Sir: A note from local Agent Jenkins informs me that a band of Clickitats numbering about fifteen men who went off on the breaking out of hostilities have returned to their old homes on the north side of the Columbia at Mr. Joslyn's place opposite Dog River; from Indian information I learn they are willing to give up their arms and conform to anything we may require of them. They state that there is much dissatisfaction and disorganization amongst the hostile bands, that many if not all of the Clickatats will leave the war party. The cause assigned is that the Yakimas are robbing them of their horses with which to bribe the Spokans. Maj. Haller will take steps to arrest the above named Clickatats and detain them at this place as prisoners of war.

Late news from the Walle Walla valley gives an account of the most shamefull treatment of the settlers and friendly Indians; their property is taken and wantonly destroyed for no reason other than that the volunteers have the power to do it.

I am fearful for the result of the treatment as those friendly Indians are related to and have the sympathy of the Nez Perces and who observing the ill treatment of those Indians would justly conclude that they would fare no better were they in the power of the volunteers.

There is no discipline or order in the camp if the settlers protest to the useless destruction of their property their lives are threatened, one of them writing to a friend says that if their lives were in danger when surrounded by hostile Indians they are doubly so now.

Some volunteers who have recently come down give it as their opinion that before long the whole regiment will disband. One Co. is already here and others are said to be on the way.

Great exception is taken to Agent Olney's course in bringing down a
a band of captured horses. He is charged with having attempted to steal
them, but failing in that he has succeeded in partially accomplishing his
object by lying to the Quarter Master at this place by reporting 250 head
when he has 450 to 500 volunteers with whom I have conversed say that this
act of Mr. Olney's contributed greatly to the subsequent ill treatment of the
friendly Indians, the men claiming in justification of their conduct that
if an Indian agent was permitted to steal by the wholesale they certainly
ought to be permitted themselves to a few horses whether claimed by
friendly Indians or others.

I am prepared to give evidence to his charge against Mr. Olney but think it
probable that he will be able to give a satisfactory explanation to the whole
matter.

At the Council held in the Whitman Valley an arrangement was made and an
understanding had verbally between Gov. Stevens and yourself in regards to
Agents performing duty by geographical and without respect to Territorial
boundaries. The Treaty which gave occasion for this arrangement was broken
by the Indians when they took up arms against us. Gov. Stevens recently
while in that section of country assigned special Agent B.F. Shaw to take charge of the friendly Indians remaining there giving him full
instructions for his guidance. In view of the above action of the
Governor I am in doubt as to whether it would be right and proper for me
to act in reference to those Indians. I deem it all important that they
be removed from the vicinity of the Volunteer Camp and will either go
up or send to Agent Shaw and give him my views of what action should be had
in the matter.

I intend going to Dog River on the first boat that does down and probably
see some of those Clickitats. Should I get any information from them I
may write to you from that place.

Respectfully etc.

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent

Joel Palmer, Esq.
Dear Sir:

I have just received your communication of the 27th ultimo through Colonel George Wright. I have sent the Colonel instructions to comply as soon as practicable with your wishes as well as of those of Father Chenaus that is, to send four companies to the Walla Walla country, leaving however one company with the Cayuses if it should be necessary for their protection against the Volunteers. Colonel Wright has been instructed to give you an escort to conduct the Umpqua Indians to the coast reserve. It is however a terrible season for carrying on war and especially for animals required to transport supplies, the grass having been consumed by the numerous animals going to and from Walla Walla. I will thank you to call and see Colonel Wright on the subject. In the meantime I would hope that the Volunteers will leave this country and return to their homes.

It is my intention to leave by the next steamer. I will be probably at Vancouver about the 25th instant when I should be much gratified to see you with reference to adopting such measures as will bring the war to a close. Although the volunteers barbarously murdered Pau pieu mox mox and his companions whilst under the sacred protection of a flag of truce which no doubt greatly excited them against the whites, I think they can be brought to terms. It is reported that many of the Yakimas are for peace.

If extermination is not resolved upon by the persons whom you most correctly described as the authors of all our troubles I cannot doubt but the war in a few months may be brought to a close. I have all confidence in your ability and sound judgment.

