

(note; a letter, I suppose to Fr. Ricard, found Oct., 1923, among his papers.)

My Rev. Father:

Tonight I find myself an occasion to send mail to the Dalles and
 I profit of it to send you some news. All the country is on fire.
 Carnage, murders and war, here is what we breathe and what we hear.

The Walla Wallas have destroyed and broken everything in the Fort
 Walla Walla. All the American houses in the country have been burned
 and ransacked. No one has been killed because everyone has gone except
 the Canadians. But today the Walla Wallas go to attack the Dalles and
 Canadians are leaving also, to go to the chaudières. They all fear that
 the Walla Wallas come to kill them in their houses during the night or
 during the day. Many Cayouses are in favor of the war.

But thanks to God, all our baptised people except two or three
 are in favor of the peace and want to go away with me toward the country
 of the Nez Percés where is all is still calm (sic)

Tomorrow, if God wants it, we will go together, the Canadians, the
 baptized savages and us, to go spend the winter with the Nez Percés.

I do not refuse to ~~believe~~ leave in spite of the sacrifices we
 will have to make for I know very well that our lives are in danger
 where we are. Next spring if the war is still going on we will go with
 the Jesuit Fathers and from here we will wait for ~~xxx~~ your orders.

Father Richard (sic) Brothers Leo, Janin and I, we are all still
 living. I do not know for how long. The bad savages call us the
 children of the Americans the slaves of the soldiers; and try to kill
 us. Pray therefore for us. Make the government know our position and
 also of his officers if you can so that they might have the right idea
 of our position and that they might not be prejudiced against us when they
 will come to this country. I am writing fleeing and a fugitive
 (fuyant comme un fugitif. I hope to see you again if not on earth in
 Heaven.

I have not yet been able to have news of our poor fathers of the Yakimas. What has become of them, I do not know? May God will that they are still in good health. The savages tell us that the war is going on among the Yakimas and that these savages start to flee. It has been 15 days that I haven't slept and I cannot sleep very much tonight. I repeat, pray for us Rev. Father and also for Father D'Herbomez, p. Jaoyl, Brother Blanchet and Brother F. Vernet. I embrace you in the kiss of peace (je vous embrasse tous corde & animo.)

Chirouze O.M.I.