants; from there to Mr. Vannoy's, who had a lot of rails burned in the woods, the grass fired near his fence several times; had to be constantly on the lookout to prevent being burned up; does not suppose the Indians fired the rails, but in wantonness fired the woods, which soon extended to the rails and burned them; and this is but one week's work. Grievances of a similar character are constantly pouring in upon me from every side; and in all these numerous instances, not an Indian can be found who is guilty of any of the above acts. One band lays the charge to some other band; they, in return, charge it upon some other band; and so it goes from one to another, and all go unpunished. The loss sustained by any one indi-

vidual being quite small, he does not care to spend time to ferret it out ; and if he did, I know of no way by which he could do so. All of this mischief, you will observe, was committed in the neighborhood of Mr. Vannoy's, the country occupied by George and Limpa's people ; but in justice to them, I will say, I do not believe they knew anything of the matter, yet they have all the blame to bear. From what I can learn, I believe it to have been done by some of old John's people, and some Scotans, of whom I informed you some time since of their leaving the reserve. John's people are constantly passing to and fro from the reserve to the Scotans, who are camped somewhere in the coast range of mountains, and the lower Rogue-river Indians about Gallice creek. I have failed in every instance to bring the offenders to justice ; they seem to take no interest in the affairs of the reserve, nor do I believe they will stay on it much longer. From the frequent occurrence of these petty offences, the patience of the settlers of the valley has become worn and thread-bare, and I expect daily to hear of an Indian being shot ; should one pass by the vicinity of some house about the time of its being robbed, I have no doubt he would be shot upon suspicion. The idea is quite prevalent among the white population that there is a combination among all the Indians, and the chiefs, instead of trying to control it, connive at it ; which is certainly not the case. I do not believe it is in the power of the chiefs to control it ; I entertain the opinion that this little band of Shastas and Scotans do all or nearly all the mischief that is done, in pure wantonness, alike thoughtless and regardless of consequences, and with the impression they can charge it to some other Indians, as the mischief is usually done near the camp of some quiet Indians to whom no theft had been alleged for many months prior to the bringing these bands of Shastas and Scotans on the reserve. It is with difficulty that hands can be procured who will labor on the reserve ; they are in constant dread of their lives being taken ; nor do I believe the matter will be bettered, so long as the Shastas are permitted to remain here. I really fear they will plunge the whole country in a war, if some stop is not speedily put to their numerous little thefts ; already the people talk of waging a war of extermination, and calling upon the citizens of Yuka for assistance, which, if they should do, would be quickly granted them, for they are ready at any and all times for an Indian fight. Sam's people, doubtless, desire peace and to remain on the reserve ; they have not left it the past summer, nor have they taken part in any difficulty, or been engaged in any thefts that I can ascertain ; though from Sam's previous reputation, they are charged with nearly everything that is done ; at any rate, say they, he knows it, and no doubt some of his people help. The fact of charging crimes upon innocent Indians, and those desiring to remain friendly, has the worst possible effect ; it impairs their confidence in our people ; they have no guaranty of safety, be their conduct what it may ; nothing to stimulate them to do right ; in fact, its tendency is to drive them all into that same channel of vice and crime. After the massacre of those men on the Klamath, not a single Indian who was concerned in that affair has yet been punished ; yet quite a number have been killed, and some of them belonged to a different band. If that policy should be carried out here, it remains

yet to be seen what will be the consequences. On Tuesday last, the 25th instant, two men were killed by the Indians near the summit of the Sciskeyou mountains; the men were teaming, hauling flour to Yuka, and were unarmed at the time; there were four in company; two escaped unhurt; they were fired upon by some Indians in ambush; the two men and thirteen head of cattle were killed and left dead in the road. Six sacks of flour were missing; nothing else was disturbed. The next day, on Cotton-wood, a party of three men, miners, were fired upon by some Indians; one was killed, one wounded, the third escaped unhurt. Captain Smith started a detachment of dragoons immediately after them. I am satisfied those murders were not perpetrated by any Indians belonging to this reserve. I believe it to have been done by those same Indians with whom a party of white men had a difficulty, a few weeks ago, a few miles east of the mountain house, an account of which I wrote you at the time; they were Shastas, and "Lypsee Lee's" people, beyond a doubt.

For the pecuniary condition of this agency, I must refer you to my quarterly returns; the amount of labor, number of hands, and the occupation of different ones, progress, &c. of work on the reserve, you will see in an abstract accompanying this report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. H. AMBROSE,  
*Indian Agent.*

General PALMER,  
*Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 6.

OREGON WEEKLY TIMES—EXTRA.

LATER NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

*General Indian hostilities!—Agent Ambrose's letter:*

PORTLAND, *Sunday, October 21, 1855—3 p. m.*

Since the issue of our extra at four o'clock yesterday, later and more reliable intelligence has to-day been received from southern Oregon relative to the Indian hostilities in the south. We are indebted to General Palmer, superintendent of Indian affairs, for a copy of the following letter from George H. Ambrose, Indian agent for Rogue River valley, detailing the true state of affairs within his district:

OFFICE OF INDIAN AGENT,  
*Rogue River Valley, O. T., October 9, 1855.*

SIR: Whilst engaged in writing you a few lines yesterday morning, I received a message from Captain Smith, informing me that the volunteers had made a descent upon a small band of Indians camped about two miles from Fort Lane, in which several Indians were killed.

H. Ex. Doc. 93—5

I immediately repaired to the scene of action, and found that Sambo's band of Indians had been attacked just at the break of day, simultaneous with an attack upon Jake's people, who were camped about half a mile above Thompson's ferry, (better known to you by the name of Camp Alden,) on the bank of the river. Captain Smith sent a detachment of dragoons to inform themselves of the nature of the difficulty, and to see what had been done. Upon arriving at Sambo's camp we found two dead women; one had died a natural death, and one had recently been shot. I learned from Sambo that one woman was slightly wounded, and that two boys had been wounded, each shot in the arm. They were all taken to Fort Lane and provided for.

We then proceeded to Jake's camp, where we found twenty-three dead bodies; and a boy who escaped said he saw two women floating down the river; and it is quite probable several more were killed whose bodies were not found. I had apprehended danger, and had so informed the Indians several days previous, and Captain Smith had notified the Indians that if they wanted protection they had to come on to the reserves or to Fort Lane. It seems, from their statements, that they had concluded to go on the reserve, and had accordingly started on Sunday evening, leaving the old men and women behind to follow on Monday. In the meantime this attack was made, quite early in the morning, which resulted as above stated. There were found killed eight men, four of whom were very aged, and fifteen women and children, all belonging to Jake's band. The attack was so early in the morning, it is more than probable that the women were undistinguishable from the men.

Upon the part of the whites, James Lupton, the captain of the company, received a mortal wound, from the effects of which he has since died, and a young man by the name of Shepherd is supposed to be mortally wounded; several others slightly.

The night following this affair the Indians rallied together, killed some cattle on Bute creek, and it is supposed have since joined old man John, who I suspect had been in waiting some time for a pretext to commence hostilities, only desiring the assistance of some other Indians, which this unfortunate occurrence secured to him—that of the Bute creek at any rate—and I apprehend many disaffected Indians will join. On Monday night a young man by the name of William Guin, in the employ of the agency, who was engaged at work on the west end of the reserve in company with some Indians, near old John's house, was killed, and his body was horribly mutilated—cut across the forehead and face with an axe, apparently as he lay asleep. They then destroyed or took off what provisions and tools there were at camp. They then repaired to Mr. Jewett's ferry, killed one man who was camped at the ferry, and wounded two others. Next I heard of them at Evans's ferry, where they fired at the inmates of the house as they passed, wounding one man, supposed to be mortally. They had with them, at the time they passed, several American horses and mules, which they had doubtless stolen the night previous. Mr. Birdseye lost three or four, and Dr. Miller

several; Mr. Shuffien one. They were seen by Mr. Birdseye running off some mules that morning.

Old chief Sam gathered his and Elijah's people together, and protected the hands who were employed to work on that part of the reserve, as also the cattle and other property belonging to the agency. Neither he nor his people want war, nor do I believe they can be made to fight except in self-defence.

The whole populace of the country have become enraged, and intense excitement prevails everywhere; and I apprehend it will be useless to try to restrain those Indians in any way, other than to kill them off. Nor do I believe it will be safe for Sam and his people to remain here; if any other disposition can be made of them, it should, by all means, be attended to immediately. I doubt very much if the military will be able to afford them the requisite protection.

Sam entertains the opinion that Jake's people will fight till they are all killed off; John will doubtless do the same.

I hardly believe that either Lympa or George desires a war, but have no doubt many of their people will engage with those that do, and possibly they may too. Neither of them or their people are upon the reservation, nor have been for some weeks; and should either of them be caught sight of, he will most certainly be shot.

Taking all circumstances into consideration, I think it hardly possible to avert the most disastrous and terrible war that this country has ever been threatened with.

October 10.—Whilst waiting an opportunity to send my former communication, additional news has come to hand. After the wounding of those men at Evans's ferry, the Indians pursued the main travelled road towards the cañon, where, I learned from a company of packers who have just arrived, that they saw seven dead men lying in the road in different places between Mr. Evans's ferry and Mr. Wagoner's; several trains had been robbed, and several wagons had been plundered, and I suspect every person who passed the road has been killed. I expect to have to record still sadder news before the week closes. A greater destruction of life will probably never be caused by the same number of people, or more horrid atrocities be perpetrated than by those Shasta Indians. They are well provided with arms, both guns and revolvers, and skilful in the use of them. I do not believe more desperate or reckless men ever lived upon the earth, and I have no doubt but they have made up their minds to fight till they die.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

G. A. AMBROSE,  
*Indian Agent.*

General PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

October 11.—To-day a despatch arrived from Major Fitzgerald, who was in pursuit of the Indians. From his statement it appears that all the houses between Mr. Evans's ferry and Jump-off-Jo creek were destroyed by fire. Mrs. Jones escaped wounded, with her little girl, to Mr. Vannoy's. Mrs. Wagoner and little daughter were both

burned in their house—probably massacred first. Her husband was away from home at the time. Mrs. Harris escaped. Her husband was killed and her little girl wounded in the arm. I am unable to give you the names of the killed. The Major discovered ten Indians on horseback; pursuit was immediately made and five of them killed under full jump. The others got into the mountains and escaped. Sam and his people are camped at Fort Lane, where they will have to be provided for. They are willing to submit to anything for the sake of peace. From Major Fitzgerald's note I learn it is quite probable that George and all his people will join with old John, and I am satisfied nearly or quite all of Lympa's and the Applegates will unite with them, with probably one or two exceptions. The Scotans are in for a free fight, and have been for two months past. I have but little doubt of eighty-five or one hundred Indians uniting, exclusive of a number of disaffected Indians belonging to surrounding bands.

G. H. A.

EVANS'S FERRY, *October 12.*—I learn from Major Fitzgerald that he found two more dead bodies yesterday, and no doubt any longer exists but that George and all his people will take part with the Shastas. If it is possible for you to come out here you had better come, or give me specific instructions.

G. H. AMBROSE.

[From our Extra of yesterday.]

*Many tribes combining—A winter campaign ahead—Movement of troops.*

Captain Cain, Indian agent for Washington Territory, returned to this city on the steamer "Belle" to-day. He left the Dalles on the 18th, (last Thursday.) From him we gather the following facts:

By arrival of Mr. Brazil Grounds, direct from Colville, October 14th, he learned that a party of seventeen men were to start for Puget's sound the day after Mr. G. left, (about the 25th of September,) across the Yakama country; also, that the party were very poorly armed, having only six long guns with them. Among this party were Messrs. Warbass and Stuart, the expressman.

Mr. G. says that after the day he left they had no further news of the Indian troubles since the murder of Mr. Mattice, nor did he learn anything until in the immediate neighborhood of Fort Walla-Walla. When Mr. G. left the mines, about the 25th September, the cold weather had already set in, and the mountains were covered with snow. There were a few whites still in the mines, intending to winter there, and were doing well.

*October 15.*—By arrival of Mr. Wolf to-day from Whitman's valley, (in the Cayuse country,) we learn that all the Indians in the upper country are very much disaffected; that two of the Cayuse chiefs (Um-how-lets and Stickas) still remain friendly to the whites, and had secretly warned all the settlers to leave immediately for the Dalles, and to make a long march before they slept. Old Stickas told Mr. Whitney, one of the settlers, to leave as quick as possible; that he

warned Dr. Whitman once in the same way, who disregarded him and was slain.

The Okanagans, the Pelouses, a tribe at the mouth of Snake river, some of the Walla-Wallas, Cayuses, and Umatillas, have joined the confederation against the whites. The Walla-Wallas and Cayuses have not all joined yet, but no doubt will do so when they get the news of the defeat of the United States troops under Major Haller, who, with his command, (both officers and men,) by the way, have behaved very gallantly, and ought to consider themselves very fortunate in getting off as easily as they did, or in fact at all. The Major says that, on his return, he thinks he saw nearly two thousand Indians in the field, and small bands still coming in from every direction, and that there is a sharp winter's work for a regiment over there.

*October 16.*—The disposable force of United States troops at the Dalles, under Major Rains, go down this evening to the mouth of the Klickitat river to establish a depot.

*October 17.*—This morning a party of mounted Indians appeared on the opposite side of the river, immediately in front of Messrs. Simms and Humason. After observing us for some time, they gave a yell or two; and one waved his blanket, and got off his horse and came to the bank of the river, and fired his gun at our party standing near the store. They did this evidently as a sort of challenge, as the distance was too great for small-arms to effect any harm.

The wind was too strong to cross the river in a small boat, or some of our volunteers would have shown the Indian that his challenge was as readily taken up as it was impudently given.

Messrs. Anderson and McKinly arrived this evening from the Colville mines, bringing letters from Walla-Walla to Mr. R. R. Thompson, Indian agent, among which is the following from Nathan Olney, Indian agent:

“FORT WALLA-WALLA, *October 12, 1855.*

“DEAR SIR: I arrived here this morning. Pu-pu-mux-mux has crossed over to the mouth of the Yakama with all his property and people. All his movements indicate a determination to join in the war. Win-im-snoot, of the Umatilla tribe, is on the Umatilla river with two or three lodges. Water-stuand is on the north bank of the Columbia opposite, with one or two lodges. Win-im-snoot says he will not join in the war—Water-stuand also; and that he was going to winter on the north side of the Columbia river, but, since I have ordered him, he will come back to this side. Some of the Cayuse chiefs are said to be on the Umatilla. I will go to see them, if possible, as soon as I can see Pu-pu-mux-mux. I have sent for the last-named chief to come and have a talk with me, but doubt very much his coming. Indians are riding at full speed in every direction, as if something of the greatest importance was going on. They avoid speaking with the whites as much as possible. They do not come to the fort, nor to the houses of the white settlers. If asked anything about the Indians on the other side of the river, or about the murder of the Americans, they appear very surly and say they know nothing. Something must

be done, and quickly; for delay in this matter is ruinous, as the bad weather will soon set in. \* \* \* \* \*

“Be sure you stop all persons coming in this direction.

“Yours, truly,

“NATHAN OLNEY, *Indian Agent.*

“Mr. R. R. THOMPSON,

“*Indian Agent, Fort Dalles.*”

October 18.—Major Rains sent up an express last night from the Klickitat river for the steamer “Wasco,” which immediately went down and brought up the troops and landed them on the opposite side of the river at the Dalles. Mr. Thompson informs me, that in another letter from Mr. Olney, dated the day after the above, he says that his messenger at Pu-pu-mux-mux’s camp found about a hundred of this chief’s men dancing around the scalps of some white men. The confederated Indians here boast of having killed, in all, sixty white men.

5 o’clock p. m.—The “Mary” has just arrived, bringing Captain Wilson’s company of volunteers, of 81 men, and also—what was more welcome—the news of Lieutenant Slaughter’s safety.

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No. 7.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Dayton, O. T., October 16, 1855.

SIR: I herewith enclose a copy of regulations for the direction of Indian agents in the Oregon Indian superintendency, which I have regarded, under the present exigencies, as absolutely demanded. The large number of men and arms withdrawn from this Territory to act against the hostile tribes in Washington, renders the settlers residing in remote districts apprehensive of danger from the bands scattered among us. These Indians are scattered over a wide extent of country, and many of them have been in the habit of mingling with a portion of the hostile bands, and in some instances are suspected of sympathizing with them. In the event of a repulse of our troops, these might be induced to operate against us. In their present locations great opportunities are afforded for securing spies that may be sent among them from the hostile bands. The plan adopted is designed to lessen these opportunities and restore confidence among our citizens. Wrought up by excitement, as the minds of the settlers now are, the least offence on the part of an Indian would most likely result in unwarranted excesses, leading to a rupture with these bands.

The expense will, undoubtedly, exceed the appropriation for adjusting difficulties and preventing outbreaks, and it is hoped that funds may be remitted from other appropriations to meet these exigencies.

Since writing the above, a messenger has arrived from Rogue River valley, with information that those Indians have taken arms, and have already murdered twenty-five or thirty families, and are burning

houses and laying waste the whole country. The messenger bearing this intelligence to the governor, now at Portland, passed a few miles from this point and sent a verbal message. His report is, that the communication between the Umqua valley and Jacksonville is cut off. The accounts may be much exaggerated, yet I put much confidence in them, as the letters of agent Ambrose, heretofore transmitted, indicate a restlessness among the Indians, and a strong probability of hostilities.

A portion of our own people seem to desire war, and it is greatly to be feared that it has been forced upon us, much against the wish of a large portion of the Indians of that district. But if commenced, whatever may have caused it, I apprehend nothing short of annihilation of these bands will terminate hostilities.

We may be able to save a portion of the Indians of Umqua and this valley, and perhaps portions of the bands along the coast, with a few of those east of the Cascade mountains; but the race is doomed on this coast, unless a strong military force be thrown in as a shield. They must, at all events, be humbled and taught the folly of attempting to redress their own wrongs. This will require a great sacrifice of the lives and property of our citizens, and whole neighborhoods of our scattered population will be cut off. An army of ten thousand men will not be more than adequate to meet the requirement of the service in this and Washington Territories, if, as there is now good reason to believe, a general concert of action has been agreed upon among the Indians north and south.

Enclosed is an extra "Statesman," just placed in my hands. I regard the reports as lacking confirmation, and as based to a great extent on conjecture. The great excitement causes a trifling incident, related at one point, to increase as it proceeds to an alarming magnitude. On the receipt of more reliable information, your office will be duly advised.

The amount of labor connected with negotiations, and the suppression of hostilities in this superintendency, has placed it beyond my power to prepare and transmit an annual report. Estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted at an early day. The reports of agents Thompson and Ambrose, and the various communications from this office, will, it is believed, supply in a great measure and supersede the necessity of a regular annual report.

Enclosed, herewith, is a letter from agent Thompson, containing an account of the repulse and retreat of Major Haller and command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent.*

HON. GEO. W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.*

## No. 8.

*Regulations for the guidance of agents in the Oregon Indian superintendency, pending existing hostilities.*

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Dayton, O. T., October 13, 1855.

It is hereby ordered that the Indians in the Willamette valley, parties to the treaty of the 10th January, 1855, shall be forthwith collected on the temporary reservations heretofore or now to be assigned them, to remain under the direction of such persons as may be appointed to act for the time being as their local agents.

The names of all adult males, and boys over twelve years of age, shall be enrolled, and the roll called daily.

When any one shall be absent at roll-call, the fact shall be noted; and, unless a satisfactory reason be rendered, the absentee shall be regarded as a person dangerous to the peace of the country, and dealt with accordingly.

Any Indian found outside of his designated temporary reservation, without being able to satisfactorily account therefor, shall be arrested and retained in custody so long as shall be deemed necessary; or should he be a stranger, not belonging to any of the bands of this valley, he shall be placed for safekeeping in the county jail, or taken to Fort Vancouver. But should he prove a spy from the enemy, he will be immediately turned over to the military authorities.

Any Indian who has joined, or may hereafter join, the hostile bands, give them information, or in any way aid or assist them in making war against the whites, shall be regarded as having thereby forfeited all rights under the treaty, and excluded from any benefits to be derived therefrom. He will, moreover, be regarded as an enemy; and it will be the duty of all friendly Indians to deliver such up to the agents or civil officers, and in no case to afford them encouragement or protection.

The persons designated to act as local agents will use a sound discretion in regard to the number of fire-arms the Indians may be permitted to retain at their encampments.

No Indian will be permitted to leave his assigned encampment, unless by written permit from the local or special agent.

The local agents will each be furnished with proper supplies of flour and beef, and will issue rations to the Indians, when necessary, of one pound of each per day to each adult, and less in proportion to children, as they may judge them to require.

Should any member of these bands desire to reside with and labor for the settlers, he may be permitted to do so—the agent obtaining a guarantee from the person for whom the labor is to be performed, in each case, for the fidelity and good conduct of the Indian.

Every effort will be made by the local agents to ascertain whether any Indians of the valley have left the settlements with hostile intentions; and the names of such, together with the proofs, will be reported to this office.

E. R. Geary will superintend the arrangement of encampments, and designate persons to act as local agents for the respective bands.

Berryman Jennings is appointed special sub-Indian agent for the Willamette valley, and, as such, will co-operate with Mr. Geary in carrying into effect the foregoing regulations.

The encampments assigned the several bands, and the name of the local agent for each, will be reported to this office and published in the papers of this valley, for the benefit of all concerned.

The same precautions will be observed in regard to the tribes and bands within this superintendency embraced in the treaties lately negotiated east of the Cascade mountains; and agent R. R. Thompson will assign the temporary encampments to the several bands, and designate proper persons to act as local agents, call the rolls, and distribute the necessary rations.