I am very respectfully,
Your obt. servant

John E. Wool, major general

To General Joel Palmer

Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Dayton, Oregon Territory.
Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 13 Microcopy 2
1856 No. 102

Feb'y March 1st 1856 (sic) Dalles O.T.

Genl. Joel Palmer,

Supt. Ind. Affairs Sir: Since the return of Agent Thompson to the Dalles from his present visit to the Valley he has informed me that the report that I had driven off from the Cayuse country a large band of horses and appropriated them to my own use was still current and that you were somewhat annoyed by being uncertain as to its truth or falsity, he has advised me to give you an explanation of the whole affair. This I should have done before had I not considered that it would be paying you a very poor compliment to deny to you the truth of a report that your own good sense would teach you was false, neither did I believe the confidence you have heretofore reposed in me could be shaken by a rumor of that kind without good evidence to substantiate it, and I find it humiliating in the extreme to be compelled to deny the commission of a crime that I had confidently believed my public service and position as an honorable man shall have prevented my being falsely charged with. The whole affair has convinced me how ignorant I was of human mind and how dangerous it is to trust a public opinion. I will not give you a true history of the whole affair. At the conclusion of the battle of the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th of December, 1855 in the Whitman Valley and the flight of the enemy across Snake River the whole country far and near was covered with their stock. I advised that it should immediately be collected and sent to the Dalles. When I started from that point I did not contemplate assisting in this purpose but finding myself at the head of a party of eleven men and myself seeing the road lined with horses and cattle I thought that I should do a public service by driving some of them down at Mr. Wm. C McKay's place. I was overtaken by an officer, Lieut. Wright with a small detachment of men sent in pursuit of me, after some conversation with him, he expressed himself satisfied as to the action I was taking in the matter and returned. I offered in fact to deliver
to him the horses we had collected but he refused to receive them and requested me to drive them on to the Dalles. I gave him a written statement of their supposed number and the disposition I proposed making of them. Subsequently upon the Umatilla another small band amounting to some sixty or seventy five head were added, increasing the number examined by him estimated at two hundred and fifty to something over three hundred head. At Wall Springs I was taken sick and joined Mr. Dowells pack train and have not seen the horses from that day to this. The men that started with me proceeded me in advance to the Dalles where upon my arrival I reported to Quarter Master Thompson and had the horses turned over to him, numbering over two hundred and sixty, the balance were reported by the men to be lost in coming down which I believe to be the fact. As I saw horses scattered along the road and on their way back to the Cayuse country. It was about this time that some persons talked of gathering up the captured stock and appropriating it to their own use, a great excitement prevailed upon the subject and the conclusion was assumed that I must had brought down the horses with that view with what truth my conduct from beginning to end will show. The report originated in the excitement which I have described and has been sustained through personal pique ad ignorance of the facts.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servant

Nathan Olney, Ind. Agent

Genl. Joel Palmer,

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Superintendent Office,

Dayton, O.T.
Supt. Indian Affairs Oregon Ty. Roll 14, Microco y 2
1856 No. 143

Dalles April 10th, 1856

Sir: I have written you two or three letters within the last fifteen days and have not heard from you since you were here and am therefore in doubt as to whether you have received my communications or not.

The friendly bands of Indians in this vicinity appear to be well disposed and cheerfully comply with everything we exact from them, there is not one person missing from their camps. Several of the Indians of Dog River have been implicated in the affair at the Cascades and two of them being one of them a Clickatat the other a Cascades Indian who had been stopping temporarily at Dog River.

The night before last Mr. Thomas Martin, a citizen of this county who resides on Eight Mile Creek, when on his way home from the Dalles village, was met by seven Indians, two of them took hold of the bridle of his horse and demanded from him tobacco. He told them he had none, seeing they were armed and their determined manner alarmed him, he pressed his horse hoping to escape from them, two others, one on each side of him took hold of his legs and pulled him to the ground when they renewed their demand for tobacco and proceeded to search his pockets and found $440 this they took and commenced stripping him after reducing him to a state of nudity they blindfolded him and with a rope around his neck led him in the direction of Desutts river after crossing Eight and Fifteen Mile Creeks they halted took the bandage from his eyes spread a blanket and all sat down, they then divided the money equally among them and asked him if that was not right, he replied that he thought they should give him some which was refused as also a request to return a blank book. He was now told he might go, as he started he stooped to pick up one of his boots and at that instant they fired three guns, the balls passing over him and as he thinks very near his head, he reached his home about daylight benumbed and almost perished with the cold and is now under medical care. He states that six of the
seven had guns and did not speak Chinook, the seventh was without weapons and acted as interpreter, he also states that at three several times(sic) they appeared determined to hang him but were prevented by the interpreter taking the rope from his neck. Mr. Martin inclines to believe that his friend is a Deshuts Indian now living at Olney's place, when he gets able to travel he desires to have a chance to identify the Indian. I shall certainly give him an opportunity to do so.

