

Executive Office
Olympia Dec. 4, 1855

Rev. Pascal Ricard
Mission of St. Joseph's

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of December 1st and also those of October 12 and 15th

My frequent absence from the seat of government and the multiplicity of labor and that has devolved upon me recently, will I trust be a sufficient apology for not having replied to the letter.

It is not the business, or the province of the Executive of this Territory to publish through newspapers, statements in reference to any particular class or sect. As far as was my duty and within my power, your letter admits, that I did by word of mouth state that I had received information from the priests as to difficulties brewing in the Yakima country. I have no hesitation in stating that Father Pandosy gave information to me attributing at the time, all the outrages committed up to the period of his presence here in October last, to Awahi and his particular band.

I will further state that all the American citizens who have traversed that country, and have stopped at the ~~Amix~~ Atahnum mission, have from all that I can learn always been treated hospitably and kindly.

As to circumstances of the burning of the mission, I can only say, that I have received no ~~formal~~ official information and you are as much in possession of the facts as I am at present--As soon as any official communication touching this or any other subject alluded to in your letter shall be received at this office, it will ~~be~~ afford me pleasure further to communicate with you.

Whatever popular prejudice may exist against your order, your long experience of the world has certainly made you aware that this is a matter liable to any and all persons occupying positions and is entirely to be disregarded when ever without foundation. I am very respectfully
your obt. servant C.H. Mason, acting governor, Washington Territory.