Agent Ambrose will make similar arrangements in regard to the Indians in the Rogue River district embraced in the treaties of the 10th September, 1853, and 18th November, 1854.

The various rolls will be kept with accuracy and care and forwarded to the superintendent's office at Dayton, it being determined to make these rolls the criterion in the payment of annuities; and no Indian whose name is not enrolled, and who cannot give a satisfactory reason for the omission, or who shall refuse to comply with the foregoing regulations, shall be embraced in said payment.

This order, though it may be regarded as arbitrary, and unwarranted in the ordinary state of affairs, is, in view of existing hostilities, deemed necessary, as it is extremely difficult to distinguish among our Indian population the well-disposed and friendly from the vicious and hostile, and from the fact that representations have been made warranting the belief that members of one or more bands have already left this valley, and joined the hostile tribes north of the Columbia river.

The measure is deemed no less a security to the white settlements than to the friendly bands of Indians; nor is it designed to abridge in the least the rights secured by the treaties to the Indians; but, if possible, to avert hostilities with these bands.

Citizens generally are requested to give this order a proper interpretation, and to exercise a due degree of forbearance in their dealings with the Indians, but at the same time to keep a vigilant watch over them, and report to the acting agents the presence of strange Indians among us, and render such aid in their apprehension as may tend to protect our persons and property and secure peace.

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

Since preparing the foregoing regulations, information has been received at this office that a portion of the Indians in southern Oregon and northern California have exhibited hostile demonstrations, endangering the peace of the settlements in Umqua valley. It is therefore ordered that the Indians embraced in the treaties of 19th September, 1853—being the Cow Creek band of Umquas and those of the

Umqua and Calapooia tribes, treated with on the 29th November, 1854—be assembled on the reservation designated by that treaty.

William J. Martin is appointed special sub-Indian agent for the bands embraced in these two treaties, and, as such, will co-operate with agent Geo. H. Ambrose in carrying out the foregoing regulations.

Sub-Indian agent E. P. Drew and special sub-Indian agent Benjamin Wright, will, if they believe the peace of the settlement requires it, adopt the same precautions with the tribes and bands within their districts.

JOEL PALMER,  
*Supt. Indian Affairs, O. T.*

No. 9.

DALLES, October 8, 1855.

SIR: An express from Major Haller's camp arrived here this evening with news of a battle between the troops under his command and the Yakama Indians. It took place on or near a stream called Top-in-ish, on Sunday evening the 7th instant; the firing commenced about 5 o'clock, and continued until dark. The loss on the part of the Indians is not known; on the part of the troops one man killed, one supposed to be mortally, and five or six slightly wounded. The Indians are represented to be in great force, and at the time the express left had entirely surrounded the troops. The expressman had to run the gauntlet to make his escape. The Indians kept up a constant and effective fire upon the troops. The Major has called for assistance, and thinks it indispensably necessary that a volunteer force be sent into the country as soon as possible; stating, also, that in the event of his command being repulsed, it is difficult to foresee the evil results that will ensue to the country, as the surrounding tribes will thereby be encouraged to join the Indian party.

The Major was falling back towards this place with a view to dispose of his wounded, as also to gain a reinforcement.

Lieutenant Day, with forty men, will start for the scene of action on to-morrow morning. Lieutenant McFaly and command have been ordered from the Cascades to this place, and are expected here by noon to-morrow, the 9th instant.

Two men, (citizens) Furguson and Ives, left this place three days ago, with three head of beef-cattle, for Major Haller's camp, and have not since been heard from; it is greatly feared they have been cut off by the Indians.

Mr. Olney started this morning for the Walla-Walla country.

The Tiach Indians have become frightened on account of the sickness and many deaths that have occurred amongst them during the summer, and have fled to the mountains to escape the scourge.

The band of Klickatats at the mouth of Klickatat river have joined the war party. All others in this vicinity are believed to be friendly.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. THOMPSON, *Indian Agent, Oregon.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq., *Sup't Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

No. 10.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., (temporarily at Portland,) Oct. 19, 1855.*

SIR: Information, deemed by the Executive reliable, has been received, confirming the reports mentioned in my last communication, that a number of families had been murdered by hostile Indians in the Rogue River valley; very much, however, is still in the dark. That there is a small band of Indians in that country determined to rob and murder, justifying the calling into the field a military force, I have no doubt; but I am unwilling to believe any considerable number of Indians have combined for hostile purposes in that district.

I enclose you the second proclamation of the governor calling for volunteers to operate in southern Oregon.

No decisive movement has as yet been made in the Yakama country by our troops. The Indians are said to be assembled in the Sympto valley to the number of two thousand warriors, eager for a fight.

The movements indicate a protracted war, the topography of the country favoring the mode of warfare practised by the Indians. The enclosed letter, without date, from agent R. R. Thompson, indicates his views in reference to the result of a second repulse of our troops. Enclosed please find regulations for the guidance of Indian agents in this superintendency. Upon the receipt of intelligence from the south I added an additional paragraph.

*October 20, 10 a m.*—A gentleman from Convallies, of undoubted veracity, arrived this morning with intelligence that a messenger had reached that point from Rogue river with information that companies of miners and others had organized and commenced an indiscriminate slaughter of all Indians found on Table-rock reservation; that they had already killed one hundred and six men, women, and children.

The particulars attending the attack upon one of the villages are given. It states, a party of eighteen men, commanded by Mr. Lupton, proceeded to the Indian camp during the night, remaining a short distance till daylight, when they rushed upon them and killed over thirty, old and young. Mr. Lupton received a mortal wound, from which he soon after died; no others of the party were injured. The details attending the slaughter of others are not given. They are all represented as having been friendly Indians. If it becomes a fixed policy to permit wholesale butchery of defenceless women and children of those of our friendly bands of Indians, who, in accordance with treaty stipulations, locate upon temporary or permanent reservations, and comply with all the requirements of such treaties, and the regulations and directions of the agents of the government placed among them, the officers of the Indian department may as well be disbanded. Pledges of aid and protection by the government to such as enter into treaty stipulations are but empty bubbles, made only to be violated by our people. We, as agents of the government, are made the instruments by which to prepare them for the slaughter; our pledges are broken, confidence destroyed; and, unless supported in our

efforts to maintain the faith of the government, we might as well close the office in this superintendency.

Reports would indicate a bad feeling entertained by those marauding parties against the officers commanding at Fort Lane and those engaged in the Indian department, and that it was highly probable a hostile meeting would take place.

*Two o'clock p. m.*—John Cain, esq., Indian agent for Washington Territory, has just arrived from the Dalles, and I am put in possession of the enclosed letters from agents Olney and Thompson, marked "A," "B," and "C." I still entertain hopes that Mr. Olney may be able to obtain an interview with Pu-pu-mux-mux, the head-chief of the Walla-Wallas, and that he may be induced to decide in favor of peace. I am assured by Joel Carey that a force will be sent to the relief of the settlers in the Walla-Walla valley. Should all these tribes unite against us, a protracted and bloody war will be the consequence. Raw recruits of infantry constitute nearly the entire available force that can be brought into the field. These men, when mounted, are almost useless for such service. Cavalry alone is adequate to meet these Indians. The number of volunteer force called out by proclamation of the governor of date 11th instant, will not, I apprehend, with their present equipments and inexperience, be sufficient to insure a successful campaign.

The inclement season of the year will tend greatly to operate against the success of the command. They have a high chain of mountains to cross before reaching the enemy's country; and to operate effectively, a post should be established in the heart of their country, another in the Walla-Walla country. To garrison these posts, and others already established, transport supplies, and carry on offensive measures, the force is entirely inadequate. There seems, also, to be an inadequate supply at the military posts in this Territory of all the requisites to properly equip and carry on a war with these Indians. A lack of suitable arms, ammunition, and means of transportation, are among the difficulties to overcome.

It is, I believe, conceded by all that a winter campaign will be the most likely to accomplish the object; but it should be prosecuted with energy, so as to deter other tribes from uniting in this alliance.

*October 21, (noon.)*—A messenger from my office at Dayton hands me the originals, from which the enclosed copies have been taken. I purpose starting from the Dalles this evening to aid agent Thompson in arranging encampments in his district, if a force can be secured warranting it. Efforts will be made to establish an encampment on the Umatilla river, and upon the reservation designated by the treaty with the Walla-Wallas, Cayuses, &c.

In haste, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Hon. GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

## No. 11.

SIR: Major Haller, with his command, has returned, leaving behind them all their camp equipage, also the howitzer, with a great many of their animals. Their loss is five men killed and twelve or fifteen wounded. On the part of the enemy it was impossible to tell, as they carried their wounded and dead from the field; it is estimated that not less than forty were killed with the small-arms, and probably the same number with the howitzer. The number of the enemy is estimated at from eight to twelve hundred, and are represented as being well supplied with arms and ammunition, and have given a practical demonstration that they are determined to fight.

The repulse of the troops will encourage many more to join them, and it will therefore be necessary to send a larger force to operate against them. Should they unfortunately succeed in the second engagement with our forces, we may expect a general combination of all the tribes north and west of the Nez Percés. A force of a thousand volunteers, in conjunction with the regulars, would make quick work and a lasting peace. We need assistance, and that speedily.

On the receipt of the news from Major Haller's camp, I despatched a messenger after Mr. Olney, giving him a statement of the engagement with the Indians, and urged upon him the importance of making all the despatch possible to inform those on the road, as also the settlers in the Umatilla and Walla-Walla valleys. I have this day taken from a Catholic priest, by the name of Gonzales, one hundred pounds of powder and three pounds of lead. He had started on his way to the upper country, when I caused him to come back and allow me to examine his packs. At the same time I took from a priest who was with him, by the name of Richard, six cans of powder, one pound each; also six and a half pounds shot. I receipted for what I took, to be returned whenever deemed by the Indian department practicable.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. THOMPSON,  
*Indian Agent, Oregon.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs,  
Dayton, Oregon Territory.*

P. S.—Since writing the above, I learn that the Cayuses, Walla-Wallas and Umatillas positively refuse to give Kamiakin any assistance; also that the company of emigrants are between here and John Day's river. Mr. Ives, one of the citizens mentioned in a former letter, made his escape; his comrade, Mr. Ferguson, was killed.

R. R. THOMPSON.

No. 12.

A.

FORT WALLA-WALLA, *October 12, 1855.*

DEAR SIR: I arrived at this place this morning. I learned on my arrival that Pu-pu-mux-mux had gone to the other side of the river with all his people and stock. The Umatillas are mostly across, and I think the balance will go. No news from the Cayuses.

From what I can learn and see, all the Indians this side of the Nez Percés are concentrating their forces as rapidly and as secretly as possible at the mouth of the Yakama and Pelouse, and perhaps other points not yet ascertained.

The volcano is about ready to break forth. Something must be done at once. One thousand armed men should be sent into the field at once. A small force will only cause wavering tribes to join in the war.

The settlers in this part of the country are in the most imminent danger of being massacred without a moment's warning.

I have just written a letter to the commanding officer at the Dalles for a force to be sent up to bring them away. I shall send notice to the miners of the danger of passing down through this country; also to settlers to be on their guard until protection can be sent. I would order every one out of the country, but fear that as soon as the Indians see that all the whites are going, they will immediately pounce upon them.

I shall throw all the ammunition at Fort Walla-Walla into the river; for, as far as appearances go, the Indians premeditate an attack upon the place to possess themselves of it; at any rate, it is better out of their reach.

I have sent a messenger to Pu-pu-mux-mux, requesting him to come and see me. I sent Mr. McBear's son; soon after he started, his father came to the fort, and as soon as he learned that his son had gone, he started at full speed to bring him back; as soon as I heard this fact, I sent another man after him; none of them have yet returned. Not an Indian can be induced to carry the message for any amount of pay.

No Indian comes to the post; all are going at full speed, as though life depended upon their haste; when stopped and asked to go, they give a hasty excuse, and hurry on.

If I can, I will try and get all the settlers together, and either fortify, if the danger appears imminent, or march down to the Dalles. I shall be very cautious, as the least move will cause an alarm, and an immediate outbreak.

There is a possibility that I can, if I can see Pu-pu-mux-mux, stop the storm; I shall do my best to do so. I shall visit all the chiefs in the country.

Yours, in haste,

NATHAN OLNEY,  
*Indian Agent.*

General JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent of Indians Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

## B.

FORT WALLA-WALLA, *October 13, 1855.*

SIR: This morning my messenger to Pu-pu-mux-mux returned and informed me that Pu-pu-mux-mux will not see me. He says his heart is bad against Governor Stevens about the way he talked at the council; that he will see him on his return. He does not like the idea of an agent being put over them to watch them. He says he is not a thief, that he should be guarded. He says he likes myself, R. R. Thompson, Mr. McKinley, of Oregon City, and Mr. Noble; but his heart is bad towards all other whites. He was urged by my messenger to come and see me, but he positively refused, and would give no reason. He said he knew that I was coming, before I got here, and what I was coming for; and said if I wanted to see him, to come to his camp—only myself and Mr. McKinley; none others to come with us.

Messrs. Anderson and McKinley are here, on their way from the mines to the Willamette. They are kind enough to take my letters down to the Dalles.

My messenger also informed me that the Indians (about one hundred warriors) were dancing the war dance in front of Pu-pu-mux-mux's lodge. He was told that they were dancing around some American scalps.

I was also informed this morning by Water-stuand that Stickas had declared in favor of the war. I don't think it possible for me to get back to the Dalles. War appears inevitable with these Indians. I shall persevere to the last in trying to quell them down, and my death will be a signal for a general outbreak. I shall try and be at the Dalles by the 20th instant, if I escape.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NATHAN OLNEY,  
*Indian Agent.*

General JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

## C.

DALLES, *October 18, 1855.*

SIR: I herewith send you letters from agent Olney. In addition to which, we have but little news. Mr. Whitney and family, with some others from the Umatilla, arrived at this place last evening. Old Stickas, in company with Umhowlish, came to the house of William C. McKay and informed Mr. Whitney that he was in imminent danger, and urged him to leave immediately. He took their advice, and left all their property to the mercy of the Indians.

On the evening of the sixteenth, Major Rains, with a command of about two hundred men, made an encampment at the mouth of the Klickitat river. On the 17th, about noon, six of the hostiles made

their appearance on the bank of the river opposite this village, fired a gun, gave a whoop, and rode off. This information, as also a rumor that the Indians were in force a few miles above here, induced Major Rains to change his position to opposite this place.

The first volunteers have just arrived. Captain Cain goes down, and will give the details of all the movements up to this hour.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. THOMPSON,  
*Indian Agent, Oregon.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, Oregon.*

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No. 13.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., October 21, 1855.*

DEAR GENERAL: I have thought it best to forward you, by express, the enclosed despatches from agent Ambrose, brought by a special messenger, Mr. Kain, who arrived yesterday evening. The state of affairs on Rogue river is even worse than the first rumors received, and havoc and blood are abroad with full license.

The painful evidence is again before us that the initial act in the bloody drama now acting there was by our own citizens. Mr. Kain thinks it will be impossible to preserve Sam, and the friendly part of the Rogue Rivers, from the popular fury. Indiscriminate slaughter of all the Indians is the cry, and probably the general resolve.

Mr. Kain left Rogue river on the 16th instant, and is able to add but few particulars to those in Dr. Ambrose's letter. The wife and daughter of Mr. Hains, his hired man, and a son of Mr. Harris, are missing, and probably murdered. The bodies of three men were found in the vicinity of Grave creek, and identified as those of Mr. Powell, of this county, and Messrs. Fox and White.

Dr. Henry is acting as assistant commissary, and writes a few lines from Evans's ferry, being on his way to Jacksonville.

It has been rumored for some days that there was a large number of armed Indians encamped on the headwaters of the Santiam, believed to be in a great measure strangers to this valley, and also that most of our Indians had mysteriously disappeared from their temporary reservations. Mr. Waymin and Captain Armstrong thought the matter should be looked into; and Captain Armstrong said he had been on the point of marching his company that way, when he learned that a company for the purpose of scouring that part of the valley had been formed at Salem. On Thursday, Mr. Orton stated that he had met a man from the forks of Santiam, who assured him that there was an unusual number of Indians in that part of the country, and that the people were much alarmed. I felt but little disposed to yield credence to this rumor; but, as it was sustained by such circumstantial statements from creditable sources, I deemed it proper to inquire into the affair, and accordingly, on Thursday night, proceeded to Salem, when

I found that the company that had gone out had returned. The rumors had not the "shadow of a shade" of foundation—all quiet among the Santiam Indians.

No strange Indians had passed that way, except a small band of Klamaths returning home from their annual fall visit to Oregon City. I returned by daylight, yesterday, to Doack's ferry, when I intercepted a company of ten of the Yamhill county rangers, *en route* for the reported scene of hostilities, and informed them that their services would not be required, upon which they returned. Such is the history of the wars of Santiam.

Mr. Stone called to-day and informed me that Judge Carnegle's family and several others were much alarmed, and apprehensive lest there might be an outbreak among the Yamhill band. Some, he stated, were in favor of taking all the men into custody, and others of even more extreme measures. The Indians, on their part, and for better cause, were as much alarmed as their white neighbors. In order to allay the fears on all sides, and protect this little handful of Indians from the consequences of these silly apprehensions, I appointed Mr. Stone local agent, and instructed him in accordance with your "general orders," copies of which have not yet come to hand.

There is much fear and quaking among our citizens residing at the eastern base of the Coast Range in consequence of the signal fires seen looming up on the heights of the Coast Range, and which appear to be answered by similar lights upon the Cascade summits. It is also alleged that four or five armed Indians were seen prowling in the brush near John Perkins's mill; mayhap the shades of the earlier aborigines, like Ossian's heroes, "on the hills of mist pursuing deer formed of clouds, and bending their airy bows." Be that as it may, the fears of several families have induced them to leave their dwellings for the security of the more central settlements. You will be gratified to learn that Mr. Clark returned in safety on Thursday evening last. He was quietly employed in cutting out the trail, assisted by his father. He found the work more difficult than he expected, but accomplished it. He was wholly unconscious of the Indian troubles, and consequent excitement in the valley, until he arrived at Grand Round on his way in.

I did not see him, being at Salem when he arrived at the office.

You will excuse this scrawl, as I have had a chill this morning and am not wholly over it.

Very truly, yours,

EDWARD R. GEARY.

General PALMER,

*Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

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No. 14.

DALLES OF THE COLUMBIA, October 25, 1855.

SIR: On my arrival yesterday morning I learned that agent R. R. Thompson, with an escort of fifty volunteers, had started in pursuit of one of the Deschutes band of Walla-Walla Indians, embraced in the

Wasco treaty, headed by a chief named Stockwhitley, who had avowed a determination to join the Cayuses and Walla-Wallas in hostile movements against the whites; fearing that this disaffection might be general among the bands in this vicinity, I immediately visited those near and despatched messengers to the more distant villages. So far as those visited and heard from they appear to evince a determination to observe the treaty, and are willing to conform to any regulations deemed necessary to maintain peace. The messages sent them from the hostile tribes have greatly alarmed portions of the families, and they have consequently fled to remote points. They are not unadvised of the excited state of feeling among our citizens, and express, very correctly too, doubts of our ability to protect them if collected within the settlements.

I have designated three encampments—two for those of the Wasco treaty, and one for the friendly bands who reside north of the Columbia river, which, in accordance with my former instructions, had crossed to the south bank.

Mr. Thompson has just returned and reports his inability to find the disaffected Indians. An Indian messenger was despatched by him in search, with directions, if found, to inform him that his refusal to return with his people would be regarded by us as evidence of hostility. That messenger has this moment arrived, with information that he found the chief's camp, and that the chief refuses to return, and ordered the messenger, though one of his own people, not to approach his camp again; his men, about twenty in number, are well armed, and believed to be on their way to the hostile bands. Runners had been sent by him to the Tiach band, but with what success is not known.

A few families have fled to the mountains through fear, rather than from any hostile intention.

October 26.—Mr. N. Olney, Indian agent, with all the American and a part of the French settlers of the Walla-Walla, Toosha, and Umatilla valleys, arrived at the Dalles this morning.

Mr. Olney was unable to secure an interview with the Walla-Walla chief. He believes him implicated in these hostile movements, and that an effort to dissuade him from it would be fruitless.

He represents the Cayuses as friendly disposed, but believes a portion of their young men were engaged in the fight against Major Haller. There is but little hope of being able to carry out the regulations from this office among those tribes unless a military force be sent into that country, and the United States troops now under the command of Major Rains, military commandant of this district, are inadequate to meet the enemy now in the field. The volunteer forces are not well suited to that service, as they will be more likely to provoke a war than maintain peace.

The Cayuses are represented as being much opposed to the settlement of the Walla-Wallas on the Umatilla reservation, alleging that it is too small to afford farming and grazing for that number of people and their stock. They oppose the settlement in their country of any American by circulating rumors of hostile intentions on the part of certain Indians, and thus alarm them; and, in several instances,

where the claim has been thus abandoned by our own people, on what they call *Suyoppo* or *Bostons*, has been taken by Canadian Frenchmen, old servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, without any opposition of the Indians. Even now, among those tribes with whom we are at war, Alima, which means any person other than an American, may pass unmolested through their country.

The father, with his household, who has resided several years at the Yakima mission, still remains secure in the heart of the enemy's country.

The evidences of a deep-rooted prejudice against our citizens prevail among all the tribes in middle and upper Oregon—the Nez Percés excepted. How far that feeling may be fanned and kept up by aliens from other countries, and their descendants, we are not able to judge; but that it does extend to the entire exclusion and occupancy of the country by our own citizens, is a fact undeniable. Agent Olney informs me that he gave assurances to the Cayuses that no further settlement should be made in their country until another interview could be had by them with the superintendent, with a view of changing their boundaries and excluding the Walla-Wallas from that reservation.