On yesterday Mr. Watson who lives on Tiach started for his place to give the news of some Indians who were seen the day before and when on the summit of the big hill coming out from the Tiach he discovered seven to nine Indians who immediately gave chase but being mounted on a good horse he was enabled to keep out of their way although closely pursued as far as the Fifteen Mile Creek. In a word I may say that hostile Indians are seen in almost all directions and are very near us.

A detachment of twenty dragoons with nine friendly Indians are out today reconnoitering with a view to ascertain the strength and position of the Indians.

The Volunteers who are returning by the way of the Haka Yakamawh are expected here in the course of four or five days.

Respectfully etc.,

R.R. Thompson,

Indian Agent

Joel Palmer Esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Dayt n O.T.

(Written in haste)
Dalles, April 9, 1856

Dear Sir:

Some time since I informed Mr. Thompson that I was ready at any time to assist in moving and establishing the Indians upon their reservations. At the request of Mr. I have been acting as local agent for the Indians at Olney's Camp since the 28th ult. Those Indians appear friendly and cheerful, gave up their arms. They are however very anxious to go out on the reservation and I believe their situation would be much improved by the change. They are short of provision and all means of procuring any are withdrawn from them kept as they are confined to their camp. The rations furnished by the Department are short and expensive. The Indians are very solicitous to get permission to go out after the "Cows Root" in case the remove to the reservation is not made. This root as you are aware forms a prominent item of food with them and is gathered from about the 20th April to first June.

A farmer for the agency has not been selected as Mr. T. informs me Mr. Mark Stevens of Uchehale is anxious to procure that situation and at the request of Mr. Stevens of this place I call your attention to his name. I am not sufficiently well acquainted with him to recommend either pro or con perhaps you are and if you find him worthy of the appointment you would oblige his friends.

Robison is down from the upper country. We learn that the Cayuses have retreated to the borders of the Nez Perce country and are anxious for peace on most any terms—the Deshutes & Tye Indians separated from them—About 300 volunteers under Corynlius were encamped on the north side of the Columbia river and are probably marching to this place via the Yackamah valley; the Yackamaw balance of the vols will come down on this side. Col. Wright is at the Cascades & has some troops at Dog River—will probably move into the Yackamaw country—when he gets ready.
McKay informed me he had submitted your proposition or invitation for the friendly Cayuses to live upon the DeShutes reservation to Ume-How Lets who will see them about the matter.

Very Respectfully

O O. Humason,

Acting Local Agent
Sir:

On my return to this post from the Dalles in the evening of the 17th I received your communication of the 13th instant. Expecting every hour many your expressman I have delayed a reply. He has not yet made his appearance.

I have ordered Lieut. Sheridan with a small detachment of Dragoons to join the detachment ordered for the protection of the Indians on the Coast Reservation. As soon as you will send an agent for forty stand of arms they will be sent you with a due proportion of ammunition. This is all I can do for you at the present moment. As soon, however as the war is brought to a close in Southern Oregon I will be able to send you a company and if necessary two to protect both the inhabitants and Indians from attacks of either Indians or white men.

The news from Puget Sound is highly satisfactory. From the information received from Colonel Casey I think peace and quiet will soon be restored to the inhabitants of that region. It would seem that the hostiles have passed from Puget Sound to the Yakima country.

Herewith you will receive a requisition for forty stand of arms and receipts you will please to sign and send with the agent you may send to receive the arms and ammunition.

I shall probably leave on the Steamer Columbia on her downward trip about the 27th instant previous to which I would be much pleased to see you in order to confer with you on several subjects.

I am etc.

