

1856 No. 36

Dec. 19th, 1856

Agency Office, Dalles

Dec. 19th 1855

Sir: An additional express from Walla Walla came in last night with news that the battle with the Indians lasted four days in which some six of the volunteers were killed and several badly wounded. on the part of the Indians the number killed is estimated at seventy five, About forty dead bodies were found by our people among the dead was Pe Peu Mox Mox (sic) and the head chief of the Palouses. Stoke-ate-ly is said to have received three wounds, supposed to be mortal. He has left the present party in disgust declaring them a set of cowards, the Cayuses particular. It is said that all his ~~warriors~~ warriors with the exception of four have been killed or wounded and that he now goes to join Kami-a-kan.

Stickus is a prisoner. He came into the volunteer camp stated that he had ever been the friend of the whites and was so still but that he had fought against us and was compelled by his people to do so or lose his life. That he was now in our hands and we could do with him as to us seemed best.

The Indians before drawing off informed our people that they were going to ~~remove~~ remove their families to the east side of Snake River and that if they desired to follow them that they would give them battle or that if the whites remained where they were that the Indians after providing for their families would return and fight them. My opinion is that this is the best fight they will make this side of the Columbia River.

There were no Yakimahs in this engagement and you may expect ~~another~~ one hard battle with them on their own soil, after which they will disperse and scatter themselves in small parties over the country doing mischief whenever opportunity may offer.

With the friendly Indians under our charge we are compelled to be very strict, almost to severity in order to protect them from the volunteers. Many things have occurred since the commencement of hostilities which for



the honor of our manhood and bon ? civilization I dare not pen. You may rest assured that it requires the utmost vigilance and care on the part of the officers belonging to this department to so manage affairs that our present ~~Indianxxx~~ friendly Indians do not become disaffected. To think of volunteers meeting (sic) out justice to friendly Indians is an idea preposterous.

Messrs Noble & Jenkins local agst. the former for the Wascoes the later for the Dog River Indians are active and efficient in the performance of their duties. Mr. Simpson, spl. Agt. at the Cascades paid me a visit and exhibited a letter from you in reference to the Dog River Indians stating at the same time that these Indians were extremely anxious to remove to the Cascades. I thereupon addressed a letter to Mr. Jenkins informing him ~~if~~ if such was the desire of the Indians for him to allow Mr. Simpson to take charge of them, but from Mr. Jenkins I learn that such is not the fact, on the contrary he tells me that the Indians ~~xxxxxxx~~ were delighted when he told them that they could remain at Dog River and that nothing but force would remove them at this time.

Your letter of the 10th just came to hand by last night's boat. Why my letters failed to reach you sooner I cannot tell. When there is nothing of pressing importance I deem it prudent to use the many facilities for transporting mail matter and save the ~~xxxxxx~~ expense of expresses. If you should fail to receive frequent communications I hope you will not therefore conclude that I am remiss in my duties except so far as relates to my quarterly accounts to which I plead guilty, always deferring the lesser for the more important duties which will probably be considered good good (sic) cause for my removal, but I cannot help it. My last quarters accounts are ready and will be forwarded without delay and an effort made to be more prompt in the future.

We have about one thousand Indians (probably more) at this place and Dog River, we have prescribed for them a limit beyond which they are not to pass neither are they to travel within said limits beyond the vicinity of the



village without a pass and are strictly prohibited from coming to the village of the Dalles after dark. Drunkenness and disorderly conduct is punished by whipping or placing the offender in the military guard house. Prostitutes and their friends who belong to the Cascades or "illamette have been sent below. Indians offending against any of the known rules are taken by the Vol force receive no sympathy from us except so far as to see that the facts are fully made known.

You will see by the above ~~notes~~ notes that the Indians are cut off from many of the sources of subsistence to which they ordinarily resort. Their trade with other tribes is broken off. They dare not go to their fisheries if they do they are shot at by the volunteers. It has been found necessary to call in many of those who have heretofore been employed by whites as herders etc for the reason that if seen on the hills they may be shot. I understand that an officer high in the volunteer service boasts that the volunteers who had been stationed in this vicinity have killed twelve of the Damned Red Rascals.

The above facts are set forth that you knowing the improvident habits of the Indians may readily see the necessity for out taking measures to provide for their subsistence as many of them are already complaining of a scarcity--I shall refuse to furnish rations until I find they are really in need.

respectfully etc.

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent

Joel Palmer, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affrs. Dayton, Oregon.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 14, Microcopy 2

1856 No. 38

Executive Office,

Olympia, Jan. 23, 1856

Genl. Palmer,

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Oregon.

Sir:

I intend being in the city of Portland as soon as the 5th proximo at which time and place I should be pleased to meet and confer with you relative to the Indian relations in our respective territories.

Very <sup>R</sup>espectfully

<sup>I</sup>r obt. svt.

Isaac I. Stevens

Governor of Wash. Territory.



Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 14, microcopy 2

Copy:

Head Quarters Rgt. O.M.V.