This imposes upon me the necessity of repairing at once to that district to disabuse their minds upon that subject; for if those points were yielded, others would be demanded, and thus treaties be violated, the settlement of the country retarded, and an inducement held out to other tribes to disregard treaty stipulations.

If it be practicable to obtain an escort, I shall proceed in a few days to the Cayuse country, and in the event of a willingness on their part to abide the decision of the President and Senate upon the treaty with them, with a willingness to conform in good faith to all its provisions, shall attempt to carry out the regulations drawn up for the guidance of agents in this superintendency, otherwise they will be left to share the fate of those already in a hostile attitude against us.

I have the honor to remain, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Hon. GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 15.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, Oregon, November 12, 1855.*

SIR: In my letter of the 25th ultimo I expressed an intention to proceed to the Cayuse country if a suitable escort could be obtained. After waiting several days it was found impracticable to properly equip a force adequate to the military occupation of that country in less than ten days, and I accordingly returned to perfect arrangements with Indians in this valley and southern Oregon, all of whom are in a state of suspense and alarm.

Intense excitement pervades the white population of the entire country; in the remoter districts the people have congregated in block-houses and forts erected for their protection; messengers are seen hurrying from settlement to settlement; alarming reports are everywhere current; and in the popular phrensy the peaceful as well as the hostile bands of Indians are menaced with extermination.

The demonstrations already made in Jackson county and the Umpqua valley arouse the fears of the Indians in this part of the Territory that these menaces may be early carried into literal execution.

The collection of the Indians at suitable points, and the appointment of discreet persons to watch over them, has tended greatly to quiet the apprehensions of our alarmists; but should the present campaign in Washington Territory and middle Oregon prove unsuccessful, it will be wellnigh impossible to save the Indians of this valley from the fury of the inhabitants. Their guilt or innocence will not be the subject of inquiry; the fact that they are Indians will be deemed deserving of death. They will be slain not for what they have done, but for what they might do if so disposed.

The causes which have induced this state of affairs in the south are directly traceable to the doors of reckless persons among the white population. But it is useless now to speculate upon the causes; the war is upon us, and whatever its origin, when defenceless women and children are murdered and the property of our citizens destroyed by the ruthless savage, no one can hesitate as to the course to be pursued towards those who have assumed the attitude of enemies.

There are, however, peaceable remnants of those tribes and bands for whose safety and preservation I have adopted the plan which to me appears the most feasible, the accomplishment of which will necessarily involve a considerable expenditure.

I am satisfied of the futility of attempting a permanent Indian settlement on the Table Rock reserve, and that its abandonment at once is the wiser course. With this view I have examined a tract of country on the headwaters of the Yamhill river, about twenty-five or thirty miles west of this point and adjoining the coast reservation, upon which are now located about twenty-five white settlers, with improvements amounting to as many thousand dollars. These settlers with the exception of five are willing to sell their improvements at reasonable prices and vacate their claims, upon condition that they be permitted to locate claims elsewhere. A part, however, prefer to dispose of the fee simple, as they have perfected their title by the period of residence required in the donation act. This tract is in a small valley separated from the valley of the Willamette by a mountainous chain of hills, and is accessible by a narrow pass on the margin of the river. The great trail communicating with the coast traverses this pass, which at the head of the valley diverges in three directions—to the Neachesna or Salmon river, the Nestuckey, and Tillanook bay. The only available route for a wagon road to the northern half of the coast reservation leads to the mouth of the first-named stream. The soil of this valley is extremely fertile, abounding in grass, and when cultivated producing abundant crops of wheat and vegetables. The farms are in a flourishing condition, having already about two hun-

dred acres of wheat sowed, and some of the claimants have nearly their entire sections enclosed with substantial fences. The improvements already made are suitable for an Indian reservation, and the location is peculiarly favorable for the establishment of mills, schools, shops, &c.

It has heretofore been my intention to locate the Indians of the Willamette valley on the Neachesna; but since the rupture with the Rogue River Indians, and the present condition of affairs rendering it impracticable to carry into effect the policy of the government upon the Table Rock reservation, I am in favor of settling the Rogue-Rivers upon the Neachesna, and placing the bands of this valley on the contemplated purchase. The latter Indians having a more extensive acquaintance with the whites, and many of them of well-tested fidelity being located on this tract, which may be denominated the key to the entrance of the coast reservation destined to be the permanent home of several thousand Indians, this is desirable as affording greater security and confidence to our citizens.

The bands now encamped at Fort Lane, numbering 334 persons, who immediately on the commencement of hostilities placed themselves under the protection of the garrison, are in imminent danger of meeting the fate so boldly and recklessly threatened—that of annihilation; and unless they are immediately removed, the scheme will be undoubtedly carried into effect.

These bands comprise the original Rogue-Rivers and a part of those treated with on the 18th November, 1854; and, from their general good conduct, merit a better fate.

The Umqua Indians are but little more secure; one village having already been attacked by a body of lawless banditti and put to death—men, women, and children. These bands may also be located and comfortably provided for on the coast reservation, if the purchase of the tract referred to be consummated. This would concentrate all the tribes in the territory west of the Cascade mountains upon one reservation, which I regard as highly desirable; and *now*, if ever, this object must be achieved, as I believe it the only measure by which they can be saved from extermination.

Under this conviction I shall act, with reference to its accomplishment. The enclosed estimate of funds necessary to carry this arrangement into effect is respectfully submitted.

Owing to the non-arrival of the tools and materials for use in constructing buildings on Table Rock and Umqua reservations, but little progress has been made in that work, so that, if a change of location be contemplated, it will be highly economical to do so prior to the expenditure of that fund.

The funds provided for by the stipulations with the several tribes, if properly expended on one tract, will secure a greater amount of good to the Indians than if expended on separate reservations, as in selecting sites for the various improvements, reference may be had to the accommodation of the greatest possible number of Indians.

I am so well satisfied of the necessity of the immediate removal of the friendly Rogue River Indians, that Mr. R. B. Metcalfe, sub-Indian agent, has been instructed to proceed forthwith to that district

with instructions to agent Ambrose to remove these bands to the tract designated on the headwaters of the Yamhill river. Among other considerations inducing this step, is the fact that, being cut off from their usual sources of supply, and thrown wholly on the government for subsistence, the great difference in the price of breadstuffs, and the avoidance of the expense of transportation, will lessen the expenditure at least one hundred per cent. during the winter, should they be brought to the point designated. Besides this, the men may be advantageously employed in opening a wagon-road from their encampment, which will be on the line of travel upon the reservation to the mouth of Salmon river, along which may be an extensive Indian settlement; and should the winter prove mild, considerable progress may be made in the erection of houses and opening of farms in their contemplated settlement.

The non-ratification of the coast treaty, and the absence of funds designed for those objects, may be urged as an objection to the immediate progression of this plan of operations; but if in emergencies like this we are to await specific instructions and remittances, it will be too late to even hope by any possibility to save the lives of those Indians. It is even now doubtful whether the fiendish propensities of these miscreants, who delight in shedding Indian blood, and who have congregated in the southern part of Oregon, will permit those friendly bands to leave that section, unless escorted by a strong military force, the procurement of which at present will be extremely difficult. The discretion and influence of agent Ambrose and sub-agent Metcalfe may, however, enable them to secure the safe passage of the Indians to the contemplated encampment.

In order to secure the acquiescence of the citizens in the removal of the Indians to that point, I am compelled to purchase and pay for several of the land claims that will be occupied. This the department may deem an unwarranted assumption on my part; but I can conceive of no other means by which to avert an impending calamity, involving the destruction of those bands and a blot upon our national reputation.

The second article of the treaty of the 10th January, 1855, with the Indian tribes of this valley, provides for the application of a part of the consideration guarantied to "paying for the permanent improvements of settlers, should any such be on said tract at the time of its selection," &c.

The purchase of those claims, with their improvements, will place the Indians in a condition to realize the benefit of the outlay much sooner than if located on unimproved farms. Besides, no reluctance will exist with the Indians when required to remove to farms already in a better state of cultivation than those now occupied by them.

I may fail to urge reasons justifying the course I am about to adopt, but I cannot doubt that if it be viewed in its proper light, my action will be approved.

A departure from the rules laid down in the regulations of 1850 in reference to the purchase of annuity goods, appears to me not only justifiable, but absolutely demanded under the arrangement of annuity payments in this superintendency; and while I do not desire to be

clothed with unusual and improper power, a due regard to the welfare of the Indians requires that a discretionary power should be exercised in the selection and mode of purchasing such goods, as well as in reference to the time of payment.

In the event of the abandonment of Table Rock reservation, a question arises as to the best method of disposing of it. Considerable improvements in breaking land, fencing, &c., have been accomplished; and in accordance with the fourth article of the treaty of the 10th September, 1853, improvements of equal value are to be made on the reservation to which they may be removed. Table Rock reservation, if sold in accordance with the usage of the government, would bring a sum equalling the entire amount of consideration given by the treaty of the 10th September, 1853, for the Rogue River purchase; but unless prohibited by enactment, it will be taken immediately on its abandonment and held by pre-emption.

Herewith I transmit an estimate of funds for carrying into effect the treaty of the 11th August, 1855, with the coast tribes. An early transmission of funds for the object specified may enable us to maintain in good faith the provisions of that treaty. As yet, all the bands embraced therein are on friendly terms with the settlers; but unless the bands be speedily removed from the district on our southern boundary, they will be driven to hostilities. They have, like the bands in the Rogue River district, given every assurance of their friendly disposition, but, like them, are surrounded by a reckless population, who regard the treasury of the United States as a legitimate subject of plunder, and, if for no other reason than the expenditure of large sums of money among them, would strive to plunge the government into a war with those Indians.

From recent advices it is presumed that the brutal outrages committed from time to time upon the Indians within the last three years, have resulted in a concerted movement from north to south among the various bands to carry on a war of extermination against the whites; and it is not at all improbable that the bands in this valley are contributing to swell the ranks of the enemy. At all events, such are the apprehensions of our citizens; and the least improper movement of any of the members of these bands would deluge the settlements in blood.

The agents in the Indian department are almost powerless to do good with a military command of two hundred men to protect the encampments. The friendly bands might be collected and kept out of the fight, but otherwise it is greatly to be feared that they will all unite in hostilities against us. Almost every day brings intelligence of the desertion of bands heretofore friendly, and the commission of some horrible outrage on our citizens. We need a strong and well-disciplined military force in the country, first to chastise and bring the Indians into subjection, and afterwards to aid in ridding the country of lawless vagabonds who have provoked this state of affairs.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Hon. GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.*

No. 16.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Dayton, O. T., November 13, 1855.

SIR: I enclose herewith eight letters—five from agent George H. Ambrose, under dates, respectively, of October 20, 28, two of 31, and one of 4th November—which will advise you of the state of affairs in the Rogue River Indian agency district; one from sub-agent E. P. Drew, of Scottsburg, under date of the 30th ultimo, giving a view of the condition of Indian relations in that vicinity; one from R. W. Dunbar, esq., collector of customs at Port Orford, of the 19th ultimo, and the report of N. Olney, esq., Indian agent, of the 31st August, all of which contain items of interest in regard to the present state of Indian affairs in this superintendency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Hon. GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.*

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No. 17.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AGENT,  
*Rogue River Valley, October 20, 1855.*

SIR: Since I informed you of existing hostilities in this valley, no important event has occurred not contained in that communication. I have learned, reliably, that the Shastas, Scotans, Grave Creeks, and many of the Umquas and Cow Creeks, are concerned in those horrid murders and massacres; the Shastas are, beyond doubt, the leading spirits of the whole expedition. Old chief John has managed to secure the assistance of all the above-named tribes, together with the Klamaths, and all the surrounding tribes are concerned in this war; not that there is a general combination of all those tribes to do this, for there are ancient feuds existing among some of these tribes, but they all have their enmity against the white race. The Klamath Lake Indians, on the east, have been at war for two months past, and those murders which were committed on the Siskeyou mountain was doubtless done by them. On the south were the Klamath River and Shasta Indians at war for some time past. On the west are the Scotans, Grave Creeks, and Cow Creeks, who were greatly disaffected; hence you will see it would require but little exertion to unite them all in one common war against their white foe, which I apprehend has already been done—the Rogue Rivers alone excepted, who have placed themselves under protection of Captain Smith, of Fort Lane. All others belonging to this reserve are off, and no doubt nearly all are engaged in this war; there are some, I believe, who have gone with those hostile Indians through fear, who do not desire a war.

I have taken the census of those at the fort, and find a total of three hundred and three persons.

Principal chief Sam has of his own and his brother Joe's people, who are now counted as his, the following :

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Sam .....	36	66	35	24	161
Elijah .....	18	33	9	17	77
Sambo .....	16	25	11	13	65
	70	124	55	54	303

There is no possible way by which these people can subsist themselves ; it must be done by government. They cannot be permitted to leave the fort in quest of game or subsistence of any kind, and, being a very improvident people, they have not laid up their winter supplies ; however, this is their usual hunting season, and it is impossible for them to avail themselves of it ; hence you will see no other alternative but to feed or to fight them. I have furnished them supplies the past week, believing it to be the policy of our government, and in the end much less expensive. As I have but a small fund in my hand for the purpose of buying provisions for them, I wish to call your attention to that fact, and ask your advice as to what I should do.

No longer any doubt exists but that this must be a war of extermination against all the chiefs and leaders of these hostile bands ; they have so declared it themselves, and say they are determined to show no quarter. Old chief John killed the man employed to build him a house, declaring that he "wanted no house, but was going to fight till he died ;" and the massacre of defenceless women and children, in the most brutal and fiendish manner, shows a determination to carry into execution their threat. Quite a number of travellers, miners and persons passing the road, have been killed. I have not learned authentically the number, nor do I know the names of all ; consequently I refrain from making the attempt to state it.

Several hundred volunteers are patrolling the country in every direction, besides the regulars, who have been constantly in the saddle since the commencement of difficulties, yet nothing effective has been done. It will certainly require a large force to subdue these savages, and save this country from desolation and ruin.

Among some papers found in the office, I find the following statistical table, which I subjoin, as it may be of use to you for reference, showing the bands and number of hostile Indians. The table bears date November, 1854.

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Deer Creek.....	33	42	20	11	106
Gallice.....	23	26	18	10	77
Kiota Indians.....	4	3	1	.....	8
Grave Creek.....	4	15	6	2	27
Old John.....	4	6	3	2	15
Bute Creek.....	26	32	11	15	84
Applegate John.....	14	24	13	12	63
Applegate Bill.....	14	15	8	9	46
George and Limpa.....	25	38	17	17	97
	147	201	97	78	523

I do not mean to say that all of the above are concerned in this war, but the bands have sided with those that are hostile. I have no doubt many individuals disapprove of the act, and would like to be away from their people, but fear of their leaders has restrained them, and they have all gone together.

Yours, respectfully,

G. H. AMBROSE,

*Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

No. 18.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AGENT,

*Rogue River Valley, O. T., October 28, 1855.*

SIR: Mr. Kane, the messenger whom I had sent to your office, bearer of despatches, returned yesterday bringing some papers; also Mr. Chamberlain has reached this office, with some despatches and funds for this district. I have enrolled the names of all Indians belonging to this reservation that are now present, and have appointed James K. Metcalfe, special sub-Indian agent for the time being, to call the roll and issue rations; the Indians are encamped on the military reservation at Fort Lane. Under existing circumstances, during hostilities I have deemed it necessary to call the roll twice daily, and issue to them full rations, as they have no other means of subsistence.

The parties to the treaty of the 10th of September, 1853, are nearly all here; the chiefs, heads of families of the principal men, are all here, except George and Limpa, and some of their people are here. The parties to the treaty of the 18th of November, 1854, are nearly all absent; the chiefs and leaders are all of them absent; some of their people are in confinement at Fort Lane for safe-keeping—women and children. I find it impossible to make any progress in improvements

on the reserve; in fact, it is unsafe for hands to be there, hence I have suspended operations pending hostilities.

On Wednesday, the 17th instant, a party of miners, twenty in number, on Gallice creek, were attacked by a large force of Indians; the attack commenced early in the morning and lasted all day. The miners occupied a house and fought from behind a breast-work of flour; they lost two killed and thirteen wounded; the killed upon the part of the Indians could not be ascertained, as they carried the dead off with them in the night. On the 24th they made their appearance on Cow creek, near the cañon, spreading desolation and ruin in every direction, burning houses and grain-stacks and killing stock in open day. The houses had been fortified and guarded, and two, I believe, were saved by it; two men, in endeavoring to protect their stock, were killed, and one supposed to be mortally wounded.

On the same day a detachment of men under command of Lieutenant Kautz, of Port Orford, who were surveying a route for a road from Port Orford to the Oregon road, unaware of existing hostilities, were attacked by the Indians; two of his men were killed; the lieutenant was compelled to retreat, with the loss of his animals. On Thursday Captain Smith started in pursuit of them with some hopes of being able to overtake them, as they had their women and children with them.

It is rumored here that the Indians attacked a company of packers on Thursday last in Illinois valley, killing nine or ten men, and capturing one hundred and forty animals; the rumor is generally credited and believed to be correct. I will, however, learn the facts in a few days and report them. Subjoined you will find the names of all persons present belonging to this tribe, over twelve years of age, on the temporary encampment at Fort Lane.

Principal chief, Sam.	Sam Patch, Te-to-ash.
Sub-chief, Elijah.	John, Te-ke-he-ah.
Sub-chief, Sambo.	Bill, Cah-loe-ah.
Tom, A-cat-e-cah.	Bob, Dis-slay.
Jim, Che-te-quit-cha.	Dick, Culsha.
Charley, Um-te-wa-ha.	Bob, Ep-pas.
Henry, Te-te-sha.	Dick, Lah-lah.
Bill, Yap-cah-tek.	Charley, Chel-e-kak.
Dan, Cho-ka-hi-yak.	Bill, Hah-tak-te.
Zack, Yah-de-o-ka.	Alonzo, Sun-chut-ka.
Charley, Edah-shu-que.	Bill, Yal-pe-nah.
Jim, Yeh-ha-qua-te-da.	Ben, Yah-once.
Jim, Quick-o-qua.	Jack, Bob-e-sah.
Henry, O-wak-te-ah.	Johnson, Bob-e-sah.
Bill, Quin-poo-nah.	Com-e-tah.
Bob, Te-quel-la.	Ocah-quit-nic.
Ta-ep-ak-ke-ah.	Cad-ar-yah-cah-de.
Ama-hak-que.	Oliver, O-wat-tie.
George, Quin-tos-quo.	Dick, Ha-din-nick.
John, Tah-house.	John, Op-pah-pa.
Te-lo-me-ah.	Dick, Che-has-qus.

Charley, Tel-um-cut.  
 Tom, Cah-moe-e-mah.  
 Oc-col-shu.  
 Williams, Te-poke-te-nah.  
 John, Hap-po-e-nah.  
 Pet, Te-tol-o-me.  
 Babboon, Tah-wah-he.  
 Charley, Ha-chi-ki-usa.  
 Te-poke-te-nah.  
 Tom, Sheh-hel-ve-ah.  
 Skinner, Etum-Sketum.  
 Op-pou-ke.  
 John, Chum-che-cut.  
 Jack, Cush-ne-ha-hah.  
 Charley, Tam-ne-wat-ka.  
 Bob, Ep-po-lum.  
 Bill, Hi-you-che-me.  
 George, Chume-chume.  
 Bill, Lat-ka-che.  
 Jack, Such-pe-luch.

Jim, Ed-dah-se-wa-cah.  
 Isaac, O-wah-he-mo.  
 Charley, At-te-tic-each.  
 Bill, Chan-no-ah.  
 George, O-ho-mah.  
 John, Hi-ep-seh.  
 Jack, Quil-quil-la.  
 Moses, A-cah-tuc-te.  
 Tom, Odah-shinde.  
 Hus-lus-ke-wa.  
 Tom, Uln-kou-weit.  
 Jim, Wan-cut-lou-wit-ka.  
 John, Hi-e-te-cha.  
 Sambo, Quick-um-pe.  
 John, Kil-le-yo-ke-ke.  
 Bob, O-pa-chuc.  
 Dick, Up-pan-nois.  
 Bob, You-uch-we-cum-na.  
 Tom, Kin-daysh.

The sum total which I sent you by last mail was intended to include those only which belonged to the chiefs named, to which may be added eleven belonging to other bands, which I have since added to Sam and Sambo's bands, and twenty now in the guard-house belonging to hostile bands which have been brought here since the commencement of hostilities; and you find the total number of Indians now at this encampment to be three hundred and thirty-four.

Yours, respectfully,

GEORGE H. AMBROSE,  
*Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 19.

OCTOBER 31, 1855.

SIR: I have received the remittances sent to this office, and have receipted therefor to Mr. Chamberlain, who will deliver the package to you. In my report of last mail I noticed the rumor of the capture of several pack-trains, and the killing of nine or ten persons, which is found, upon investigation, to be incorrect. The train was attacked on the summit of the mountain, near Mooney's; two Mexicans were killed, and twenty-four mules shot dead, and some wounded. It was incorrect only in the number killed.

I trust you will come out here if you can possibly spare the time; different arrangements must be made for these Indians here than what we had calculated upon. If they are to be kept at the fort, some temporary buildings will be necessary for their accommodation. I no longer apprehend any fears of their being attacked by our volun-

teers ; they seem to have settled down upon the conviction that these Indians may be serviceable to them yet before the close of this war.