John E. Wool, major general

To General Joel Palmer, Supt. Indian Affairs O.T. Dayton, O.T.
Sir: Your communication of the 3 instant came to hand last evening. In my former letters I believe I failed to inform you that Mr. O. Humason was assigned as local agent for the Tenino and other bands of Indians confederated at Mr. Olney's house. Also that Dr. Hammond has been appointed to the Wasco tribe.

The tribes in this vicinity are all quiet notwithstanding the many influences which are calculated to alienate them from us. Those at Mr. Olney's have been exceedingly anxious to get to the reservation, but now that the salmon season is so near at hand it would probably be well to defer their removal until that season is past, especially as it is doubtfull whether Col Wright will deem it expedient to furnish us with a force under present circumstances. I would however suggest the propriety of having the teams, tools, supplies etc. forwarded to this point to remain in readiness for use, so soon as circumstances will permit. The salt and barrels which you promised them should be here by the first of June at the fastest (sic) 150 or 200 bbls. of salt salmon would be none too much for the use of these people.

Great excitement prevails in this section. Indians, Indian Agents and the policy of the General Government are all alike respected. But I have hopes that by a firm and cautious management of our Indian relations I will be able to save those under my charge from violence of our own people as also prevent them (the Indians) from joining the hostile party.

The body of Capt. A. Hembree CIVs has just arrived. He was slain by the Indians on or near the Yakima River. Having encamped on the river in the morning he with 8 or 9 others started with a view to reconnoiter the adjacent country and when about one and a half miles from camp but still within sight of it, they were charged upon by a large number of Indians and the Capt. killed on the first fire. After he fell he called on his men not to leave him and an attempt was made to support
him but the Indians were coming upon them thick and fast, they were compelled to leave him to his fate, he was scalped and stripped of all that was about him. The main body of the troops now engaged the enemy and killed four without loss to themselves, two other Indians were killed on the march to this place.

Respectfully your obedient servant

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent

Joel Palmer esq.

Supt. Indian Affairs Dayton O.T.
The friendly bands of Indians within this district are all quiet. The local agents are all performing their duties faithfully and I believe that the Indians are unshaken in their fidelity toward us, notwithstanding the many results and wrongs they suffer from our people.

I am making my arrangements to have but one fishing station for them and that to be on the Columbia extending from the falls below the mouth of DeShutts river, to the Dalles. I have assisted the band at Olney's place to bring from the Iych a quantity of potatoes which they had at that place and am having some ground fenced and plowed at Mr. Olney's for them to cultivate. You are fully acquainted with all the circumstances in relation to this band and it therefore deemed unnecessary (sic) to go into detail to give reasons for this expenditure of funds.

I have received a communication dictated by Howlish -wum-poo and Tin-tin-met-sa in which they inform me that they went to the Nez Pierce country at my request and will remain until I may so prefer (?) to order them away, also that there are two parties among the Indians that section of country, one claiming Gov. Stevens the other Genl. Palmer as their chiefs. They state that they are extremely desirous that their people should make peace, but fear it will be difficult for them so to do as their head chief with a small party are now on the Spoken country with Gary. Others of their people are at Colvill, some have joined Owhii and are with the hostile party. That the Palouses claim that they have not fought and will not fight. The DeShutts with Willuptalike and his Brothers are with Kemiakin in the Yackimah as are the Utillas and Walla-wallas.
Two or three days ago the hostile party made a decent on the Volunteer camp opposite this place and drove off four hundred head of horses, the next evening they showed themselves in the vicinity of their camp and again on the following morning to the number of thirty or more coming close to their camp. Today several companies left for the Willamette to be followed by the remainder with the exception of one company which is to be left in the Walla Walla country, and one so elsewhere in this vicinity.

Col. Wright with five companies of regulars have taken the field and are marching for the Yackamah.

Great alarm is felt for the safety of this town and the settlements adjacent many are of opinion that so soon as the Indians find the regulars in the Yackimah and the volunteers withdrawn that they will make an attack and burn the town which could easily be done and the Indians make a safe retreat before the regulars could get to the village. Off (sic) this you may rest assured that should the hostile party make a successful attack on this village, the next place you will hear of them will be on the west side of the mountains.

Respectfully etc.