1856 No. 42

Camp Mill Creek, Jany. 31, 1856

Special Orders No. 9

Lt. A. Hannan of Co. H ? will proceed tomorrow to camp Cornoyer and receive from him three Indians, Wat-astee-me-nee or Painted Earth; Sta-how-ee or McKay and Tock or Potatoe Heap, prisoners of war and with as much expedition as possible safely conduct them to his Ectly. ~~Geo. L. Curry~~ Geo. L. Curry, governor of Oregon to whom you will surrender them. You will take with you as an escort Jacob Fill and seven others from company A and F.M. Allphin (or Allison) and nine others from your command and John B. Hall from Company D.

Per order of

Thos. R. Cornelius

Col. Commdy. Rgt. O.M.V.

W.H. Farrar,

Adjtof rht

1856 No. 50

Agency Office Dalles Jan. 20th, 1856

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. Joslyns 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 among the hostile bands, that many if not all of the Clickitats will leave the war party. The cause assigned is that the Yakimahs are robbing them of their horses with which to bribe the Spokans. Maj. Haller will take steps to arrest the above named Clickitats and detain them at this place as prisoners of war.

Late news from the Walla Walla valley ~~is~~ gives an account of the most shameful 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~~ 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 ~~xxxxxxx~~ 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. <sup>In</sup> ~~his~~ 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.



1856 No. 62

Head Quarters Dept. of the Pacific, Benecia, 7th February, 1856

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 Cherouse 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 ~~xxxxx~~ subject. In the meantime I would hope that the Volunteers will leave ~~xx~~ the 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 ~~and~~ 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 14, Microcopy 2

1856 No. 91

Dalles O.T. February 23, 1856

Sir: Upon the departure of Mr. R.R. Thompson Ind. Agent for the Wallamette Valley he requested me to take charge of the district during his absence. Since which I have thought best to desire the band of friendly Cayuses encamped in the Walla Wallah valley to remove to the Nez Perce country there to remain until peace is declared or until such period as some other disposition may be advised by yourself. My reasons for so doing are these: The friendly Cayuses have had their stock taken from them at different times by the Volunteers and there thence was danger that such action might lead to ~~serious~~ serious difficulty. Again as soon as the enemy came over into their country the Volunteer would be liable to make mistakes not distinguishing readily between friends and foes. Lastly thought not of the least importance the enemy could and probably would constantly receive intelligence as to the numbers and movements of our troops. The Nez Perce chief Red Wolf who came down with Gov. Stevens and who has been staying at my house informed me that it was the desire of his people that the friendly Cayuses should come up and remain with them until the conclusion of ~~hostilities~~ hostilities.

The bands of friendly Indians about the Dalles particularly those immediately under my charge are beginning to complain of a want of provisions. I would respectfully suggest that a supply of beef and flour should be immediately procured for their subsistence otherwise I ~~additionally~~ fear that as the spring advances they will become more and more dissatisfied and restless until they will attempt to join the enemy and in so doing cause loss of property and life. There is now on hand a quantity of flour but it is small in comparison with the amount required for their maintenance.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servant

To Genl. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs.

Nathan Olney, Indian Agent



Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 13. Microcopy 2

1856 No.102

Febby 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 ~~being~~ 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. ~~Edm~~ 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 Umatillay 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 Well 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 ~~was~~ ~~had~~ brought down the horses with ~~that~~ 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 ~~thereby~~ through personal pique and ignorance of the facts.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servant

Nathan Olney, Ind. Agent

Genl. Joel Palmer,

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Superintendent Office,

Dayton, O.T.



1856 No. 103

Dalles Feby 18, 1856

Sir: I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 13th Dec. 1855(sic) and in reply I must say that I was somewhat surprised and extremely sorry that you have pronounced my official acts during my recent visit to the Cayuse country and that of the Walla Wallahs void and without force. I maybe mistaken in saying so, but I most certainly was under the impression that you desired me to act in conjunction with Agent Thompson and assist him in taking care of, and controlling the bands of friendly Indians in ~~that~~ that district. You must certainly recollect that I was anxious to resign my commission as Indian Agent and join the Volunteers service where my prospects were fair to be elected to the office of Lieut. Col. You insisted upon my remaining in the department as you needed my services during the present unsettled and uncertain state of our Indian relations and even intimated to me that you depended more upon me to keep quiet the Indians that then were friendly and prevent those that were uncertain from becoming hostile than any other person in the district. I hope you will pardon the error if the above statements are not correct for I certainly would not have presumed to exercise authority that I believed or knew to be an assumption. If so I have done wrong "it is my misfortune, not my fault." In reply to that part of your letter referring to the employing of persons now or heretofore in the service in the service of the Hudsons Bay Co. I must beg leave to say that I have not done so except ~~compelled~~ compelled by necessity and having the precedent furnished me by those higher in authority than myself, I did not suppose that I was acting in contradiction to the policy of our government.