G. H. AMBROSE,

*Indian Agent.*

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No. 20.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AGENT,

*Rogue River Valley, O. T., November 4, 1855.*

SIR: Your communication bearing date October 18, written at Portland, came to hand yesterday. I have not yet seen Mr. Martin or Lamrick, nor am I advised as to whether he will accept the appointment of sub-agent or not. There are no Indians in the district which you designed stationing Mr. Martin in. A part of that same party of men who commenced the attack on Rogue river of the 8th ultimo, followed up their plan of extermination by passing through the cañon and waging an indiscriminate war upon every Indian whom they chanced to meet. In Looking-glass prairie, distant thirty miles from the cañon, they found a ranch of Indians, who were friendly disposed, and had claimed protection of the citizens, and had moved down among them ; this band of Indians numbered some thirty or more persons, and were attacked by this volunteer force early in the morning of the 24th of October ; eight of their number were killed ; the remainder made their escape into the mountains. I am informed all the Indians in that section of the country are run into the mountains—whether with hostile intentions or not, I am not able to say ; my informant, Mr. Barnes, was in that part of the country at the time of the occurrence, and he is a gentleman in whom I have every confidence. I have not been able to learn that these Indians were charged with any crime. In fact, the volunteers allege nothing more than that it afforded a harbor for some vicious and ill-disposed Indians, and they were determined to break it up. I had started to go there, but these difficulties occurring here turned me back. I have assigned Mr. Metcalfe as a sub-agent only temporarily ; when things shall have assumed a settled appearance, I will be able to attend to all the duties in this valley, and will endeavor to do so as early as possible.

After the attack on the settlements near Eliff's, of which I wrote you last week, the Indians assembled in considerable numbers in the Grave Creek hills, where they were found by Captain Smith. On Wednesday morning last, Captain Smith and Colonel Ross, with their respective commands, amounting to about four hundred strong, determined on making an attack, which was accordingly begun about nine o'clock in the morning ; the fight lasted through the day without anything effective being done ; towards night, the forces were drawn off a short distance, to obtain water and to take care of the wounded. At daybreak the next morning the fight was renewed by the Indians making an attack upon the camp of the whites ; after about two hours' fighting, the Indians were driven back to their old ground,

where they kept their position, the whites being worn out with fatigue and hunger, not being provided with either food or blankets; and finding themselves unable to route the Indians without great loss of life, they concluded to return and get supplies, and renew the attack in a few days. The loss sustained by the whites in that battle amounted to nine killed and twenty-five wounded; the loss upon the part of the Indians unknown, nor is it known the number of Indians engaged; it is variously estimated from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty. I have but little doubt the next encounter will be the bloodiest ever fought in this country. The Indians, flushed with success, will contest every inch of ground, and fight like tigers; the superior advantage which their knowledge of the country gives them, makes but few determined men quite a formidable foe.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE H. AMBROSE,  
*Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 21.

SCOTTSBURG, OREGON,  
October 30, 1855.

SIR: Yours of the 19th ult., enclosing "regulations, census, and provisions returns for the guidance of agents during existing hostilities." came to hand on the eve of the 28th. Much excitement has prevailed at Scottsburg and the valley above, during the three weeks last past, yet I see nothing indicative of an outbreak at the present time. The inhabitants have been collecting and fortifying, which leads the Indians to apprehend difficulty, and the fear of the Indians is very apparent. Indeed, for the past two weeks it has been difficult to say which manifest the most fear, the Indians or the whites.

During the past three days the excitement has in a great degree subsided; the night guard at Scottsburg has been abandoned, and people have gone to their regular employment. I have taken the precaution to suspend all licenses for the sale of ammunition within the bounds of this district. I shall proceed to the coast forthwith and visit the Kowes and Linslow bands, after which I will report the state of affairs at those points immediately to your office.

Since hearing of the disturbance at Rogue river, I have seen and talked with the headmen at Kowes bay, who say that "they very well knew what they told General Palmer, and they meant it, and should live up to their part of the treaty; and if the Indians at Rogue river do anything wrong it is not their fault, and they are not accountable for that," &c., &c. Eneas and John, at the Linslow, talk in the same way. Under existing circumstances, I do not think it advisable to collect the Indians at any one point.

I will advise you of my proceeding and of the feelings of the Indians within this district by every mail.

I have not yet received the invoice prices of goods disbursed in the Coquille, and cannot make up my abstracts of disbursement until I do.

Yours, very respectfully,

E. P. DREW,  
*Sub-Indian Agent.*

General JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 22.

PORT ORFORD, OREGON TERRITORY,  
October 19, 1855.

General PALMER—DEAR SIR: By the enclosed letter from Ben Wright, which I send, you may form some idea of the prompt and decided steps taken to prevent hostilities within his district.

It may be necessary to give you some account of the news which has reached here and which induced Ben to leave the mouth of Rogue river, whither he has been for a time managing the Chetco band, among whom and some whites a difficulty had recently occurred.

Lieutenant Kautz, with ten men and a guide, started nine or ten days ago on the examination of the proposed road from here to Jacksonville. He took a due east course, and in thirty miles reached the big bend of Rogue river; on his arrival he found the settlers in great alarm, leaving for protection from a threatened attack of a large body of hostile Indians from Applegate Creek valley. It seems, from the news brought in by the lieutenant, that some friendly Indians had come down the valley from Grave creek, and warned the settlers to leave, as a large body of hostile Indians were coming to kill all the whites in Rogue River valley and the valleys adjacent to it. The Indians reported that some twenty white settlers and a party of ten United States troops, from Fort Lane, were already killed; that the Indians had descended the valley as far as the mouth of Grave creek, and were going to burn the store or trading-post of Dr. Reavis, having already murdered the Doctor at his ranch, four miles above. The settlers did not believe the report, and after awhile concluded to go. One or two, in company with the Indians who brought the report, (they lived only a short distance below the store) went to see. Going upon a hill carefully, and not far from the store, they beheld the house in flames, and some sixty or more Indians dancing the war-dance around it. The Indians told them that the war party, after killing the Doctor, came on to the store, where was a young man, whose name was known only as *Sam*, and one or two others about; that the savages told Sam that they had come to kill him; he thought them in jest, and made no resistance to such a cool summons. They did as they had threatened—*cut him in quarters* and *salted him*. After taking what flour and other articles they wanted, they *set fire* to the buildings; the burning of which was witnessed by the party of whites above alluded to, who at once left, and on their way down accidentally met Lieut. Kautz and his party at "Big Bend," who at once put his men

in position in a good log-house with nine guns and all the ammunition and stores he had, and in company of a guide left for the fort here, arriving at one o'clock in the morning of the 16th, and left for the camp the same afternoon, with arms, &c., intending to reach camp the same night, preparatory to a resistance to the further advance of the hostile party, or, if necessary, to make a demonstration upon them.

What will be the result I know not; the Indians will be emboldened by the success they have already gained, and the arms and provisions they have taken will or may make them quite formidable. It is said that the cause of this outbreak is the taking from the reserve and hanging, week before last, some Indians near Jacksonville, for murders committed on Humbug creek, near Yreka, last summer. Of course, nearly all the preceding is but *report* as yet, only as to the burying of Dr. Reavis's store; for its truth I have *seen* and conversed with one of the men, who says he was one of the party who went upon the hill and saw the store in flames.

In consequence of this, you see the course of Ben Wright, and I know of no better course he can pursue. By the way, I think he deserves great credit for the coolness and calculation manifested in his plan. If anything further occurs I will let you know.

Your friend,

R. W. DUNBAR.

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No. 23.

FORT BOISE, *August 31, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor of transmitting to you the following report for the month of August, 1855.

I started from Camas prairie on the 1st of the present month to visit the Indians about Fort Hall, Bear river, Soda springs, Green river, and Salt river. On my arrival at Fort Hall I learned that all the Indians at the above-mentioned places had gone to the buffalo country, except a few lodges about Fort Hall. I had a talk with these Indians, explained the object of my visit, gave them some presents, and after resting my animals a few days returned to this place, where I arrived on the 22d instant.

I learned at Fort Hall that the small party of emigrants spoken of by Mr. McArthur as being on the road to Oregon had taken the road to California, which accounted for their not having arrived at Camas prairie before my departure from that place.

When I left Fort Hall on my return to this place, a company of twenty-five wagons (emigrants) were expected to arrive at that place in four or five days, on their way to Washington Territory.

On my arrival at this place I learned from Major Haller that he went to Salmon Falls, on Snake river, after I left his camp in Camas prairie, with a part of his command. He found but few Indians at that place, and they were disposed to be friendly. On his return to his camp, in Camas prairie, he sent another party, under command of

Lieutenant Day, to Salmon river, and then broke up his camp in Camas prairie, and returned to this place, where he is still encamped.

A few days since the party under command of Lieutenant Day arrived in camp at this place.

Lieutenant Day reports having fallen in with six of the murderers on Salmon river; that in attempting to secure them three of them were shot dead, and one badly wounded; that one made his escape without being hurt, (the wounded man also escaped,) and one was taken and hung, making four killed out of the six found.

He also reports having falling in with a party of Mormons on Salmon river, who were making preparations to commence a settlement on that stream.

Major Haller has issued an order for the return of the troops to the Dalles on the first day of September, which will make it necessary for me to return to the Dalles on the first of the coming month, as I do not consider it safe for me to remain in my district without the protection of troops.

A small party under command of Lieutenant Day will remain at this place until the arrival of the twenty-five emigrant wagons that were expected at Fort Hall when I left there, for the purpose of escorting them out of the enemy's country.

The animals belonging to the troops, as well as my own, are so worn down and weakened by the summer's operations, that neither myself nor Major Haller consider it safe to attempt to explore the region of country lying between this place and Klamath lake this season; so I shall return to the Dalles by the most direct route.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NATHAN OLNEY.

General JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

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No. 24.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Olympia, W. T., November 22, 1855.*

SIR: About the 18th of September I left this place to attend to business of the department on the Columbia river, and on reaching Fort Vancouver learned for the first time the prospect of the present Indian difficulties. I proceeded up to the Cascades, and there learned the death of Major Boland, an agent of the Territory, and appointed Col. B. F. Shaw (a man well qualified for the position) special agent to fill his place until it should meet the approval of your department or you should make another appointment, and then proceeded to the Dalles, and after remaining some days and obtaining all the information possible in regard to the origin of the difficulties, and having had several talks with the Indians in that vicinity, I concluded to adopt the following policy as the most feasible under the circumstances: To designate different points where Indians who wished to maintain friendly relations towards the whites should come and place

themselves under the charge of a local agent, appointed for that purpose, who would take possession of their arms, giving receipts for the same, to be returned at such times as the department should think proper; take a list of the names of all the males and those that surrender arms, making them answer to their names as called at least once every day; and in consideration of their doing this, whenever there was a deficiency of provisions among them in consequence of their new position, the local agent would provide for their necessities in the most economizing manner possible, always selecting points that would offer the greatest opportunities for their providing for themselves—concluding that it was much cheaper for the government to feed than fight them. I then appointed Mr. George B. Simpson local agent for the Indians in the vicinity of the Cascades; Mr. H. Field local agent for the Indians in the vicinity of Fort Vancouver; Mr. Plemonde local agent for the Indians in the vicinity of the Cowlitz river, and Mr. T. S. Ford local agent for the Indians in the vicinity of Chihales river; and for the purpose of not congregating too many at one point so as to provide against the scarcity and increased price of provisions, I appointed Mr. B. C. Armstrong local agent for a part of the Chihales Indians on the lower part of the river; and hearing of threatened difficulties in the vicinity of Shoal Water bay, I appointed Mr. Travers Daniel (who had been my interpreter) special agent for the Indians in that vicinity.

On visiting all the points at which I appointed local agents, a great many Indians came in and surrendered their arms, and seemed perfectly satisfied; and, as information reaches me, I learn that they continue to do so, and that the arrangement is restoring quiet to both Indians and whites. I have kept open the communication between this point and the Columbia river, and as yet I have not heard of any white persons being killed in the region of country I have visited.

To hazard my own opinion, I think the present difficulties will soon terminate, as well as the necessity for all of these arrangements. There is abundant evidence to my mind that this war has been contemplated by the Indians for the last three or four years, and I will take the proper steps to get the testimony in shape and submit it to your consideration at the earliest practicable moment.

In visiting many of the white settlements in the region of country I have been over, I found the people entirely destitute of ammunition, and no means of obtaining any, and as the difficulties were of a threatening character, I made purchase of some and carried with me and distributed it. Since my return I have had no information from the Sound district that would give me any definite idea of the state of affairs there.

I will keep you fully advised of events as they transpire. Hoping my policy pursued will meet with your approval, I remain yours, most respectfully,

J. CAIN,

*Acting Sup't Indian Affairs, W. T.*

Hon. GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

No. 25.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office Indian Affairs, March 8, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to send up four communications, dated, respectively, the 8th, 9th, 14th, and 26th of January last, from superintendent Palmer, together with their enclosures, upon the subject of our Indian relations in Oregon Territory.

You will perceive that the subjects treated of by the superintendent are of grave character, and are of such importance, in my opinion, from the circumstances surrounding them, as to require that all the force which the Executive department can exercise in that section of country should be brought to the aid of the superintendent in the views entertained by him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

[Endorsed.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*March 10, 1856.*

The papers which accompanied this letter have been read by the Secretary, and are herewith returned.

GEO. C. WHITING,  
*Chief Clerk.*

No. 26.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., January 8, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith letters from agents R. R. Thompson and N. Olney, the former dated November 10th, the latter November 22d, enclosing Raymond's letter, together with copies of my replies.

On my last interview with Mr. Olney, he gave me assurances that he would not unite with the troops, but preferred remaining near the Dalles in charge of the Des Chutes bands of the Walla-Wallas, congregated in an encampment near his residence. I much regret that he should have felt it his duty to assume the responsibility of designating local agents and interpreters in a district in which he had no jurisdiction; and especially do I regret his selection of the persons named—Narcisse Raymond and John McBean; the former an old servant of the Hudson's Bay Company; the latter the interpreter for the trader at Fort Walla-Walla, being the son of the notorious McBean

who had charge of that fort at the time of the Whitman massacre, and is believed by a very respectable portion of our community to have been accessory "before the fact" in that horrible tragedy.

I do not call in question the motives of agent Olney, but the policy which overlooks considerations that may involve us in serious consequences, as I believe combinations of reckless men exist in that country for the purpose of inducing a state of war with certain of these tribes. The accompanying copy of a letter to Major General Wool will indicate the views entertained by me at the time, and I have yet to be convinced that those impressions are erroneous. It is true that our volunteers have entered that country, and that war exists; scouting parties had been permitted to scour the country in advance of the main body of the troops, who fired indiscriminately upon all Indians that happened in their way, without knowing whether they were friends or foes; seized horses and cattle; opened caches of provisions, and applied them to their own use. It is even charged that McKay's buildings were set on fire by these scouting parties. Portions of the troops evidently went into the field determined to force a war upon the *Cayuses*, *Walla-Wallas*, and *Umatillas*.

No one, I believe, attempts to maintain that the attack on the *Touchet* was the first act of hostilities; for, I am told, the day preceding that on which the *Walla-Walla* chief and his five men came into the camp with a white flag, a few Indians were fired upon by a scouting party from the command, none of whom, however, were killed, and Mr. Olney succeeded in having an interview with them, and learned the whereabouts of the *Walla-Walla* village. These Indians were allowed to go to their village and the next day the chief, with five of his men, came into camp, as I am told, by invitation from Mr. Olney, for the purpose of a *talk*. The encampment of the troops was that night within three or four miles of the chief's village, containing the *women and children*, who remained quiet till next morning, though the approach of the troops was well known to them. When the chief was told to return with his flag and fight the troops, he repeatedly said "no," that he desired peace and would not fight them, and accompanied the troops about a mile, where they encamped. At this camp he was disarmed and put under guard, together with the Indians accompanying him. In the morning they accompanied the troops to the village which they found deserted, the Indians having become alarmed and left before their arrival, leaving most of their goods, among which were found many articles taken from *Fort Walla-Walla*, after its abandonment by the *Hudson's Bay Company*. These articles being identified, the chief, it is said, acknowledged that his people had taken them, but said that he would recover the greater portion, and that such as were not returned he would pay for. At this camp several caches were found containing flour, corn, peas, wheat, sugar, coffee, pork, and many other articles, all of which were taken possession of by the troops. They then marched to the mouth of the *Touchet*, where the troops encamped for the night, still retaining the prisoners. In the morning, as the troops were leaving camp, firing commenced—whether on the part of the Indians or our troops I have not fully ascertained. The lieutenant-colonel in com-

mand has some doubt on this point. The Indians kept up a running fire for about ten miles; upon reaching a field and small cabin a halt was called, and late in the day an attempt was made to bind the chief and his men. This they regarded as an indignity not to be borne; one of them resisted, it is said, by drawing his knife, upon which they were shot down. No attempt, I am told, was made by them to escape until it was attempted to bind them. Thus the chief and four of his men were put to death, all scalped, and the head of the chief entirely peeled. From a publication herewith enclosed, you will learn that his ears were cut off and brought as a trophy to the settlements. Many contradictory reports are current as to the manner of the death of these Indians, and the official report does not explain, nor are its statements in relation to this subject based upon actual observation; the officers are, of course, compelled to receive the statements of those intrusted to their keeping. This chief, known as Pupu-mux-mux, "Le Serpente Jeune," or Yellow Serpent, has been celebrated for his friendship to the Americans. He was with Colonel Fremont during the campaign in California, was a firm friend during the Cayuse war, and has often exerted his influence in restraining the surrounding tribes from acts of aggression. He was emphatically *the chief* of middle Oregon. His recent conduct had, however, led many to doubt his friendly intentions. There is good reason to believe he was made the victim of unscrupulous and designing men, in revenge for his boldness in avowing his preferences for Americans and denouncing those who were the oppressors of his people.

In another communication I have transmitted letters from agents Thompson, Olney, and Ambrose; and from sub-agents Drew and Metcalfe, and special agents Bright and Jennings; the perusal of which will advise you, to some extent, of the condition of affairs in their respective districts. The personal attention given to the business of the different districts, to the almost entire exclusion of the duties of this office since the commencement of hostilities, has prevented me from keeping you advised as fully as might be desired, or of bringing up reports and the ordinary returns.

The recent action of the lower house of the legislative assembly, in passing a vote of censure on my conduct, on account of the designation of the coast reservation, and the efforts to temporarily locate on a tract adjacent to that reservation such of the friendly bands in southern Oregon as have given just and reasonable assurances of friendship, where they can be more economically subsisted and kept separate from the hostile parties, will be noticed in another communication, and the misstatements of facts and erroneous arguments advanced by the members of that body in support of the memorial corrected.

It may be presumed, perhaps, that the unanimity of the vote upon that memorial indicates a feeling well calculated to embarrass, to a great extent, my efforts to carry into effect the policy of the government. Remotely situated, as we are, from the heads of departments, and the length of time requisite to communicate and receive specific instructions, and the absence of any power to enforce a compliance with the "intercourse laws" in these exciting times, it seems re-

quisite that persons designated to service should be free from objections and have the confidence of the people among whom they are to labor.

Whether the decided expression in the house upon this memorial be an index of the popular feeling, I have not had time to inquire. It is very likely the result of a caucus among the members for objects indicated in the speeches upon its passage. Be this as it may, the tendency is to impair the confidence of the people, and especially of the Indians residing in the settlements, some of whom already manifest a feeling showing clearly that they have been tampered with and their minds prejudiced.

No personal consideration should stand in the way of a rigid and successful performance of public duty ; and as I attach no pecuniary or political importance, or any other personal consideration, to the office with which I have been intrusted, while its duties are arduous, and a source of constant care and anxiety, and, at the same time, so greatly desired by others, I am not unwilling, if such be the desire of the administration, to relinquish them and return to private life. The selection of an incumbent to succeed me, in order to carry out the policy of the government, should have capacity and the confidence of the administration, and be uncontaminated with any of the *cliques*, *isms*, or *schisms*, unfortunately distracting the public mind and the councils of this Territory. A compliance with the wish of the memorialists would be to trifle with the faith of the government, pledged in solemn treaties with these tribes ; would change the entire system of that philanthropic and judicious policy towards the aborigines adopted or greatly improved by this administration, by which, I believe, the object so long sought for may be attained—the permanent elevation of the savage to a place among the civilized and enlightened families of the earth. Any one petitioned for by this legislature will feel under obligation to carry out the will of that body, which is wholly adverse to that expressed in your instructions ; and should he be appointed, a conflict must ensue calculated to neutralize and render abortive the plans of the government for the civilization of these Indians. On the other hand, should one be appointed from abroad, he must have the military force of the government to maintain the laws and enable him to carry out his instructions.

To these remarks I have only to add, that I am at the disposal of the administration, either to continue or resign, as may be the President be deemed best calculated to promote peace, preserve our national character from reproach, subserve the interests of humanity and secure the safety and civilization of these Indians.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, O T.*

Hon. G. W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

No. 27.

AGENCY OFFICE, DALLES, *November 10, 1855.*

SIR: There is no news from the Yakama country since the departure of the troops, some ten days ago. Captain Wilson's company have gone to join the force already in the field. Two companies, (the Benton and Wasco,) one hundred and fifty men, start to-day for Walla-Walla, where they expect to form a junction with the command that have gone by way of the Yakama; they are under command of Major Chinn. The Linn county company remain for the protection of this place, as also probably a company from Washington Territory, commanded by Judge Strong, who are mustered into the United States service; they are now encamped on the north bank of the river opposite this village. There has as yet been no movement to visit Stoke-ote-ly, who is represented as being on the headwaters of John Days's river, with about one hundred men with him. A few days ago a party of Klamaths arrived at the Tiach valley, with the intention of passing the winter there, as they had done in times past, and return to their own country in the spring; but found the place deserted, and upon ascertaining the state of things in the country, they despatched a messenger to inform me of their arrival and have me direct them what to do. I have directed them to come to the Dalles and pass the winter in the Wasco camp.