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent

Joel Parker esq.
Supt. Ind. Affairs,
Dayton, Oregon.
Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1849-73, Microcopy 2, Roll 14
1856-230
Dalles May 22, 1856

Gen. Palmer, Dear Sir:

The boat leaves in a few minutes and I improve it in writing you. The French settlers of "alla Walls are now at this place. Father Chirouse says the friendly Cayuses are not mix well satisfied with their residence among the Nez Perces with that they are treated as intruders and with coldness. Keymo and others affirm the same thing.

I have moved the band of Inds. which I have charge off to the fishery. All quiet with them. They greatly need fishnetts and twin to make them of. I have purchased a small quantity enough to make a few netts for them. I understood nets are to be furnished them, but have not come up. (sic) Is there not a great chance of these nets not being suited for thier (sic) fishery? would not twin and let them make their own nets be cheaper and better. Holland twine to be had of the HB Co. is a good article for netts (sic) An express arrived from Col. "right last night. The command are encamped in the Naches--whites on one side, Inds. on the other--have been there for 10 days--had several talks with the Inds. that is the petty chiefs and cultus tillicums, but not Kamiakin. Many of the Inds. would prefer peace.

Stockwhitley is tired of the war has been in the Col's Camp. Wright tells him if he want peace to go off somewhere (I forgot where) and keep quiet and wait until he gets time to talk to him. "Spokan Gary has sent in a messenger. Says he has sent a messenger to Kamiakin warning him if he does not make peace where an opportunity occurs he will pitch into him with all his people. He says this war annoys the Spokans, that they are wanting many things but cannot go down after them on account of this war and he won't stand it. McKay gives me this information.

Maj. Haller will leave in a few days with four companies to join Wright.

One Ind. (Wasco tribe) was killed by sentinal on duty at the garrison. Some say the soldier was to blame. The matter will be investigated I presume.

P. Husmanse etc.
Dear Sir:

I have but a moment to write you before the boat leaves. An express from Col. Wright's camp arrived last night, reports the positions of the hostile camps as being in status quo. The col. is building a block house on the south side of the Naches River while the opposite bank is occupied by the hostile Indians. The river is impassable for our troops. They are building a tressel bridge and when completed will be able to throw it across the stream in a few hours. Kamiakin is said to have come to the Nez Perce to consult with old Looking Glass. He claims that it was Looking Glass that first raised the cry for war and that now if he says peace, there will be peace, if war there must be war. This is Indian news in Col. Wright's camp.

There are four Nez Perce here who report the Spokans unfriendly to them and also to the whites. I have information which satisfies me that it is false. Any Snake Indians are seen in the Cayuse country. The Cayuse who are in the Nez Perce country are dissatisfied and are badly treated by the Nez Perce.

I am getting along with the friendly bands here very well. Respectfully

P.F. Thompson, etc.

to Joel Palmer, Esq.
Supt. Ind. Affairs.
Sir:

Enclosed you will find a communication from Col. Wright in relation to the Alackatot Indians. On receipt of which I immediately addressed a note to Capt. Gordon (or Coowdin) who is in command of the fort at this place informing him that however desirous I might be to comply with the wishes of Col. Wright, yet knowing his circumstances and reasons which induced you to send the Klickitats from the Willamette to their own country on the north side of the Columbia River, I was compelled to decline receiving them until I could correspond with you and ascertain your views in relation to them.

From the tenor of the Col's letter I conclude that he has lent a willing ear to the representations of these Indians and has suffered himself to be imposed upon by them. In charge of the military here, I am fearful they will be permitted such liberties as will compromise the friendly bands under my charge. The person in command has intimated that he will permit them to go to the fisheries, to this I have protested and shall insist upon it.

The news from Col. Wright's camp is that he has completed his block house and built a bridge across the Naches river. The Indians still continue to come into his camp and talk peace—it is reported that they are fast deserting the cause of Kamiakin which I think is correct as it corresponds with information I get from Indians. But the desertion is only to get food—those Indians are not humbled and a peace made with them now without a fight will cost us more than to continue the war a year.

Messrs. Humason, Jenkins and Hale, local agents are active in the discharge of their duties. The Indians under their charge are all quiet and apparently well contented.

