

Nov. 9, 1855

Very Rev. J.B. Brouillet, V.G. Adm. Columbia City, W.T.
Vicar General and Adm.

I have received in the last mail the two letters, one of the 21st, and the other of the 29th of August. You did very well in rereading the letter that I was writing to our fathers and to correct it. It was for this that I sent it to you not sealed. All I regret is that the letter such as you have arranged cannot reach our Fathers sooner. As I have told I have profited by the departure of the troops to Steilacoom to write them again and tell them to come under the protection of the officers as soon as they arrive.

But these troops have come back and of course did my letter. In spite of all the rumors that are going on in the Dalles I cannot believe that the savages have killed our Fathers. There would not be surprising that they had burned the houses as the Cayouses did St. Anne and again with the same intention. Let us hope that God will take care of His children but that is care of our Father who are still children (Sic) The only time of danger will be when our Father will try to pass by the side of the Americans but until then I cannot think them in danger unless Father Pandosy has talked against the war. But I think that he has finished by letting it be done what he couldn't stop. The 22nd of Aug. I wrote also to Father Chirouse to tell him to leave as soon as possible. But how will my letter reach him And according to what you tell me of your letter of the 29th how can he go now to the Dalles.

Father Chirouse wrote me the first of October and did not say a word of ~~God~~ what trouble us so much. It seems that at this time the news of the deaths of Mr. Bolen or the project of entering a war had not reached him yet who was alone. It seems also that Father

Richard who had come to the Dalles to buy some things was not yet returned with the Cayuses when the Agent Olney had called the Americans.

Otherwise I can hardly believe as reports Father Richard and Father Chirouze had not taken the decision of leaving with the Americans.

Nevertheless Father Chirouze gives me only the news of his shacks, under construction and not a word of the war nor that he supposes there would be a war. In the actual circumstances I do not see any other resource except pray. God alone can take our fathers out of the sad position in which they are. Therefore let us pray for them and God will arrange everything to His glory. I do not know if the inhabitants of this side will have thanked God who used a misunderstanding to make the troops who had left Steilacoom come back. Truly we could not give enough of our gratefulness to God for such a favor. Now everyone is safe and even though there are not all absolutely appeased there is no terror or panic which would have degenerated into frenzy. Certainly there was danger but when using your head you could only augment the danger. We did not do like the other. We remained calm but our calmness would have finished by frightening us for we feared that some badly intentioned person or some foolish one would have told us that we were on the side of the savages. But thanks be to God our neighbors and the old settlers have since the very first days taken our defense and we have not had to face this again. We have lent guns, given council and encouraged. We won more than lost in the public mind. The Sen. Mason also arrived and reestablished order that certain persons would have troubled by forming assemblies and private co. We have not yet received any news from Mr. King. If he does not come I will write him a few words to carry on your mission.

Five wagons loaded with arms and ammunitions arrived at the Cowlitz and Mr. Leclaire came here day before yesterday. He is very well. The Canadians have formed a company at Cowlitz and guard the company country. The savages of Cowlitz near Plamondon have been disarmed but are very well fed and contented. There had been a savage sent to the Clakatacs who are a little above to tell them to come also with the other near Plamondon but had not arrived yet when Mr. Leclaire left to come to see us.

(sic) and profit of the wagons to take some provisions to Olympia.

The little steamboat is in ^Victoria but we do not know yet the result of his commission(sic) Believe me ~~we~~ as always your very humble and devoted servant and friend, P. Ricard, Ptre O.M.I.

original typescript in French of above:

...Les Canadiens ont forme une compagnie au Cowlitz et gardent le pays. Les sauvages du Cowlitz sont aupres de Plamondon, on les a desarmes, mais on les nourrit assez bien et ils sont content. On avait envoye un sauvage vers les Clakatacs qui sont un peu plus haut pour leur dire qu'eux aussi vinssent comme les autres aupres de Plamondon. Mais ils n'etaient pas encore arrives quand Mr. Leclaire partit pour venir nous voir et profiter des waggines pour prendre quelques provisions a Olympia-- Le petit bateau a vapeurst arrive de Victoria, mais nous ne savons pas encore le resultat de sa commission. Croyez moi toujours, votre tres humble et tour devoue ami P. Ricard Ptre. Obl. M.I.