Since you left, we have had a visit of six Cayuses, who came down for purposes of trade; they *knew nothing*. I gave them your views in regard to the treaties, and told them to give them to the chiefs.

Mr. Olney was of opinion that it would be policy to have the Cayuses go to the *Grande Ronde* and be under the charge of Mr. Raymond, and so informed me by letter. I was not able to see it in the light Mr. Olney viewed it, and therefore took no action in the matter. Mr. Raymond is a very good Frenchman, but I felt disinclined to place him in a position where so much for our interest depended upon his integrity, and concluded it was better rather to wait until a person could be found in whom the fullest confidence could be placed. Mr. Olney receiving no reply from me, changed his views as to location, and authorized Mr. Raymond to act as local agent for the Cayuses and collect them at or in the vicinity of the Catholic mission in Walla-Walla valley. Mr. Raymond's appointment, he was given to understand, was subject to your approval; and I wish to assure you, that if you have confidence in the man, I desire you to approve of his appointment, as I am satisfied that although there is a seeming discourtesy on the part of friend Olney in the matter, he is actuated by a desire to promote the public good and carry out the views of the superintendent.

The agency building on Umatilla river is destroyed by fire; no other buildings destroyed in that section of country at latest accounts.

We are getting along with our Indians in this vicinity as well as could be expected under the circumstances. We are compelled occa-

sionally to be severe with the refractory. Up to date I have issued five hundred pounds of flour. The ground is covered with snow.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. THOMPSON,  
*Indian Agent, Oregon.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 28.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., December 10, 1855.*

DEAR SIR: I reached nome last evening after an absence of several days, during which time your letters of 10th, 15th, and 19th ultimo came to hand. I had begun to think that you had abandoned the service altogether, or were indifferent as to its interests; but it appears the fault has been in the mode of conveyance. I am unacquainted with the means used on the route your mail matter takes in reaching this office. These packages were brought by some unknown persons, and, as you see, weeks after they were due; the contents of a portion of which were published in the papers nearly a month before they reached me.

I am somewhat surprised that Olney should have appointed local agents in the Cayuse country, when merely acting as such himself, and when the regularly appointed agent was at his post. He has evidently misconstrued his power. I desired him to aid you during pending hostilities, but did not contemplate placing him superior, but, upon the contrary, subject to your order in all things, as he is not in his own district. He doubtless means well, but his action may involve us in difficulties, the end of which cannot be seen. I cannot approve his appointment of Raymond, and the responsibility must rest where it belongs.

Raymond may be a useful man; but if I had desired his appointment, I would have conferred it while at the Dalles, as he was designing to leave soon after I left that point.

I had, at first, intended sending a message to the Cayuses and Walla-Wallas; but, upon reflection, found it might be prevented, and left matters for the action of the resident agent, to whom alone I look for the direction of measures in his district. I am at a loss to suggest plans for your action, not being advised of the movements of troops, or the position of Indians. To give positive orders might hazard the peace and damage the plan of operations, and I will only say, that to your discretion is left the direction of affairs in your district. Pursue that course believed to be best calculated to restore peace, maintain the faith of the government, and secure the rights of persons and property of natives and whites in that country.

The whole war movement, on our part, is likely to be a failure, unless, indeed, a war is forced upon tribes against their wish, and

without just cause. For my part, I have yet to be convinced that this noise and alarm in reference to Cayuses and Walla-Wallas has not been brought about by a combination of interests at variance with the wishes of those Indians, and for political and pecuniary objects, by those as greatly at war with our real interest as the most hostile tribes, and much more to be dreaded; but it is not always good policy to say what we believe, and our efforts must be to restore peace, remove the causes for alarm, and adopt measures for future peace and security. I will again peruse your letters, and, if I deem necessary, add in another communication; but, at present, have only time to subscribe myself, very respectfully, yours,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

R. R. THOMPSON, Esq.,  
*Indian Agent, Dalles, O. T.*

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No. 29.

DALLES, *November 22, 1855.*

DEAR SIR: An express arrived from the Walla-Walla valley on Monday, the 19th instant, sent by Narcisse Raymond to me, stating that Pu-pu-mux-mux had crossed over to Walla-Walla, had taken the fort, distributed the goods among the Indians, &c., &c.; that Stock Whitley was on the Umatilla, trying to induce the Cayuses to join in the war. For the particulars, I refer you to the enclosed letter from Raymond.

The Yellow Serpent is supposed to have one thousand warriors with him, and is determined to fight. One hundred and fifty men were sent up some time since, and are supposed to have fortified themselves on the Umatilla; about two hundred more are being sent to their assistance. All the troops have come in from the other side of the river, without accomplishing anything, except to cause the Indians to retreat, which was natural enough for them to do from so large a force. The war goes on badly enough, I assure you. I don't know but I shall incur your displeasure by doing so, but I can't stay at home and see things going on so badly.

I shall go up with the 200 men that are sent to relieve the 150 on the Umatilla, and after joining them I shall try and have something done in the way of whipping old Yellow Snake and Stock Whitley. I leave two men to look after my Indians until my return. I go as Indian agent, not as a military officer; but I shall give the officers the advantage of my knowledge and experience in military matters, so that I can be of advantage in both departments. I shall return as soon as we have accomplished what can be done by the first onset, or as soon as we have fought a decisive battle. I will send down expresses from time to time, to acquaint you with our success. I forgot to mention to you that I ordered Raymond to camp with, and act for the present, until your pleasure could be known, as a local agent for such of the Cayuses as wished to keep out of the war. It is very un-

certain, however, which course that tribe will take. Ledwyer and Red Wolf sent me word that the Nez Percés would not join in the war. I sent them both a friendly letter and a present of tobacco, and if they keep their word and remain our friends, which I think they will, the probability is the Cayuses will follow their example. I understand that Joseph, a Nez Percés chief, is on the Umatilla, trying to keep the young men of the Cayuses from joining in the war.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NATHAN OLNEY,  
*Indian Agent.*

Gen. JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs,*  
*Dayton, Oregon.*

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No. 30.

WALLA-WALLA COUNTY, W. T., *November 14, 1855.*

SIR: I am arrived here yesterday by mere chance close to S. James people, who had taken possession of the fort and pillaged it, distributing the goods to the Indians, who wished to join him. Stok-o-lah, De Chute chief, was arrived here on the Utella with all his people, and We-lap-lo-lick among them; they deeming their interest to have the Cayuses on their side, to go down to the Dalles, and kill all white men there—saying there is but few whites there. Tolman and John Whitford have done all they could to raise all the Indians by their stories, and almost succeed with the Utella Indians. The latter has deserted, and gone towards Colville. These two, along with Peter, were the ringleaders in setting fire to the buildings and pillaging Brooke's property. I have assembled the chiefs here, and sent word to those on the Utella to meet me here also. Stickers and a couple more attended. Those *here*, I am happy to remark, behaved very well, and are disposed to do all I shall require of them.

Those on the Utella gave me no answer yet, but have gone to consult with the rest of the chiefs. The young men are rather disposed for war, misled by stories forwarded to them from Kymahyken. It is proper to inform you that Serpent Jeune, with a force of one thousand, is placed beyond the Walla-Walla river, on the hill, and is determined to fight. We, good Indians and settlers, do not consider ourselves in safety, being surrounded by enemies, and cannot get out of it by any means. We are obliged to camp a little further than the mission, on account of danger—say, Mill creek. I have had trouble to get any one who was disposed to risk his life to carry this express, but Mr. McBean generously offered the services of his son John. To him and Augustin Delord I have promised each \$10 per day. I have also taken the liberty to take three horses of Brooke's.

In haste, respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,  
NARCISSE RAYMOND.

NATHAN OLNEY, Esq., *Indian Agent.*

## No. 31.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Dayton, Oregon, December 12, 1855.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 22d and 30th ultimo. I was somewhat surprised to learn that you had gone into the Cayuse country as an agent. The country embraced in the scope of the operations of the troops that have marched on Walla-Walla is either within the district of agent Thompson, where, as an agent, you can exercise no authority except as you may be specially authorized either by myself or agent Thompson; or in Washington Territory, beyond the jurisdiction of this superintendency.

Whatever power, therefore, you may assume in virtue of your commission as Indian agent, without being assigned thereto by the authorities mentioned within the country of the Cayuses or Walla-Wallas, is wholly unwarranted, and your acts must be without validity or force.

It is true that I had previously assigned you to special service in Mr. Thompson's district, but your recent operations in the Cayuse and Walla-Walla country lie beyond that designation.

I am also impelled to say that the employment of John McBean as interpreter, or in any other capacity in this superintendency, cannot be approved, nor that of any other person *now* or *heretofore* in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. Mr. Raymond's appointment, as a local agent for the friendly Cayuses, is open to the same objections, and cannot be approved.

I regret exceedingly to come thus in contact with your arrangements, but my views of official duty leave me no alternative. I am not disposed to doubt your intentions; your measures, however, in these appointments, I regard as impolitic in themselves and at variance with the policy of the government, and a sense of official propriety impels me to express to you my disapprobation of them.

I start this morning for Rogue river, on business connected with the removal of the friendly Rogue-Rivers and Umquas to an encampment in this valley, and consequently must close.

Very respectfully,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

N. OLNEY, Esq., *Indian Agent.*

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 No. 32.

[From the Weekly Times.]

*From the War.*

From Mr. Franklin's Story, who returned from Colonel Kelly's camp recently, we gather the following interesting facts in relation to the northern volunteers:

Mr. Story, in company with Dr. Shaw and three others, left the camp near Whitman's mission on the 18th of December; arrived at the Dalles on the 24th, and started from there on foot on the 27th, and arrived in Portland on the 1st of January. They were six days on the way from the Dalles, and had a severe time in encountering the cold, ice, and snow.

When Mr. Story left the camp the troops had, for the time being, gone into winter quarters, awaiting the arrival of supplies. The wounded, eighteen in number, were being brought into the Dalles, in charge of Dr. Nicholson. He left Colonel Kelly at the Dalles, who left camp on the 22d of December. From him he learned that Governor Stevens had safely arrived in camp, and made a speech to the volunteers, in which he highly complimented them for their gallantry, and urged a vigorous prosecution of the war. The war-chief of the Yakimas, Hum-how-lish, was in charge of Governor Stevens, who was to bring him to the Dalles. He was captured by the friendly Nez Percés, and delivered over to Governor Stevens.

Colonel Kelly having resigned, in order to take his seat in the council, and urge such measures as were necessary for the further prosecution of the war, stated his reasons to the regiment, and declined to receive any votes for colonel. Mr. Story states that Colonel Kelly was greatly liked by his soldiers, who gave him three hearty cheers when he left the field. The regiment proceeded to elect a colonel, when Captain Thomas Cornelius was elected almost unanimously.

It is yet uncertain whether Colonel Cornelius will attempt the crossing of Snake river at present. Should large supplies arrive, he may attempt it; though it is thought that flat-boats will be necessary for that purpose, as it is a very rapid stream. He now occupies a position of great importance for holding the Indians at bay; and, should he cross Snake river, he would be in the heart of the Indian country. It is thought that, in the spring, the combined tribes will come out in strong force and give fight. Mr. Story met considerable supplies on their way to the camp of the volunteers. Adjutant Farrar was along with the wagons with a part of Polk county company.

The volunteers were generally in good health and spirits; they stood in need of clothing and flour; they had plenty of beef, straight. Dr. Shaw brought down, as a trophy, old Pu-pu-mux-mux's ears, and Mr. Story brought down a portion of his scalp to Thomas Stevens, which was sent him by his son John, who cut it off.

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No. 33.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., January 9, 1856.*

SIR: Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter to Major General Wool, United States army. This communication sufficiently explains its objects.

In accordance with my request, an order was made out directing

Captain Smith, commanding at Fort Lane, to furnish the number of troops asked for. Fearing objections might be urged against their removal, and other obstacles thrown in the way, I determined to repair to those districts, and accordingly, on the 13th ultimo, set out, accompanied by John Flett as interpreter, and Willis Starr as messenger. The trip to the Umqua reservation was performed through one of the severest storms that I have ever experienced in Oregon. We reached that point on the evening of the 17th, where I found nearly three hundred Umquas, Calapooias, Cow Creeks, and Molallalas, under the charge of Theophilus Magruder, esq., who had been appointed by Mr. Martin, (designated by me as local agent, who declined the appointment,) and whose appointment had been approved by agent Ambrose. The census of this camp gave 89 men, 133 women, 40 boys, and 37 girls—many of whom were suffering from sickness, probably induced by a change of diet—being confined to flour and fresh beef—and from exposure.

They had been hurried upon the reservation as a means of safety, and deprived of their usually comfortable lodges and variety of roots, berries, and fish; and the crops of vegetables prepared by many for winter's use were dying off rapidly. With a few exceptions they were destitute of shoes or moccasins, and many nearly in a state of nudity. But few were comfortably clad. Their lodges were mere temporary structures, hastily thrown together and entirely unsuited to a winter camp. Among the number assembled were the head chief and twenty-eight of the Molallalas, or Molelle tribe of Indians, inhabiting the country along the western slope of the Cascade mountains, east of the Umqua and Calapooia purchase, on the headwaters of the north and south forks of the Umqua river. These Indians were desirous of being confederated with the Umquas, but desired to reside in the Umqua valley. Mr. Walker, who had been directed to precede me with horses to aid in the removal, had submitted the question of removal to the Indians, but no definite arrangement had been made, and some were adverse to the measure. The young men desired to go, but a few of the old men were opposed, saying that they had but a few years to live. The 20th ultimo was set for a general talk, and the Indians directed to consult among themselves on the propriety of confederating with the Molallalas, and all going to the coast reservation. The council met according to appointment, but the head chief of the Umquas not being present, they were unwilling to give a positive answer. The head chief arrived in the evening, and the Indians re-assembled in council on the 21st, and a treaty, which had been drawn up in accordance with the suggestions made them, was fully explained. The head chief, who understands and speaks English quite well, spoke in its favor and urged his people and the Molallalas to accede to the terms, declaring himself ready to go where he could have peace and safety. They then all consented, and the chief of the Molallalas and three of his principal men signed the treaty. With the exception of two of the Umqua chiefs, who were sick, all the chiefs of the bands embraced in the treaty of the 29th November, 1854, signed this treaty, and those two chiefs were willing to remove in the spring, or when the streams and roads might be in a favorable state.

On the 22d and 23d, proceeding to Roseburg, I purchased a few goods to supply the most pressing wants of those Indians. In the meantime the snow had commenced falling, and on the 27th it was eleven inches deep and the weather exceedingly cold, with a prospect of remaining so for some time.

Mr. Metcalfe had previously been despatched to Rogue river, and on the 22d returned and joined me at Roseburg. The inclemency of the weather and bad condition of the roads induced Mr. Ambrose and Mr. Metcalfe to recommend the continuance of the Fort Lane encampment until spring. Mr. Metcalfe is left in charge of the Umqua encampment, with instructions (see paper "A") to remove them at the earliest possible moment.

Three men, ten women, and four children were being taken to the reservation on the 28th, the day on which I set out on my return. These people belonged to the Cow Creek and Looking Glass prairie bands, and were of the party in the latter place at the time the first attack was made upon the Indian village at that point by the whites, and who escaped to the mountains.

The head chief of the Molallalas expected to gather thirty additional members of his band, but the severe cold and snow-storm prevented his return before I left them.

Lieutenant-colonel Wm. J. Martin, of the southern battalion, Oregon volunteers, had directed Captain Boyer, with a command of twenty men, to accompany the Indians on their removal, and render the agent such assistance as might be required; but whether this order will be observed I am unable to determine, as the scanty supply of forage would hardly warrant their remaining so long in that vicinity.

The excitement among the people of this valley has greatly subsided. The settlers in the immediate vicinity of the contemplated encampment cease to oppose the movement, and many urge its propriety and press its immediate consummation. I feel quite well satisfied that by the time these Indians approach the neighborhood said to be the most hostile, no opposition will be offered to their progress. Should I, however, find it to be otherwise, I will call upon General Wool for such a military escort as will awe lawless persons and enable those friendly and peaceable bands to reach in safety their destined encampment.

In another communication will be transmitted the treaty to which I have already referred. The last clause of article third contemplated that in the event the President disapproves of the coast reservation as a home for these people, they may, after the restoration of peace, be allowed to return to the Umqua reservation, or elsewhere, as may be directed.

The expenses of collecting and subsisting the Indians at the various encampments in this superintendency have long since absorbed all the funds in my hands applicable to such purposes. This class of accounts has thus far been carried under the appropriation for "adjusting difficulties and preventing outbreaks."

The Indians claim, and with much reason, that this expenditure ought not to be taken from their annuities, as the necessity for such expenditure was no fault of theirs. I have previously suggested

amounts required to enable me to maintain peace with the tribes in middle Oregon, along the coast, and on Table Rock reservation, presuming at that date, October 9, that the tribes in this and Umqua valley would be able to subsist themselves with comparatively little aid.

But the excitement immediately following, rendering necessary their collection and subsistence, calls for an immediate remittance.

I am of opinion that a sum of not less than fifty thousand dollars, to be placed at the disposal of this superintendency to meet the expenditures connected with the removal and subsistence of Indian tribes, and to "adjust difficulties and prevent outbreaks," already expended and likely to be called for before the close of these disturbances, will be requisite; and should they continue long, that sum will be insufficient. I would respectfully suggest the propriety of asking for an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars to meet these emergencies, and that one half that sum be as early as possible placed at the disposal of the superintendent.

The ratification of the coast treaty, and settlement of the Indians of this valley and those of Umqua and Rogue river, upon the reservation, and the removal of the southern coast tribes to points within its limits, with the requisite number of troops to guard the passes and maintain order, would be a matter of economy to the government; and besides, it may save the lives of hundreds of our citizens, for it requires but a slight provocation to cause an outbreak in the immediate settlements. With the appropriations for each tribe as per treaties, and an early remittance so as to put matters into active operation at an early day, we may be able to maintain peace with all those tribes and bands now friendly. But delay is dangerous, and the sum first alluded to is requisite for immediate use.

It is said that a majority of those bands treated with on the 19th November, 1854, and the greater portion of the Cow Creeks, are among the hostile bands. Quite a number of each of those bands, however, are among the friendly encampments, and others entirely neutral are believed to be in the mountains. A majority of those treated with on the 10th of September, 1853, and those treated with on the 29th November, 1854, remain firm to the stipulations of those treaties. So, also, are all the bands of this valley. The coast tribes, with the exception of a small band on the head of Coquille, are also friendly. The Wascopums and nearly all the Des Chutes bands are friendly.

The Walla-Wallas, Cayuses, and Umatillas, are represented as hostile, but, as indicated in other communications, I believe that they are reluctantly driven into that attitude. A part of each of these tribes it is said, are still friendly. The Nez Percés are all friendly. Many of the Klamaths are now in this valley, evince the most amicable feelings, and are desirous of entering into treaty negotiations.

One village of Indians in the vicinity of St. Helen's have not yet signed the treaty of the 10th January, 1855, but are ready to do so. The Clatsops, Nehalems, Tillamooks, and Nestockies have not yet entered into negotiations. Arrangements for this purpose were made immediately preceding the breaking out of hostilities. Since then I have deemed it advisable to await the restoration of peace. It is,

however, understood that they are willing to confederate with other coast tribes.

With these exceptions, all the bands west of the Cascade mountains have entered into treaty stipulations for the sale of their country, and should the coast treaty be ratified, the entire bands may be confederated and located upon the same tract.

I have the honor, sir, to be your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Hon. G. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 34.

COLUMBIA BARRACKS, W. T.,  
November 1, 1855.

SIR: The existence of a war of extermination by our citizens against all Indians in southern Oregon who, by recent acts, appear to evince a determination to carry it out, in violation of all treaty stipulations and the common usages of civilized nations, has induced me to take steps to remove the friendly bands of Indians now assembled at Fort Lane and upon Umqua reservation, to an encampment on the headwaters of the Yamhill River, distant about sixty miles southwest of Vancouver, and adjoining the coast reservation.

This plan has been adopted with a view of saving the lives of such of those Indians as have given just and reasonable assurances of friendship.

The tremendous excitement among the miners and settlers in that country, goaded on by reckless and lawless miscreants, who slaughter alike innocent and guilty of both sexes, induced those friendly bands to abandon the reservation and claim protection of the United States troops stationed at Fort Lane. Over three hundred of these people are now encamped at that point, and as many more in the Umqua valley, but little less menaced. These people are deprived of their usual means of obtaining subsistence, and must necessarily be furnished by the government. The enormous expense attending the transportation of supplies at this season of the year will, I think, alone justify their removal.

In my instructions to the Indian agents, directing this movement, they were required to call upon the commandant at Fort Lane for such an escort as was deemed requisite to secure a safe passage through the disturbed district. Since these instructions were given, I have received intelligence that meetings of the citizens of the Willamette valley, residing along the route to be travelled by these Indians in reaching the designated encampment, as well as those in the vicinity of the latter, have resolved upon resisting such removal, and avowing a determination to kill all who may be brought among them, as well as those who sought to effect that object. This feeling appears so general among our citizens, I am apprehensive they may attempt carry-

ing it into effect ; to avoid which, I have to request, if it be deemed by you practicable, that a command of twenty men be directed to accompany these Indians on their removal, with directions to remain at or near the encampment so long as their presence may be required to insure the safety of the Indians.