Respectfully, etc. R.R. Thompson

Joel Palmer, Esq., Supt. Ind. Affairs.
I have in my camp a large number of "Klickitat" Indians, with their women and children.

It appears that these Indians, previous to the treaty, were living in Oregon, and at the request of Kamiakin (who claimed them as his own people) General Palmer sent them all back to this country. They have been treated very badly by Kamiakin and his people and on my own advance into the country they determined if possible to come in—many of them have succeeded in crossing from the power Kamiakin. Some are still with him and only await an opportunity of bringing away their families. I have some 70 or 80 of these people, they are perfectly friendly towards the whites, and I shall send them to the Dalles to-morrow. They are anxious to return to Oregon, and that is unquestionably the best disposition that can be made of them. They can never reside in peace in this country and if we do not remove them they may be driven to join the hostile Indians. I hope both yourself and General Palmer will concur in this view; we can do nothing else with them. It is highly important to weaken the power of Kamiakin by affording protection for all who desire to abandon his cause.

I would also strongly request that General Palmer would consider the propriety of removing all the Indians at Fort Vancouver as well as those on the island at the lower Cascades to the reservation in Oregon. These Indians now with me acknowledge Timitas as their chief. He is in confinement at Fort Vancouver more for his own safety than any thing else. There are some other Indians also in confinement at that post, all of whom should be sent off. Please refer this letter to Genl. Palmer if you cannot act in the matter yourself. Very Respectfully etc., O. Wright, Col. 9th Infy. Comdy. to Mr. R.R. Thompson, U.S. Indian Agent, Fort Dalles, O.T.
Sir:

I have the pleasure to report to you the continued good conduct of the friendly bands of Indians within this district. They are not only friendly toward the whites but zealous in rendering service to our cause. A short time since a party of eighteen were dispatched to the east side of Deshutes river for the double purpose of watching the movements of a party of white men and also to discover the whereabouts of the enemy's camp which was supposed to be in that vicinity. They discovered the trial of the white men and followed for five days when they came upon them engaged with the enemy in a brisk skirmish. The whites, (ten in number) had taken a position on a high plateau of land containing about forty acres which was surrounded by a perpendicular ledge of rocks, having but two or three passes by which it could be approached on horseback. The Indians to the number of two hundred had collected and were about to make the attack on foot, when the timely arrival of the friendly Indians brought about a parley and the whites were released from their perilous situation.

The Indians comprising this party are first the Kiah band, a portion of whom are now on their way to this post, their principal man is She Ko Mah. Second, Yice, Ish-och-nip-its and Britpoimer, the last named was the leader of the party who killed Capt. Hembree and the same who succeeded in taking the volunteers horses opposite this place. There are also thirty five Snake warriors with them.

Yice dictated a letter the substance of which is that at the breaking out of hostilities they were not thinking of war, that he desired to live with the whites, but the Cayuses took him away by force. At Walla Walla he went out to see the fight and was shot in the heel also through the leg and one shot struck the back of his saddle, that he does not feel very well about it. That while they were in the Cayuse country they were made slaves of, and after going to the Yakimah he was afraid to come to the Dalles for fear the
the whites would kill him.

These Indians are determined to fight and have sent to the Snakes for reinforcements. They are gaining accensions to their numbers daily. The Indians who have been talking peace to Col. Wright have all left and the Col. thinks it very strange as they seemed very desirous of peace. He has advanced into the Yakimah Valley.

Gov. Stevens will have his train start for the Nez Perces country in a few days.

A few days ago Capt. Goff, W.T. vol. made a scout on the north side of the river and succeeded in capturing four Indians one of whom was subsequently hung.

I have refused to receive or act in any wise toward Indians who have been engaged in hostilities until they have been disposed of by the military and declared to be friendly. Then I will receive them provided they originally belonged to this district. In regard to this class of Indians who may be turned over by the military I would suggest the propriety of your giving some instructions as to their treatment and the most proper disposition to be made of them. There should certainly be a distinction between them and the Indians who have remained faithful.

You will do me a favor by having some person take my place on the first of July as that is the time my resignation is to take effect. Should circumstances prevent you from complying at that particular time I will act until you can and hope it will be at the earliest possible day.

Respectfully etc.

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent.

Joel Palmer, esq.

Supt. etc. Dayton, O.T.