If I am not mistaken all the interpreters employed by both yourself and Gov. at the council in the Walla Wallah country were formerly employees in the Hudson's Bay Co., your secretary at the same time Wm. C McKay esq had been a clerk in the same companies store, while the same objection can be urged to Tabu Fielle, your interpreter, Matthew Dofer, that



of Agent Thompson and Tababoo that of my own, I do not for a moment suppose that these persons were engaged with a view of violating the policy. You mention but simply as a matter of necessity, none others possessing the requisite qualifications.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. servt.

Nathan Olney, Ind. Agent

Genl. Joel Palmer, super. In Affairs

Office, Superintendent Ind. Affairs, Dayton O.T.

1856 No. 121

Private

Dalles March 18th, 1856

Dear Sir:

Will you please send me the date and amount of flour I receipted for last fall also any property returns I may have sent to your office.

Mr. Olney appears to be very anxious to have this district and now that he knows that I have resigned he expects it and will speake to you about it He tells me that you assented to his stock going on the reserve, which is of itself a pretty good index of what he desires. He gives me to understand that he will endeavor by his action in the performance of the duty to which you have assigned him to ~~convince~~ convince you tha he is deserving of the place he desires although he may find circumstances while below that will entirely change his present wishes.

The Indians are all pleased with the arrangements as now understood.

Col. Wright has set Monday or Tuesday as the day for his departure.

Yours Sincerely

R.R. Thompson

Joel Palmer Esq. Dayton Oregon

March 24 It is true as I told you when at Dayton that Olney was left in charge of the district during my absence.

The regulars leave on tomorrow. Send me a pitt saw for the resvn. I think it probable that there may be some men and teams secured at this place should they be required. Let me hear from you as soon as possible

R.R. Thompson

Received 2 April, '56 No. 21 Dalles, 18 March, 1856

R.R. Thompson. Private.



Oregon Supt. Ind. Affairs <sup>Vol</sup> 14, M crocopy 2

1856 No. ~~xx45~~ 132

Headquarters Fort Vancouver W.T.

March. ~~29th~~ 30th ~~21~~ 1856

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that some time ago I received your letter of the 20th instant with one from col Wright and very recently your communication of the 25th inst. You are aware of the exposed situation of this post and the town adjoining the buildings scattered over a large extent of ground and but one company left to garrison and defend it in case of an attack. That company has just returned from the Cascades where I had sent it to endeavor to succor the inhabitants and relieve the Block House, the inhabitants in the vicinity of this place are much alarmed and many are moving in with their families. It would be imprudent and wrong for me to detach any of my force and I regret that I will not be able to send you the troops you require. I know full well the necessity of having a large force in the Grand Ronde reservation. At least one company ought to be there. I think Genl. Wool will come up on the next steamer when I will communicate with him on the subject, probably he send a company to the Reservation as soon as possible

I regret that I did not see you when you passed here from the Dalles.

I am etc.

T. Morris, Lt. Col. 4th Infy Co. ndy.

Genl. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs etc. Dayton O.T.



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.

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 ~~his~~ their demands for tobacco and proceeded to search his pockets and found \$4.40 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 Deshutte 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 ~~his head~~ 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 DeShutts 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 a 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 reconitering with a view to ascertain the strength and position of the Indians.

The Volunteers who are returning by the way of the ~~Xake~~ Yackamawh are expected here in the course of four or five days.

Respectfully etc.

R.R. Thompson,

Indian Agent

Joel Palmer Esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Dayton O.T.

(Written in haste)



1856 No. 147

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. T. 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 "Gow's Root" in case the ~~remove~~ 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 Whehalem 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 ~~err~~ 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 ~~are~~ have retreated to the borders of the Nez Perces country and are anxious for peace on most any terms--the DeShutes & Tye Indians separated from them--About 300 volunteers under Cornelius were encamped on the north side of the Columbia river and are probably marching to this place via the Yackamah valley; the ~~balance~~ 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 Yackamahaw country---- when he gets ready.



McKay informed me he had submitted your proposition or ~~intention~~ invitation for the friendly Cayuses to live upon the deShutes reservation to Ume-How -Lets who will see them about the matter.

Very Respectfully

OO O. ~~Wade~~ Hummason,

Acting Local Agent

Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs, Roll 14, Microcopy 2

1856 No. 151

Steamer Columbia, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1856

Sir: When the steamer Columbia arrived opposite Port Orford on her way down from Portland to San Francisco the wind blew so hard and the sea was so rough that she could not land so I was compelled to remain on board and prosede to the latter place and remain untill her return.

She will arrive at ~~Portland~~ Port Orford about 12 o'clock to night and will remain only long enough to discharge a small amunt of freight and some half dozen passengers which will detain her perhaps two hours. The time being so short and in the night season I fear it will be impossible for me to acquaint you with the state of affairs at that place by this steamer.

I am very sorry that have been so (sic) long detained away from my feald (sic) of duty and prevented from acquainting you fully with re ard to the state of our Indian relations in Southern Oregon. I will however try and give you a full report by return steamer.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. servt.

Nathan Olney, Indian Agent.

Gen. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs, Supt. Office.