Believing, as I do, that the cause of the present difficulty in southern Oregon is wholly to be attributed to the acts of our own people, I cannot but feel that it is our duty to adopt such measures as will tend to secure the lives of these Indians, and maintain guaranties secured them by treaty stipulations. The future will prove that this war has been forced upon these Indians against their will, and that, too, by a set of reckless vagabonds, for pecuniary and political objects, and sanctioned by a numerous population who regard the treasury of the United States a legitimate subject of plunder.

The Indians in that district have been driven to desperation by acts of cruelty against their people ; treaties have been violated and acts of barbarity committed by those claiming to be citizens, that would disgrace the most barbarous nations of the earth ; and if none but those who perpetrated such acts were to be affected by this war, we might look upon it with indifference ; but, unhappily, this is not the case.

In connexion with the request for an escort, I may say that the winter encampment for the Indians herein referred to is situated upon lands designed as a permanent location for residence of Indians, and to be attached to a district declared an Indian reservation ; that it is the gap through which is the communication from the white settlements to an Indian reservation destined to contain a population of four thousand souls, and the only practicable route through which supplies can reach them for the northern half of that population.

The establishment of a military post for a few years at this point is deemed requisite to insure the preservation of peace between our own citizens and these Indians, as well as good order among the numerous bands congregated. Entertaining this view, I would respectfully request that a competent officer be directed to accompany me to the contemplated encampment prior to the arrival of the Indians from the south, that I may have the benefit of his experience and suggestions in the particular location and arrangement of the encampments and the improvements designed for the use of Indians upon the reservation.

This examination may be made in a few days, and may be of the utmost importance to the government in its intercourse with Indian tribes and the preservation of peace.

I have the honor to be, dear sir, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,

*Sup't of Indian Affairs, O. T.*

Major General JOHN E. WOOL,

*Commanding Pacific Division, U. S. Army.*

No. 35.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., November 21, 1855.*

SIR: The proximity of the Indian tribes in Washington Territory, with whom war now exists, to tribes in this Territory who have recently entered into treaty stipulations with the United States, induces me to furnish you, as the chief of the military division embracing these Territories, with a triplicate copy of the treaty with the Walla-wallas, Cayuses, and Umatillas, and also of that with the Des Chutes bands of the Walla-Wallas and Wascoes, which are herewith enclosed.

The strong desire of a portion of our citizens to involve the tribes, parties to these treaties, with those now unfortunately engaged in hostilities against us, leads them to circulate exaggerated reports of their intentions and actions, well calculated to exasperate our people to acts of violence with a view of provoking retaliation which may afford an excuse for making war upon them.

Many regard the act of Pu-up-mux-mux, head chief of the Walla-Wallas, in fixing his winter residence north of the Columbia river, as proof of hostile intent. Reference, however, to the 5th article of the treaty of the 9th June last, shows this right, secured to him for five years, to erect and occupy a building as a trading post at or near the mouth of the Yakama river, and the first section of the same treaty secures the right to the Indians to occupy any tract then in their possession till the expiration of one year after its ratification. The usual winter quarters of the Walla-Wallas are on the north side of the Columbia; consequently the present location of this chief's camp is no evidence of hostile intent, or intention to disregard the provisions of the treaty. His refusal to meet the agent was certainly not a mark of friendly feeling, but this may, in my opinion, be attributed to the false coloring given the message sent him, and to exaggerated and distorted reports of our intentions.

It may turn out that he and his people intend war; they may possibly already have engaged in hostilities; but if so, I am persuaded that it is from a mistaken idea of our designs, and impressions made on the mind of the chief by evil disposed persons, who would humble and reduce him to the condition of a slave to their caprices—a mere tool for the accomplishment of their dishonest and selfish aims—rather than from a design to violate the treaty, or in any way to violate good faith towards us. He is a high-minded, haughty chief, with an exalted idea of that position, and while he strives to maintain it with dignity, others, aspiring to influence, seek to prejudice the whites against him.

Certain privileges and annuities secured him by the treaty have tended to excite envious feelings among other chiefs; a feeling encouraged by quite a number of white settlers and traders, who regarded other aspirants with favor. This being calculated to impair his influence in his tribe, has served to irritate his feelings. But my confidence in him is such, that I am unwilling to believe that he will

engage in hostilities against us, unless driven and provoked to do so by overt acts of aggression on the part of our citizens.

I am also satisfied that the Cayuses, as a tribe, are desirous of maintaining peace, and that there must be on the part of the whites a departure from the principles of justice, and a violation of rights secured this tribe by the treaty, before they will become a hostile party in the war. Such a step will be in their apprehension a desperate last resort for preservation.

This is also true of the Nez Percés. Their uniform good conduct, and friendship for our citizens, render an intention on their part to make war on us quite improbable.

The reported combination of all these tribes with intent to wage a war of extermination against the whites, is, I apprehend, but a phantom conjured up in the brains of alarmists, unsupported by one substantial reason; and the plot said to have been nearly consummated of cutting off those engaged in the negotiations last June, I regard as of the same character, originating in the same source.

As to the Yakamas, there is no excuse for their acts of aggression, and there is no disposition on the part of those engaged in the Indian department to screen them or their confederates from the punishment they so justly merit.

Individuals of the bands embraced in these treaties may be co-operating with the enemy; but whether their numbers are such as to involve the tribes to which they belong, or not, I am not advised. I, however, think it highly probable that their tribes will repudiate the acts of such, give their names, and aid us efficiently, if necessary, in their arrest.

The Wasco and Des Chutes bands of Walla-Wallas are generally collected in encampments near the Dalles. A few of the Des Chutes have fled to remote points; but whether actuated by fear, or with hostile design, I am unable to determine.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon Territory.*

Major General Wool,

*Commanding Pacific Division U. S. A., Fort Dalles, O. T.*

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No. 36.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., January 14, 1856.*

SIR: Herewith are transmitted the following letters, which will aid you in forming a proper estimate of the state of our Indian affairs at their respective dates in the different localities to which they refer, viz:

From agent Ambrose five letters, dated November 11th, 14th, 22d, 30th, and December 2, 1855.

Two letters from agent Olney, of November 30th and December 8th.

Two letters from agent Thompson, of November 15th and 19th.

One letter from sub-agent Drew, of December 3d.

One letter from R. W. Dunbar, esq., collector at Port Orford, acting for special agent Wright, then absent on official duties, of November 4th, enclosing a copy of Mr. Wright's letter to Major Reynolds, United States army, of November 5th, requesting that the United States troops then at that point might not be withdrawn; and a letter from Thomas H. Smith, local agent for the temporary encampment of Indians at St. Helen's.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Hon. GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner, &c., Washington City, D. C.*

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No. 37.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AGENT,  
*Rogue River Valley, O. T., November 11, 1855.*

SIR: Since last mail-day nothing of interest has transpired. The Indians have fled into the mountains—it is not known where. An Indian girl came into Dr. Barkwell's house, on Applegate; the Dr. requested she should be taken to Fort Lane; some volunteers started with her, but killed her on the way. I don't know that the circumstance is worthy of mention; I only allude to it to show the disposition of the men who are now in the field, and how difficult it must necessarily be to get along with them smoothly. I saw Captain Lamrick, and conversed with him about the Umqua portion of this district. Mr. McGruder has been appointed special sub-Indian agent. I suspect, from what I learn, a better appointment could not have been made. I learn by Captain Lamrick, that he has collected the Indians together on the reservation. The information which I gave you last mail, in relation to the difficulties in Looking-Glass prairie, may or may not be correct. I had it from rumor, and supposed I had it as near correct as it could be got, amidst so much confusion.

The facts of the case, I suppose, will be laid before you by special sub-agent McGruder.

Those Indians at the fort remain quietly as usual.

Yours, respectfully,

G. H. AMBROSE,  
*Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

No. 38.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AGENT,  
*Rogue River, O. T., November 14, 1855.*

SIR: As I have an opportunity, I will send you a few lines. Nothing has transpired of an alarming character recently; the Indian alarmists and exterminators are cooling off, and the good people of the valley are beginning to believe they were *sold*. Sam's people are all at the fort, and apparently quite contented; and I believe the people of the valley are content to let them remain so. As soon as this organization shall have been completed in accordance with the proclamation, no longer any danger need be feared from unprovoked assaults. Bruce is elected major—a very sensible man, and quite friendly to Sam's people. I have but little doubt in the course of a month or so the Indians will be permitted to return to their reserve. A healthy reaction is taking place in the public mind, and none seem to doubt his innocence. As the express man is in great haste I will close, and write you by next mail.

Yours in haste,  
 G. H. AMBROSE,  
*Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

No. 39.

WINCHESTER, DOUGLAS COUNTY, O. T.,  
*November 22, 1855.*

SIR: I arrived here a few days ago on a visit to the Umqua reservation. Mr. McGruder entertains the opinion that no fears need be apprehended of these Indians; they are collected together on the reservation and disarmed, and evince a friendly disposition. They are much in need of winter clothing, and if their annuities have arrived, it would be well to forward them out immediately. The Rogue-Rivers were getting on smoothly when I left. Mr. Metcalfe was in charge of them; he assured me none had been absent at roll-call yet. I have no news to communicate to you in relation to the movement of the troops; nothing effectual has yet been done. I received your letter before I left home, informing me of the near arrival of their annuities, and of your probable intention of removing these Indians to the coast. I have not had time to find out their minds fully on that subject; it is a matter which should require some consideration. Those new arrangements made with Indians should not be entered into hastily, except it meet their hearty approval. Had those Shasta and Scotan Indians been kept away from this reservation, we would, in all probability, have avoided a war with any other Indians than themselves. I am well satisfied it was their influence that brought about a state of hos-

tilities ; and they were exasperated by being forced from their lands by our people, before compliance upon the part of the government with the treaty, and being placed too near bands of Indians against whom ancient feuds existed.

I will write more particularly as soon as I return home ; I am now on my way.

Your obedient servant,

G. H. AMBROSE,  
*Indian Agent.*

General PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 40.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AGENT,  
*Rogue River Valley, O. T., November 30, 1855.*

SIR : I have just returned from a visit to the Umqua reservation, where I found everything pertaining to the agency being conducted according to your instructions ; the names of all adult males and boys over twelve years of age have been enrolled ; special sub-agent McGruder calls the roll daily, and issues to them rations of beef and flour ; he apprehends no danger whatever of an outbreak on the part of the Umqua Indians. In examining their reservation I found very little good tillable land. If it should be your design to colonize those Indians on the coast, it had better be done before expending any portion of their annuities in agricultural purposes on the present reservation. I suspect, however, all things considered, they could be kept more economically and to a better advantage where they are for the present, than they could in the event of their removal to the coast. Flour is being purchased at the rate of five and a half cents per pound, and beef at ten dollars per hundred ; there are now on the Umqua reservation two hundred and sixty-six persons, including all ages, thirty of whom are Klamaths, or Indians from the vicinity of Klamath lake, with whom no treaty has ever been made. As they desired peace, it was thought advisable to take them on to the reservation and care for them the same as those belonging there. In relation to the Table Rock reservation, I am hardly prepared to venture an opinion as to the best policy to be pursued with those Indians ; they have an aversion to being removed, which arises in part from the attachment they bear for their native land, and again not the slightest apprehension need be entertained of an outbreak among them ; they are inclined to peace, and under favorable auspices would soon become highly civilized. They have erected comfortable temporary winter quarters, and are, to all appearances, quite contented. Their conduct both before and since this war commenced has proved satisfactorily to me that their desire is to remain friendly with the whites. They gave up their arms without the least hesitancy ; Sam at the same time averring, if fears were entertained of him to post a guard around him or put him

in the guard-house; he would submit to anything for the sake of peace for his people; they had at one time tried war, and were tired of it; had sought for peace and made a treaty to obtain it, which treaty they ever intended to hold inviolate. Up to the present time I have had no flour to purchase; of the wheat which they raised the past summer, and which they have been subsisting upon ever since, there is a considerable quantity yet. I occasionally issue to them some flour (which I received from you) for a change, and have been furnishing them beef ever since they were taken to the fort. Flour can be purchased at six, and beef at twelve and a half cents per pound; however, I suspect I will have to pay more for beef before spring unless I have money to buy with, in which event I can get it for that, or probably less. Would it not be as well to use the money placed in my hands for building purposes, and replace that with the funds appropriated for this specific purpose?

The ratio of decrease vastly exceeds that of the increase; since the eleventh of October last, when they were removed to this encampment, there have occurred *ten* deaths, seven girls and five boys, and but one birth.

There are on the reserve nearly twenty acres of volunteer wheat, which looks exceedingly well, and I doubt not but it will make a good crop.

Those hostile bands of Indians have gone down Rogue river; just before they took their departure they went on to the reserve, burned all the boards and shingles there, and every article of value belonging to chief Sam's people; a temporary house I had erected for the accommodation of persons laboring on the reserve, shared the same fate; they also killed or drove away seven of the cattle belonging to the agency. The settled parts of this valley being nearly entirely destitute of grass, I was compelled to keep the agency stock on the reserve, which I endeavored to do by keeping a white man to accompany the Indians while herding their cattle and horses.

The Indians have assembled in considerable numbers near what is called the Meadows, on Rogue river, whither they have been pursued by the forces in the field, and probably by this time a very severe battle has been fought between them, of which I may be able to inform you before the mail leaves.

If it should be deemed advisable to resume work on the reservation, it could be done by employing six or eight persons to work together; there would be no more danger than in any other part of this valley. In fact, I doubt if there would be as much danger as there was before hostilities commenced. Again, if it should be the object of the government to remove these Indians and make a permanent reservation for them, it had better be done at once, and save any further expenditure of money on this reserve; there are some bands of Indians a short distance up Rogue river, who are not implicated in this war, that should, in justice to the country, be removed; if they are not removed, war with them is unavoidable.

Your obedient servant,

G. H. AMBROSE, *Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

No. 41.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AGENT,  
Rogue River, O. T., December 2, 1855.

SIR: Agent Metcalfe arrived at this agency on yesterday, bearing despatches containing instructions for the removal of the Rogue River tribe of Indians to the Willamette valley. It is quite unfortunate such instructions did not arrive earlier; winter with all its severity has fully set in; snow is several inches deep on the ground at the time of my writing, and falling fastly yet; from all appearances it may be very deep before night. I regard it as almost impossible to remove the Indians at this time, for several reasons: first, the unusual severity of the winter at this early season; secondly, they are destitute of winter clothing, not having received their annuities; but very few of them have either shoes or stockings; many of them are sick. Peace and plenty seem to be far more destructive to the Indian than war; surround him with comforts and gratify his appetite, and he grows dull, lethargic, and loses what energy he was once possessed of, in which state sickness and death soon overtake him. The healthy excitement of the chase, or even the greater excitement of war, with its scanty pittance of acorns and roots, is far more congenial to his nature. Their assent to removal can be obtained, although it will require some little time to do so. Here is another characteristic of his nature; he must have time to reflect over every proposition made him: once started in, they never look back. If hasty action be required of them, they at once suspect duplicity or treachery, or, at any rate, that some sinister motive has actuated it; and, with this impression, they make up their minds against anything that may be proposed that requires speedy action. Again, if time be allowed them to counsel among all the heads of families, and nothing imperative required of them, at least until they have had time to deliberate upon it, but advice given them to pursue such a course as would best promote their interest, I have never experienced the least difficulty in getting them to do as I desired, nor do I apprehend any now; but, sir, I do assure you, a trip to the Willamette at this inclement season of the year could not be accomplished without a vast deal of suffering among them. Again, it will be impossible to move them without an escort, which cannot be obtained for two or three weeks to come. Captain Smith, of Fort Lane, with all of his disposable force, is now engaged with those hostile bands of Indians near sixty miles distant from here, from which he will not be disengaged for several weeks. Mr. Metcalfe, who has just travelled over the road, also entertains the opinion that it would be *worse than folly* to endeavor to remove them without an escort; hence we will not be able to start as early as you expect; necessity compels what humanity would require—a delay at least until comfortable preparation can be made for their accommodation; in the mean time it is to be hoped that pleasanter weather may succeed.

As it regards the payment of liabilities contracted by Mr. Culver, late Indian agent in this district, I hardly know what to do. As to your

suggestion about the prices being exorbitant, in some cases it will be admitted it really appears so; it is claimed to be a special contract, made, at the time, with a knowledge of the uncertainty of the time when government would pay it. In the case of Mr. Hughes, I am credibly informed that he borrowed the money to complete his job; and the interest now amounts to more than the whole of his claim against the government. It is also claimed that special contracts made with agents of government, where there is no fraud, hold good. And although those prices may appear exorbitant to any person not conversant with the prices of this country, I opine it would be a difficult matter to find any person who would agree to perform like service (I allude to the potato contract) for less compensation, with the same uncertainty of pay.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. H. AMBROSE,  
*Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 42.

UMATILLA AGENCY, *November 30, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor of reporting to you my arrival at this point. I arrived last evening in company with Lieutenant Colonel J. R. Kelly, who has assumed the command of the troops at this place. He has under his command at this place a little over 300 men. He intends leaving at this place some 20 or 25 men in charge of the baggage-wagons and some provisions, &c., that he cannot take with him, and proceed by a night march at once to Fort Walla-Walla, where he expects to arrive at daylight on the day following, and attack the Indians, who it is supposed are collected at or near that point in large numbers. Nothing has been learned by the troops who first arrived at this place under command of second Major Chinn, of the number and whereabouts of the Indians since sending the first express to the Dalles. They have been scouting about in the vicinity of the fort, and have fallen in with and exchanged shots with several small parties of the enemy, but no regular fighting has been done, or any lives lost. Yesterday, the men found a cache of potatoes containing some 30 bushels; also one of cowish and camas; they have also captured 17 head of horses and one cow.

The troops have on hand about 20 days' provisions, and about 40 rounds of ammunition. Colonel Kelly is determined upon pushing the war forward and pressing the enemy as hard as possible while his provisions and ammunition last. Delay will tend to dishearten the men and weaken the authority of the officers and shorten their supplies. The blow must now be struck while the men are eager for the fight, and have the means of fighting.

Six of the Des Chutes Indians came up with me to act as spies and guides; I have also Tababoo, my interpreter, and John McBean, who

speaks the Walla-Walla language, and knows the country well, besides knowing where a great many of those caches and stock are. Mountain Robinson is also with me. I will send him down with an express as soon as anything of importance occurs. I hope, when I write again, I can give you news of a brilliant victory for our troops. My presence among them I think will inspire them with confidence; they appear much pleased at my arrival among them. We ought to have 200 more men up here to occupy and scour this part of the country properly; and by all means there should be at least 500 or 600 men on the north side of the Columbia.

I shall keep you informed of everything that transpires, at the very earliest opportunity.

If you have any instructions to give me for the governing of my acts, &c., &c., I shall be most happy to receive and obey them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

NATHAN OLNEY,  
*Indian Agent.*

General JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, Oregon.*

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No. 43.

WALLA-WALLA VALLEY, *December 8, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor of reporting to you the following facts:

We arrived at Fort Walla-Walla on the 3d inst. On the 4th we fell in with the Indians, and had some skirmishing. On the 5th we started in search of their camp. We arrived near their camp just before night, and were met by Pu-pu-mux-mux and about fifty of his men with a white flag; they asked for a talk. We halted, and demanded what he wanted. He said peace. We told him to come with us and we would talk. He said no. We then told him to take back his flag and we would fight. He said no. We told him to take his choice—go back and fight, or come and stop with us. He chose the latter. We retained him until the next day. We tried to come to an understanding, but could not. We still retained him as a prisoner, with four of his men who came along with him. The next morning, 7th, a large force attacked us as we left camp. We fought them all day; they retreating before us for a distance of ten miles. This morning, 8th, the fight was again commenced by them before we had eaten our breakfast, and lasted until dark. The Indians had engaged yesterday about 300 men, to-day about 600. Our killed are five. Our wounded amount to fourteen, three mortally. The enemy have lost, it is supposed, about fifty. We have found some eighteen or twenty of their dead. Pu-pu-mux-mux and his four men were killed by our men in trying to escape from their guard during yesterday's fight. Captain Bennet is among the killed; also, Lieutenant Burris, of H company. The tribes fighting against us are the Walla-Wallas, Umatillas, Cayuses, Pelouses, and Stock Whitley's band from the Des Chutes. They are camped within half a mile of us to-

night, and appear determined to renew the attack in the morning. Our men are short of ammunition, and have only three days' provisions. If we are not reinforced in three days we shall have to fall back, as our enemies are constantly receiving additions to their force from some quarter—I suppose from the Yakamas. If the people in the valley don't do more for the support of the war, the Indians will clear the field before spring.

I cannot write more, as it is late at night and the express is ready to start. Robinson, who carries the express, will give you the particulars.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
NATHAN OLNEY,  
*Indian Agent.*

General JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

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No. 44.

AGENCY OFFICE, DALLES, *November 15, 1855.*

SIR: An express arrived here last evening from the camp of Major Rains; the news is but meagre; the troops were ten days travelling from here to the Catholic mission, on the Yakama, a distance of seventy-five miles. They saw but few Indians until they arrived in the vicinity of the Yakama river, when some forty or fifty made their appearance on the opposite bank and gave them the shout of defiance. Major Rains ordered a command of infantry to cross the stream and engage them, but it was found impossible, as the water was deep, and the current so rapid that it washed the men down the stream, two of whom were drowned. The volunteers came up, crossed over, and drove the Indians off. The greatest number of Indians seen at any one time, is given at three hundred; there has been some skirmishing, and four or five Indians killed; our loss is three volunteers wounded. *Caches* of provisions, as also of ammunition and arms, were found on the Yakama; a large number of horses and cattle have been taken. The mission was found deserted, but everything remained in the house unmolested; a letter was left in the house stating that the Indians were determined to fight to the last, and that when they ran out of provisions they would kill their women and children.

Colonel Nesmith, with a command of 168 men, has gone to the Nahchess pass to look for Captain Malony.

Captain Cornoyer, with his scouts, left here on yesterday; they will pilot Captain Wilson's company, who are waiting for them about twenty-five miles from here. Wilson's company started several days ago, but took a wrong trail and were lost for two days.

There was six inches snow on the ground in the Yakama valley on the 12th inst.

Indians in this immediate vicinity all quiet. The Wishrams have no person to look after their interests. Mr. Shaw left with the troops without making any arrangements for them. I do not feel authorized

to appoint a local agent for them, nor to include them in the issue of rations, for the reason that Mr. Shaw took charge of them at the time when the acting superintendent for Washington Territory was here, and subsequently the governor—none of whom saw proper to act in their behalf. If you think it would be better for me to treat them as we do our own Indians, please inform me, as I will be pleased to do so, for they deserve it.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. THOMPSON,  
*Indian Agent, Oregon.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, Oregon.*

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No. 45.

DALLES, November 19, 1855.

SIR: An express from Walla-Walla valley arrived here last night with the news that Fort Walla-Walla had been taken by the Indians, and that Pu-mu-mux-mux had distributed the goods, found therein, to the Indians, who were encamped on a hill in the vicinity of the fort, to the number of one thousand. The son of Pu-pu-mux-mux has returned from the buffalo country, and is said to have been much chagrined at finding his father occupying a hostile position towards the whites, and endeavored to have him retract from his position, but without avail. In his dispute with the old man he struck him, and upon another coming to his assistance, he gave him a blow on the head with his tomahawk.

The buildings and property of Messrs Brook, Bumford, & Noble have been destroyed. The cattle are nearly all gone—taken off, as is said, by the Pelouses. John Whitford and Frank Talman are represented as being principals in pillaging Brook, &c.'s house, as also having been very active in inciting the Indians to hostilities. Stoke-ote-ly, with his band, which would include the greater portion of the Tiach tribe, had reached the Cayuse country, and was doing all in his power to induce the Cayuses to join him in making an attack upon the Dalles, representing that there were but few whites left there, and that taking advantage of the troops in their absence to the Yakama country, there would be but little resistance, and they would secure a large amount of plunder. He failed, however, in satisfying them of the feasibility of his plan.

The Umatillas, as a tribe, are against us; there are probably some individual exceptions, and they, in my opinion, will go to the Nez Percés for protection.

The Cayuses are divided; many of their principal men did all they could to prevent their people from joining in the war. Five Crows is mentioned among them. It is said of him, that entertaining doubts as to the position We-a-te-te-na-te-may-ne (the head chief) might assume, he sent for Joseph, the Nez Percés chief, desiring him to exert his influence in dissuading the young men from their pur-

pose; but up to the time of the express leaving, the chief had not declared his intention. His refusal to speak is considered as tantamount to declaring in favor of war; and from the action of the friendly portion of the tribe, it would seem that they so understood him, as they are preparing to go to the Nez Percés country.

I have not heard of Tice, but incline to believe that he is on the headwaters of John Day's river, taking care of the stock belonging to Stoke-ote-ly and those who went with him. I had forgotten to mention that Wil-lep-tu-leke is with Stoke-ote-ly.

We are getting along with our Indians in this vicinity as well as could be expected; it requires us to be constantly on the alert—not so much for fear of the Indians, but to protect them from the recklessness of our own people, many of whom, to their shame be it spoken, are as much lost to all the nobler impulses of humanity as the Indians themselves.

A census of the Wascoes gives 138 males over twelve years of age; females over twelve years, 179; males under twelve years, 48; females under twelve years, 38; whole number, 402. In addition to which, there are encamped with the Wascoes about fifty belonging to other tribes, a census of which will be rendered in a few days. Mr. Olney has under his charge about two hundred and fifty; Mr. Jenkins, the local agent at Dog river, reports about one hundred and fifty under his immediate charge. There has been no census taken of the Wishrams, but they are estimated at four hundred. In the absence of their agent, who is in the Yakama country, I have given my personal attention.

The principal of the officers who were in the enemy's country, on the north side of the Columbia, have just arrived, and report their commands as being on their way in to this place. Major Chinn was met by the express at Well springs, and upon learning of the large force of Indians at Fort Walla-Walla, concluded to press on as far as the Utilia and there fortify until reinforcements came up.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. THOMPSON,

*Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O. T.*

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No. 46.

DALLES, *November* 19, 1855.

The express was sent by Raymond, and letters dictated by him to Olney, Noble, and others, written by McBean, senior, and carried by McBean's son and a half-breed Frenchman. The information sent you, pertaining to that section, is derived partly from the letters referred to, and partly from the oral statements of the bearers. Raymond, in his letter to Mr. Olney, says that, at the time he was on his way to the Dalles with Mr. Noble's cattle, some of the Cayuses proposed to Five Crows to follow and kill him, as he had caused five of

their people to be hung; to which Five Crows is said to have replied, that it was a long time since that matter had occurred, and he did not wish to hear it talked of now. Raymond also remarks, that the settlers and friendly Indians are in imminent danger, as they are surrounded by enemies without any chance of escape; there may be some sympathy for the friendly Indians who are in danger, but for the settlers there can be but little, as they made their election at the time when the general notice was given to abandon the country. As to those men who concluded to remain in the country being in any particular danger at this time, it is to my mind extremely doubtful; they knew the Indians, and their own standing with them, too well to run much risk. One other consideration: it is well known that the amanuensis of these letters is, at this particular juncture, extremely anxious in regard to his own standing with Americans. If curses were of any effect, superintendents and agents of the Indian department get enough of them in this place to send them to the infernal regions in double-quick time; so watch and pray; but be sure to watch, for there are at this time many among the red-skins who would glory in having the opportunity of perforating our hides with a bullet.

There appears to have been but little execution done by the troops while in the Yakama country—some five or six Indians killed, and a number of horses and cattle taken; on our side none killed, three wounded; the greatest number of Indians seen at any one time was two to three hundred. I am inclined to think that the sight of numbers frightened them off. They probably fled to Walla-Walla to avail themselves of Pu-pu-mux-mux's assistance. It is doubtful whether they can be brought to a general engagement; and, if not, the war will be prolonged to an indefinite time.

I send my family to Oregon city next week, as it is nothing but continual alarms and excitement here.

Respectfully, yours,

R. R. THOMPSON.

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Dayton, Oregon.*

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No. 47.

OFFICE SUB-INDIAN AGENT,  
*Umqua City, Oregon, December 3, 1855.*

SIR: By the mail of October 28th, I informed you that I did not deem it absolutely necessary to carry into immediate effect the regulations and precautions set forth in your circular of October 13, 1855.

Since that date, affairs in this district have assumed a different aspect; and, on the 14th of last month, I found it necessary to act under the general orders therein contained, and accordingly collected the Umqua band of Ral-la-wat-sets on a temporary reservation near this agency; appointed John W. Miller local agent during my absence, and immediately started for Kowes' bay.

On my arrival at Empire City, on the evening of the 16th, I found the citizens from the Upper Coquille and on Kowes' bay and river had brought their families to Empire City, anticipating an immediate outbreak. Their suspicions were aroused from the fact that all the Kowes band of Indians had moved up the river, taking with them all their effects, and demanding and unceremoniously taking away all the Indians who were in the employ of the whites. Connected with this, was a well-confirmed report that the Cow Creek or Rogue River Indians were in the mountains, at the headwaters of the Coquille and Kowes rivers, &c.

I immediately started up river, and found Taylor's band and a part of Fyu Jim's band encamped at the mouth of the north fork of Kowes river, about two miles above the mouth of what is termed the Isthmus slough, (slew,) connecting with the waters of the Coquille. The remainder of Jim's band were encamped at the head of a slough leading towards the Umqua. In a word, their camps were so arranged that they kept up a constant communication from the Umqua to the Upper Coquille. I thought it advisable to break up this line of communication, and proposed to them to come down the bay about four miles below Empire City, and there camp all in one body; which proposition they told me they could not accept immediately. I gave them twenty-four hours to decide. At the expiration of that time they decided to move down. They are now on a temporary reservation, and Socrates Schotfield appointed local agent.

A few days after they were all encamped, the Coquille Indians commenced hostilities by burning Mr. Hoffman's house, near the council ground. I also learned, by a despatch from the Upper Coquille, received last evening, that the settlers had an engagement near Drolley's at the Lower fork; that three Indians were shot, and one taken prisoner and hung. Hoping that my movements thus far will meet your entire approval, I await further orders.

Respectfully yours,

E. P. DREW,  
*Sub Indian Agent.*

JOEL PALMER, *Superintendent.*

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No. 48.

PORT ORFORD, O. T.,  
November 4, 1855.

General PALMER—DEAR SIR: By last mail I wrote you in reference to the Indian difficulties on Rogue river, and the situation of matters in the district; in that communication I left Ben Wright, with the Indians under his charge, on Rogue river; since which he has returned, having advised with those upper bands, and put them on their guard; he found some of the hostile Indians among them, who were saucy enough to demand of him his business there, but who left before his small party could take them into custody. The agent learned that overtures had been made to his Indians to join the hos-

tile bands ; but either they were not disposed to do so, or his timely arrival put a stop to further negotiations of that sort ; after advising with them, he returned to the mouth of the river, where all was excitement ; he gave the whites their orders for peace, and left for home. Having learned from *rumor* that danger was apprehended on Coquille, he hastened up there, found all quiet, though much fear existed in consequence of the alarm felt by the Indians from a report that armed whites were coming from Umqua valley to kill all of them ; and from the circumstance of the Coquille Indians having discovered, while out hunting, a large number of squaws and children, guarded by four men, secreted up the valley, supposed to be the women of the war party of Rogue River valley, put there for safety. The Coquilles express great friendship for the whites, and say that they don't want the war party to be allowed to come among them ; the agent advised with them, and promised to send an agent to stay by them until the alarm should be over. On his way down he met a party of *armed* men from Kowes bay, who said they were going to protect the *white* settlers from what they supposed a meditated attack of the Indians. Ben went back with them to the Indian camp, who were greatly alarmed ; but he called them back, talked with them, and convinced the whites that there was no danger ; he prevailed upon the men to return, and appointed Mr. Hall as a sub-agent, to maintain quiet until he could send Bill "*Chance*" up.

When Ben reached the coast he found everything in the wildest confusion. At Randolph they had cached their effects, and were leaving for protection. All down the coast the same excitement existed ; and now there are but two white men between here and Coquille—all have come to Port Orford for safety. At Rogue river, those "*fire-eaters*" are in a perfect fury of excitement ; have built defences, armed and threaten to attack the Indians, or to go by force and disarm them. And all this is kept up by a set of graceless scamps at Rogue river, who have no higher desire than to *murder* the defenceless Indians for pastime. Up to this time no act of violence has been done. By the advice of the cool-minded they have been deterred. Ben goes at once to Rogue river, and if the *whites* will let his business alone, he can maintain quiet in his widely extended district.

It is lamentable to see the uneasiness and fear of these Indians. They beg of Ben not to suffer the whites to kill them ; that they will do anything rather than have the whites come and kill them, and drive them away from procuring food for the winter. Ben will go and take with him such help as he cannot get along without, and try to restore quiet, and at all hazards prevent the whites from misusing the Indians of his district, and try to bring them back to their homes, that they may not be deprived of the chance now offering to procure their winter's food. If this is not done they will, many of them, suffer. In some instances Ben has bought potatoes, and may give them more, as they actually need. There is not a doubt but he can maintain peace in his district.

Some expense must be incurred to do this thing, but nothing to compare with what it would cost to put them on temporary reservations. I send you a copy of the authority which Ben gave to Chance,

and if anything further transpires before the steamer comes, I will give you the news. Ben is on the jump day and night. I never saw in my life a more energetic agent of the public. His plans are all good; there can be no doubt of it—that of maintaining peace, and that of quieting the fears of the Indian, so that he and the white man may return to their usual pursuits.

Your friend,

R. W. DUNBAR.

P. S.—I send you also a copy of a request to Major Reynolds, who is expected by steamer, to take the remaining troops from Port Orford for the northern campaign.

Ben is going to station them for a time at Big Bend. All is quiet here. I do not believe that any danger need be apprehended.

R. W. D.

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No. 49.

PORT ORFORD, OREGON, *November 5, 1855.*

SIR: In consequence of existing excitement on the part of white citizens in this district, occasioned by the presence of warlike bands of Indians on our borders, I deem it expedient and necessary to request you to allow the present military force stationed at Port Orford to remain, as a means of enabling me to carry out my plans for the preservation of peace among the Indians of my district and for the security of the white citizens.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJAMIN WRIGHT,  
*Sub Indian Agent.*

Major REYNOLDS, *U. S. A.*

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No. 50.

MILTON, *November 25, 1855.*

General PALMER—DEAR SIR: I beg to report to you that on the 19th instant I started down the Columbia river for the purpose of removing any Indians that might be found in that direction to this encampment.

I found, a short distance below Ranier, two families, and on the Klatskania river about thirty Indians, all of whom, except one man left to take care of their camp, I brought up to this place last evening. A portion of their property was left behind, which some of them will return for as soon as their houses, which they are now engaged in building, are completed.

They seem peaceable and friendly disposed towards the whites, and were willing to come until some of their number went over to the Oak Point mills, where, as they allege, the men at the mills informed them they must remain at their camp. After this, it required some

firmness and severity to get them started. The men at the mills desire that they may be permitted to return ; but whether this will be consistent with the public safety, and that of the Indians, is a matter of doubt with me.

Complaints were made that several of these Indians, whilst intoxicated, had threatened the lives of some whites, and I fear if they are permitted to return to their camp during the excited state of the public mind, some violence will be done them.

All within my limits are now collected at this encampment, except a few belonging to the Klatskania tribe, who are a short distance above Cathlamette. I will either go or send for them in a few days.

Mr. Whitcomb, when down here, furnished me with eighty dollars to pay expenses of this encampment, which sum is exhausted and I have advanced some funds of my own. You will please send me, by first safe conveyance, two hundred dollars, which sum I estimate will be amply sufficient to pay all arrearages and the expenses of this encampment for the next three months. The provision list for November will be returned in a few days, at which time I will furnish you with a detailed statement of the expenses incurred up to this date.

You have doubtless ere this been informed of the course taken by myself and some others in arresting and conveying to Vancouver some Indians who ran away from that place.

The only uneasiness I have about the affair is, that it may cause you some trouble or inconvenience ; holding as I do an appointment under you, and in order to prevent anything of that sort, I desire that the blame, if any, may attach solely to me.

It was distinctly understood, by all who accompanied me, that I went over as a citizen, and not in any official capacity.

I remain, with respect, yours truly,

THOMAS H. SMITH.

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No. 51.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Dayton, O. T., (written at Portland,) January 26, 1856.

SIR: Your communication of the 4th ultimo, conferring discretionary powers to meet the exigencies of the service in this superintendency, has been received. Several communications had been written and placed in the post office, detailing at some length the condition of affairs in this superintendency prior to the reception of your letter, all of which goes out by return steamer, which is expected here tomorrow.

Subsequent to the date of those letters, I received by express messenger from R. B. Metcalfe, sub-Indian agent, who had been left in charge of the Umqua Indians, a letter informing me that he had succeeded in inducing all the Indians assembled upon the Umqua reservation to join the emigrating party, and had proceeded to Elk creek, at the southern base of the Calapooia mountain, when, by the mischievous interference of whites, the Indians had become alarmed, and portions of

them had peremptorily refused to go farther; and that he doubted whether he would be able to succeed in keeping together the camp, unless aided by a military force.

This interference is undoubtedly the result of the action of the legislative assembly in denouncing the policy of colonization, and avowing a determination to resist by force any attempt to settle Indians upon the reservation designated; as the Indians were told by persons strolling about camp that the superintendent would be removed, and that if they proceeded to the reservation the whites would shoot them, &c. The Indians being naturally superstitious and timid, believed those reports, and although appearing desirous to proceed, were deterred by an apprehension of premeditated design to annihilate them.

A messenger was immediately sent to Vancouver, with a request that twenty-five or thirty dragoons, or fifty United States infantry, might be despatched to the aid of the agent. I have not received official information of the result of that application, but am informed by good authority that Colonel Wright, now in charge of that post, had declined granting the escort until he received orders from General Wool, who had returned to Sanprissa.

By the perusal of the enclosed newspaper, you will notice a telegraphic despatch received at this place from Oregon City, to the effect that the Indians above alluded to had been dispersed. It may, however, turn out that the Indians referred to are those belonging to the Willamette valley, as messengers had been sent directly there to congregate at the encampment in the Grand Ronde valley, where they might receive their annuity payment and be supplied rations. Several of these bands had started, accompanied by their local agents, but were induced to abandon the trip on account of the threatened opposition of the legislative assembly. One band only reached the point designated; others I presume will do so in a few days, if visited in person.

Should General Wool grant the request for an escort of troops with directions to remain at or near the encampment, it will give confidence to the Indians, and there will be but little difficulty in carrying out the proposed plan. Should this, however, be refused, I shall have but little hope of making a successful arrangement to locate these bands, or accomplish any good in our efforts to benefit these Indians.

Preliminary steps are being taken to remove the southern coast bands to the reservation; but the number of Indians in that quarter, the numerous streams to cross on the route, the difficulty in transporting the requisite supplies, must necessarily cause delays; besides, it would, I apprehend, be a useless attempt, unless efficient aid could be afforded by the military, for the obstacles sought to be thrown in the way of the removal of the Umqua and Willamette tribes will doubtless have to be overcome in the removal of the coast Indians. A very few designing persons are able to cause a vast amount of unnecessary labor and expense, and defeat any arrangements with these Indian tribes, and the only means by which we can hope to retain the ascendancy over their superstitious fears, and place our relations with them upon a firm basis, and counteract pernicious influences of whites, will be by having at our disposal a military command.

To be denied the aid of troops at a critical moment upon flimsy

pretences or technical objections, is to encourage a spirit of resistance to authority and good order, and effectively neutralize all efforts to reduce the Indians and lawless whites to a state of subordination.

The publication of instructions from your office, the notice for the designation by the President of the coast reservation, and certain sections of the intercourse laws and treaties, will, from present indications, have a beneficial influence in disabusing the public mind in regard to the policy of the government and the actions of the superintendent.

By the next mail I will transmit copies of sub-agent Metcalfe's letter, and the correspondence between this office and the commandant at Vancouver.

I have the honor to remain, your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,

*Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

HON. GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.*

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No. 52.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Dayton, O. T., January 22, 1856.*

SIR: The identification of Mr. E. R. Geary, my secretary, with that class of persons who encourage a spirit of resistance to the carrying out the plans, adopted under your instructions, for the colonization and settlement of Indian tribes in this Territory, has induced me to dispense with his services in this office. And other considerations inducing this course, is the bungling manner in which the accounts and papers in this office have been gotten up, by which it is greatly feared pecuniary losses may be sustained on my part. I am by no means an experienced accountant, and must rely, to a great extent, upon the capacity of my secretary; and as there is no longer any confidence by which we can act harmoniously, I have dismissed him from the service. The particular acts referred to as evidence of his identification with those exciting the community to disaffection, may be briefly stated.

The lower house of the legislative assembly passed a memorial by an almost unanimous vote, asking Congress to restrain the superintendent of Indian affairs from locating Indians in this valley, and declaring me foolish and visionary in attempting to settle Indians upon the coast reservation, &c. During the discussion of this memorial, as appears from subsequent acts, the members had agreed in caucus to petition the President for my removal, and after several meetings among the members and disagreement as to which of their number were entitled to the boon, a letter was drawn up and signed by three of the members propounding certain questions to Mr. Geary, among which were the following: Whether, in the event of his appointment to the superintendency, he would countermand the order by

which the friendly Indians were to be congregated at the encampment, and whether he would encourage the abandonment of the coast reservation; or, in other words, whether he would repudiate my acts and the policy adopted under your instructions, (the precise words I do not recollect, but the above is the substance.) He was informed that upon his answer depended his chances for obtaining the vote in the caucus, which was to come off at a given time, asking the President for my dismissal and his appointment. The letter was brought by express messenger, and an answer was returned by the same hand, and the result was that he was nominated in caucus. Up to that time he had appeared to fully approve the policy adopted—had encouraged and counselled it; but he now disapproves portions of it in sufficiently strong terms to meet the wishes of those who openly repudiate the entire policy.

I have secured the services of C. D. Blanchard, whose experience in the arrangement of accounts will enable me to bring up the reports and returns in due form, and hope his appointment may be approved. Owing to the accumulation of business in this office on account of Indian hostilities, and the varied duties requiring my absence therefrom, I have to request that I may be allowed to employ, for a few months, an additional clerk.

I have the honor to remain your obedient servant,

JOEL PALMER,  
*Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

Hon. GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.*

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No. 53.

*To his Excellency Franklin Pierce, President of the United States:*

HONORED SIR: We, the undersigned, democratic members of the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Oregon, would most respectfully but earnestly pray your Excellency to remove the present incumbent, Joel Palmer, from the office of superintendent of Indian affairs of this Territory. This, sir, we ask, among others, for the following reasons, to wit:

*First.* The official conduct of the said Palmer, during the two years last past, abundantly satisfies your petitioners that he, said Palmer, is unqualified for the proper discharge of the duties of his said office. And in support of this, our unanimous judgment, we beg leave to state to your Excellency the following facts, to wit: He, said Palmer, in forming treaties with Indian tribes within this Territory, has, in entire and wilful disregard of the expressed unwillingness of the recognised chiefs of tribes to assent to, or sign, proposed treaties, recognised other Indians as chiefs of their respective tribes, and received *their* signatures to his treaties, being told, at the same time, that *their* acts were not and would not be approved by either the legitimate chiefs or their people; which, together with other foolish and vision-

ary acts and movements on his part, has greatly contributed to produce the present Indian war, and to bring upon the defenceless inhabitants of this frontier the combined power and hostility of a horde of ruthless savages. And, what is still more inexcusable and unendurable, the said Palmer is, at this moment, engaged in efforts to purchase the land claims of citizens residing on the west side of the Willamette valley, and contiguous to the coast range of mountains, with the avowed intention of bringing thousands of Indians from remote parts of the country, and of colonizing them in the heart of this, the Willamette valley; and this, too, despite the remonstrances of the legislative assembly, and of our constituents—the men, women, and children of the Territory.

*Second.* We would also further represent to your Excellency the fact that the said Palmer, representing himself to be a sound national Democrat, received, through the recommendation of such Democrats, residents of this Territory, his appointment from a democratic administration. But, through a spirit of political perfidy, ingratitude, and meanness, he, the said Palmer, did, about one year since, join the Know Nothings; and, having bound himself with the perfidious oaths of that dark and hellish secret political order, has faithfully kept his oaths by neglecting to vote for the nominees of the democratic party, and by appointing incompetent Know-Nothing Whigs to office, to the exclusion of sound, worthy, and competent Democrats.

In consideration of which said foregoing reasons, we earnestly pray that the said Palmer may be promptly removed from the said office of Indian superintendent, and that Edward R. Geary, a sound, consistent, and reliable national Democrat, and an able and worthy citizen, may be appointed in his stead. And we will not allow ourselves to believe, for one moment, that our prayer will be disregarded.

Grant this, our petition, and we, your Excellency's democratic friends, representing the people of Oregon in the legislative assembly, will, as in duty bound, ever pray, &c.

Delazon Smith, Speaker House of Representatives.

William Tichum, representative of Coose county.

Herman C. Buckingham, rep. of Benton county.

John Robinson, of Benton county.

F. Waymire, of Polk county.

R. P. Boise, of Polk county.

Philo Callender, of Clatsop county.

Hyer Jackson, of Washington and Multnomah.

James Officer, of Clakamas.

William Hutson, of Douglas.

Hugh L. Brown, of Linn.

Orville Risley, of Clackamas.

A. McAlexander, of Lane.

J. R. Moores, of Lane.

John Harris, of Columbia.

B. P. Grant, of Linn.

C. W. Brown, of Multnomah.

John R. Hall, of Jackson.

M. C. Burkwell, of Jackson.

Andrew Shuck, of Yamhill.  
 A. R. Burbank.  
 William P. Harpole, of Marion.  
 Hugh D. O. Bryant, of Douglas, Cook, and Umqua cos.  
 John M. Harrison, of Marion.  
 Charles Drain, of Linn.  
 L. F. Grover, of Marion county.  
 Thomas Smith, of Jackson.  
 N. Huber, member of Council, Yamhill county.  
 H. Straight, of Clackamas.  
 J. M. Cozad, of Umqua county.  
 N. H. Gates, of Wasco county.  
 James M. Fulkerson, of Polk.  
 A. P. Dennison, President of Council.  
 James K. Kelly, member of Council.  
 John C. Peebles, member of Council, Marion county.

SALEM, *January 8, 1856.*

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No. 54.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :*

I present herewith a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, in relation to Indian disturbances in the Territories of Oregon and Washington, and recommending an immediate appropriation of three hundred thousand dollars.

I commend this subject to your early consideration.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, *March 5, 1856.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, March 4, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to lay before you a communication of this date, with accompanying papers from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to the Indian disturbances in Washington and Oregon Territories, and to recommend that an immediate appropriation of three hundred thousand dollars be asked of Congress, to be expended under your direction, in restoring and maintaining the peaceable disposition of the Indian tribes on the Pacific.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. McCLELLAND,  
*Secretary.*

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

*Office of Indian Affairs, March 4, 1856.*

SIR: I transmit herewith a copy of a letter from Governor Stevens, of Washington Territory, dated December 22, 1855; also a copy of a letter from that office dated January 29, 1856, both of which have reference to the present condition of our Indian relations in that Territory, and the exigencies and requirements of the public service there.

Governor Stevens has deemed the condition of things arising out of the Indian disturbances in the Territory of such moment as to cause him to transmit these papers by a special messenger, and they were delivered in this office yesterday by Mr. Mason, the secretary of the Territory, who was deputed by the governor for that purpose.

I have despatched a communication by to-day's mail to Governor Stevens authorizing him to draw on this office for the sum of \$27,000, which may be properly applied from funds now under the control of the department for the Indian service of Washington Territory; but there are no other moneys now subject to draft that can, in my opinion, be used for the purpose.

It will be observed that the governor states that he has now collected and is subsisting by rations daily some five thousand friendly Indians, and asks that he be permitted to draw on the department for the sum of fifteen thousand dollars per month, for an indefinite period, commencing the first of November last. I have advised him that the authority could not be granted, but that his communications would be transmitted to you with a recommendation that an appropriation be asked for immediately for the Indian service on the Pacific coast.

I deem it proper also to transmit herewith a copy of my report to you, dated the 1st December last, in relation to our Indian affairs in Oregon Territory, together with a copy of my instructions to the superintendent of Indian affairs in the latter Territory, dated fourth of that month, in which, in view of the exigency that had arisen there, he was authorized to draw on the department for a sum not exceeding \$100,000, to be judiciously expended in all proper endeavors to avert the horrors of a general Indian war, which appeared to be impending.

It is my opinion that an urgent necessity exists for an application to Congress for an immediate appropriation of money to be applied, under the directions of the department, for the preservation of peace among the Indian tribes of Oregon and Washington Territories, and, so far as is pertinent to the Indian department, to allay existing hostilities.

I therefore recommend that a sum not exceeding \$300,000 be asked for, to be expended for the objects above stated, under the direction of the President of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON TERRITORY VOLUNTEERS,  
*Walla-Walla Valley, December 22, 1855.*

SIR: I reached this point on the 20th instant, after a very successful crossing of the mountains, and without the slightest interruption, either from the elements or the Indians, except the indispensable delays required to recruit and replace exhausted animals, and to confer with Indians to prevent their taking part in the existing hostilities.

In my communication of the 22d October, I notified the department that I should move camp the next day on my return, and, if practicable, make treaties on my way with the lower Pend d'Oreilles, Cœur d'Alénes, Spokanes, Covilles, and O'Kanies-Kanies. The camp was broken up accordingly; I left Fort Benton on the 28th October, and after getting into camp on the Titon, on the 29th, some thirty miles from Fort Benton, my express man, Pearson, reached me, seventeen days from the Dalles, with the alarming information that the Yakamas were in open war; that Major Haller had been defeated and obliged to return to the Dalles; and that there was but little doubt that the Cayuses, Walla-Wallas, and Umatillas were hostile. A general Indian war was apprehended. The agent of the Yakamas, Boland, had been most foully and treacherously killed. I had known, previous to this, from the letters of the Jesuit missionaries and Angus McDonald, esq., in charge of the Hudson's Bay post, at Fort Colville, that the tribes with whom I proposed to treat were in an excitable state, and that a little matter might cause them to join in the general combination.

My plans were immediately made. The train was stopped, and my secretary, James Doty, esq., was despatched to Fort Benton to get arms, ammunition, and animals. A small train of wagons, for the service of the Flathead agent, was turned back, and the party joined with the main body, and I pushed forward, in person, with two men, to the Bitter-Root valley, to bring to Hellgate men, animals, ammunition, and arms, and to make, at that point, a treaty with the lower Pend d'Oreilles, if they could be brought to that point in season.

I made the distance from the Titon to Fort Owen, some 225 miles, in four and a half days, and on the second day afterwards was encamped on Hellgate, with the advanced parties in charge of agent Lansdale and special agent Adams, who, previous to the arrival of Pearson, had been despatched to the valley to facilitate my operations there in treating with Indians and collecting animals and supplies for the journey home.

Here I called into council the Nez Percés delegation to the Blackfeet council, and made arrangements that we should travel together as far as the Cœur d'Alénes mission.

Mr. Doty was detained five days in performing the duty assigned to him—the fifth day the whole train resting in consequence of the sickness of one of the men; and in eight days he reached my camp, a distance of 200 miles. The weather was intensely cold east of the Rocky mountains, and there was about one foot of snow on the divide.

The plan formed on the Titon was now deemed by me to be entirely practicable, which was, to push over the Cœur d'Aléne trail to the

Spokane, call into council the tribes in that vicinity, soothe and quiet their excitement, making treaties for the sale of their lands, if they were prepared for it, and then push to the Nez Percés country; call that tribe into council; strengthen them in their determination to abide by their plighted faith, and, with their aid, to force my way through the hostile tribes to the settlements below.

The lower Pend d'Oreilles could not be collected in season, and I left with Dr. Lansdale the programme of the treaty to be entered into with them at the earliest practicable moment.

We started from Hellgate on the 14th of November; crossed the divide in two and a half to three feet of snow on the 20th of November; reached the Cœur d'Alénes mission on the 24th; the train one day behind.

Here I paused two days, the animals absolutely requiring one day's rest; collected information, and soothed the spirits of the Cœur d'Alénes. They talked well, but their statements in regard to the war were somewhat uncertain.

From the Cœur d'Alénes I despatched my Nez Percés interpreter, William Craig, with the Spotted Eagle and a portion of the chiefs, to the Nez Percés country, with instructions to call the tribe into council, send information below of their intentions, and have everything in readiness for my reception there.

The Looking-Glass and four other men of note accompanied me to the Spokane. We arrived there November 28th, a distance of nearly sixty miles, in two days.

On my arrival, I despatched expresses to Colville, and to the Indians at the mouth of the Spokane, calling them into council. Every chief of the Cœur d'Alénes, Spokanes, and Colvilles came. We were in council parts of three days. They were excited. Their minds were poisoned by all the artful stories and tricks of the hostile tribes. They talked freely; I urged them to talk boldly, saying I should talk friendly and boldly in return. In my address, I refuted the thousand lies which had been spread among them; admonished them wherein their duty lay; avowed my determination to protect Indians who were friendly. It seemed to change the whole current of their feelings. They were apparently soothed and satisfied, and they pledged themselves to protect all white men in their country, and to take no part in the war.

I did not deem it expedient to enter into a treaty for the purchase of their lands, though I expressed to them my willingness to do so, if they were prepared for it; and accordingly agreed with them that a council should be held for that purpose as early in the spring as practicable.

On our arrival at the Spokane, our animals were much exhausted by their long and rapid march, and the delays incident to the council were indispensable to recruit the animals. The horses were almost entirely worn out, and we were obliged by purchase and exchange to renovate our band.

On the Spokane I found Mr. Boland's party in good heart and spirits; and on starting my force was augmented by eighteen men from the mines.

At this point no reliable information could be gained of the plan of operations of the campaign. The Yakimas, under Kam-ai-akum, were believed to be on this side of the Columbia, at Priest's rapids, and the Cayuses and Walla-Wallas to be hostile.

On the 8th of December we were fairly under way for the Nez Percés country, and in four days reached Craig's, on the Lapuai, a distance of one hundred and eight miles, travelling the whole time in storm, snow, and rain; the snow at times eight to twelve inches deep. At Craig's we found the Nez Percés in council awaiting my arrival.

Whilst we were in council, Indian reports rapidly came in of the four days' battle in the valley between the Oregon volunteers and the Cayuses, Walla-Wallas, Umatillas, and the Indians thence to the Dalles, and of the death of Pu-pu-mux-mux. These reports were confirmed on the 14th December, by letters forwarded by special agent B. F. Shaw. The train had already been in motion one and a half hour, and I remained behind for the day to conclude my arrangements. I determined to make no change in the plans which I had made in concert with Lanyer, the head chief of the Nez Percés, which was, to take with me a portion of his people well mounted and well armed, and to leave the larger portion in their own country, in camp at Craig's, at the mouth of the Lapuai and at the mouth of the Clearwater, to drive the hostile Indians out of the Nez Percés country, in case they should invade it from the north side of the Snake.

On my way here I met no hostile Indians. Ume-how-lish, reported to be one of the Cayuse leaders in the war, surrendered an unconditional prisoner. The Indians, in arms, are believed to be on the north side of the Snake southward from its mouth to the Nez Percés country. It is not certainly known whether Kam-ai-akum recrossed the Columbia, but it is believed he is now active in his exertions to combine all the tribes now in arms against the force in this valley. Here I shall remain a few days to make the best arrangements in my power to keep up communications with the friendly tribes, and to organize the settlers for defence. The war has been most treacherous and bloody in its inception, and it must be prosecuted with an iron hand. I state, on my official responsibility, that if strong measures are not urged now, and the enemy be not met and beaten before the spring, that there will be great danger of tribes now peaceable breaking into open war. I will vouch for the Nez Percés. They are staunch and entirely reliable. But all the tribes northward from the Cascades to the Bitter Root are extremely doubtful, and rumors are now reaching me that a portion of the Spokanes have already marched to the aid of Kam-ai-akum.

Bitterly have I regretted the long delay on the waters of the Missouri, incident to the successful issue of the Blackfeet council. I have sought to do my duty there, and I shall do it here. Considering the season, we have made an extraordinary march. The distance by our route has been some six hundred and fifty miles.

The military operations on the other side of the Columbia river have been unfortunate. The Yakama country should have been held and not abandoned. The country is good for a winter campaign. The Indians can and should be struck and punished now.

My plan is to make no treaties whatever with the tribes now in arms ; to do away entirely with the reservations guarantied to them ; to make a summary example of all the leading spirits, and to place as a conquered people, under the surveillance of troops, the remains of these tribes on reservations selected by the President, and on such terms as the government in its justice and mercy may vouchsafe to them.

Very respectfully, your most obedient,

ISAAC I. STEVENS,

*Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

Hon. GEO. W: MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

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OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,

*Olympia, January 29, 1856.*

SIR: I reached this place from the Walla-Walla valley on the 19th instant, and have just returned from a visit of the Sound region. The condition of affairs in the Territory is this: Nearly five thousand Indians are now under the charge of ten local agents, and rationed daily.

The people of the whole Sound region are living in block-houses, or in their immediate vicinity. A band of hostile Indians, numbering, according to various estimates, from two to five hundred, are on White and Green rivers, determined to prosecute the war. They attacked Seattle on the 26th instant, keeping up the attack nearly all day, killing two persons, and driving the families on shipboard. The town was defended by a vessel-of-war and over one hundred citizens. They have devastated the whole of King county, driving the whole population within the line of defences of the town of Seattle.

As the executive of the Territory, I have called out volunteers, and trust that, by a vigorous prosecution of the war, the enemy may be checked, and the Indians now friendly may be prevented joining them.

In such great peril is this whole community, and so important is it that means should be furnished to feed the Indians, and give great efficiency to the Indian service, that it has seemed to me indispensable to send a special messenger to lay our condition before the President and the departments.

The secretary of the Territory, and the acting governor during the first three months of the war, the Hon. C. H. Mason, has been selected by me for this duty, and will proceed without delay to Washington city.

I have to urge that the balance of the several appropriations, including that for Indian hostilities, be remitted without delay ; and that, in addition, I be allowed to draw on the department for fifteen thousand dollars per month, beginning the first day of November last.

The Hon. C. H. Mason will lay all the facts before the department,

and will, I doubt not, show the department the extraordinary condition of things in the Territory, and the necessity which has made it indispensable to ration so many Indians, and appoint so many local agents.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC I. STEVENS,

*Governor and Supt. Indian Affairs, Washington Territory.*

Hon. GEO. W. MANYPENNY,

*Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

*Office of Indian Affairs, December 1, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith, for your information and consideration, and such action in connexion with that which may be deemed proper by the War Department as may be advisable, the original letters, and their respective enclosures, from Joel Palmer, esq., superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon Territory, of the 9th, 16th, and 19th October last, respectively, which reached this office to-day.

The letter of the 9th October confirms the information of the murder of agent Boland, communicated to you in my report of the 16th ultimo, and details to a considerable extent the character of the difficulties, and the causes thereof, in the Oregon and Washington Territories.

It also refers to the means necessary to enable the government successfully to meet the existing crisis regarding our Indian relations in those Territories, both as to war and peace measures; and I have respectfully to invite your attention to the suggestions referred to, as well in the letter of the superintendent as the report of agent Geo. H. Ambrose for September, and the letter of agent R. R. Thompson, enclosed therewith.

The letter of the 16th encloses a printed copy of "regulations for the guidance of agents in the Oregon Indian superintendency pending existing hostilities," of the 13th October, which the superintendent has considered it proper to issue for the purposes therein stated; a letter from agent R. R. Thompson, of the 8th October, reporting information of a battle between Major Haller's command and the Indians, his defeat, and other rumors of difficulties; and an extra from the Oregon "Statesmen," containing letters and other information relative to an "Indian outbreak in southern Oregon—dwellings burned, and families murdered." In this communication the superintendent suggests the want of funds sufficient for the exigency of the service; details further information as to the rumors of hostilities, and murders of families, and expresses the opinion that a large effective force upon a war footing will be immediately required to meet the existing demand upon the government.

The letter of the 19th October, which appears to have been kept open on the 20th and 21st, and written from Portland, encloses two

letters from agent Thompson, and two from agent Olney, and printed copies of the proclamation of the governor of Oregon, and general orders looking to armament and defence against armed parties, who have combined with the avowed purpose of waging an exterminating war against the Indians in southern Oregon. Also a letter of the 21st October from E. R. Geary, esq., his clerk, giving additional facts and information touching the outbreak, the murders, and the extent of the bloody drama then enacting in that country.

It will be observed by this last letter from superintendent Palmer, that he is apprehensive that any force which may be obtained under the proclamation of Governor Curry will be insufficient for the service required, and that mounted men only can be depended upon for the successful prosecution of a permanent peace.

Your particular attention is called to the remarks of the superintendent, under date of the 20th October, relative to the wholesale butchery of peaceable and friendly Indians upon their own reservation, as prescribed and provided under treaty stipulations.

Without further referenee to the numerous points presented in the papers enclosed, I would respectfully request that, when you shall have duly considered their contents, they be returned to be filed here. Should copies hereafter be required for the use of your department, they can be made.

From the importance of the subject, any action that may be concluded upon should, doubtless, be done at once, and in time to be communicated by the steamer that leaves New York on the 5th instant, if possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office Indian Affairs, December 4, 1855.*

SIR: Your letters of the 9th, 16th, and 19th October, together with their enclosures, all relating to the difficulties then existing in Oregon and Washington Territories among the different Indian tribes, and between the Indians and whites, arrived here on the 1st instant. The subject was promptly laid before the Secretary of the Interior, in order that such action might be taken, in conjunction with the War Department, as should be warranted and proper.

I have now to advise you that it is understood the military arm of the public service on the Pacific coast will be advised by the mail which is expected to leave New York to-morrow concerning their duties in this emergency. You will instruct the agents of this department within your superintendency by all proper means to aid in carrying out whatever measures you may deem necessary to effect peace among the several tribes of Indians, and restore harmony between them and

the whites ; and where practicable, you will confer and act in concert with the military on that coast, so as to avoid any seeming clashing of jurisdiction, by which disaffection could take heart and encouragement. But while it may be proper that the measures to be employed shall be vigorous and effective, still they should be tempered with justice and such moderation as shall be wholly free from any charge of vindictiveness. You will, therefore, act with the utmost care and circumspection, avoid undue severity, yet act with such promptitude and energy as to secure respect to your authority. With these general directions, you will adopt such measures as, in conjunction with the authority and means in the hands of the military, shall seem in your judgment to be necessary to secure a permanent peace, a good understanding among all of the parties participating in the difficulties of which your several communications make mention.

There is not now time to send you any funds with this communication ; but with the approbation of the Secretary of the Interior, you are authorized to draw upon this department for any expenditure that, in your opinion, the existing exigency absolutely demands, either for agricultural implements for the Indian reserve, provisions, clothing, or otherwise, as estimated in your letter of the 9th of October ultimo, providing, however, that the extent of such drafts does not exceed, in the aggregate, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars. But due notice should, in every instance, be promptly forwarded to this office of the date of the draft, its amount, and object. And in incurring the expenditure for which such drafts may be drawn, particular care will be taken that the utmost practicable economy is practised, consistent with the exigency of the case ; and specific vouchers will be procured in all cases, and duly forwarded with all requisite explanations to enable this department and Congress to fully understand and comprehend the reasons and the necessity for the expenditures. You will readily conceive the importance of the observance of these instructions, when you are aware that any largely increased expenditure, for whatever object incurred, elicits the most minute inquiry and criticism.

As regards your statement relative to the propriety of being allowed a greater discretion in the purchase of tools and materials for the various objects of your superintendency, I have also to inform you that, under the circumstances stated by you, any such materials as, in your judgment, are immediately required, will be purchased by you on the Pacific coast, provided the same can be had at reasonable rates. You will, however, observe the same rules as to economy, giving information to this office of purchases made, drafts drawn, and furnishing proper vouchers, as stated in the foregoing paragraph. But on securing the necessary supply to answer the immediate wants of the service, you will report what additional goods or other materials it will be necessary to have sent from the Atlantic markets, and at what time the same will be required. In the mean time nothing will be sent from here until further advices are received from you.

Notwithstanding this allowance of so large a discretion to meet the case in its most alarming phase, it is still hoped that the cause is not really so bad as the representations forwarded by you would seem to

indicate. If, therefore, it should turn out that those representations are not realized by the facts when ascertained, you will be governed by a judicious regard of the real wants and exigencies of the service, and, so far as practicable, curtail the expenditures herein authorized.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. MANYPENNY,  
*Commissioner.*

JOEL PALMER, Esq.,  
*Superintendent of Indian Affairs,  
Dayton, Oregon Territory.*