

Ricard-Mesplie

November 20, 1855
Dalles, Nov. 20, 1855

Rev. Father Ricard;

Things here are far from being good. Your Rev. has without doubt(heard) that Major Haller, having visited Yakima with more than a hundred was obliged to retreat after a battle of two days where he could have been cut to pieces with all his division if he had~~not~~st come back. This happened around the 4th or 5th of October at about thirty miles from the station Antanum. At the end of this month an expedition of 800 men of the regular troops and volunteers went again to the Yakimas to try to appease the Indians in their rage. But yesterday evening the expedition arrived at the Dalles. The news that it brings is that the white army has seen a little number of Indians with whom they exchanged shots. After three Indians were dead and the others in flight the entire army with hope of being able to find the mass of Indians decided to go back to the Dalles the army arrived this time at the Mission of Ataham(sic) an officer and some soldiers came near first to try to enter the residence of your Rev. Fathers. But their surprise was great when they did not find any fathers, but only a sad silence. A fire half burning, a hearth kept by a cat or two and the clock of the house which worked as if the master had gone only a short time. A few hogs were in the stable and seemed to have been taken care of recently. Major Rains found a letter on the table in the bedroom of the Rev. Fathers written and signed by Rev. Father Pandosy. This letter was dated of Oct. 6 written in English and to the name of Kamayaken, first chief of the Yakimas. As I haven't seen the letter I am not able to make known to you what it contains. The letter on the table in the bedroom of the Rev. Fathers written and signed by Rev. Father Pandosy, this letter was dated of Oct. 6 (accidentally repeated) The letter made known to the commanding officer the causes of the excitement of the Indians and the cause of the death of Boulen, and many other things which I know imperfectly, but of which your Rev. will be informed for I think that the newspapers will soon report its

contents. At the end of the letter the Rev. Father Pandosy says a few words in French in his name. He was telling the troops that he had hidden certain previous items in certain places in the earth and a few other insignificant words. But the principal matter is enveloped in mystery. Here is what the world will blame Father Pandosy for a long time unless he is able publicly that is, through newspapers, to justify his conduct enveloped in mystery. Mystery in the time which we are and in the country in which we live, affecting entirely not only his own person but all the mission and missionaries near Oregon. There are many things in the way of acting of Rev. Pandosy that badly intentioned people interpret very badly and can have very bad consequences. And to make you know all how the Rev. Father would have talked or written to Gov. Mason in a contradictory(sic) These going further must be cleared. Your Rev. is on the place that is near the Gov. Mason. You should ask in which way the Rev. Father has reported to contradictory stories and put their justification in the newspapers if possible. Secondly it would be good that the public knows how it happened that at the arrival of the troops at the station of Atahman (sic) the fire was burning in the house and the clock was working and all the rest in the house was regulated as if the masters had just left the house recently and that new traces seem indicated the moment when the Rev. Fathers had left their house. How also it happened that the Rev. Father not talking English at all and writing it still less, there was found a letter written by his hand but in English and pure English. Why also in his postscript in French instead of adding a few insignificant things did he not give the reasons for his departure. The place where he was going and who the (how the) Indians were treating him. Having discovered his mysterious departure the people generally badly disposed toward him supposed him to be among the fugitive Indians. Helping them with his counsels. So the volunteers seeing his conduct full of secrets have sworn against him and if they could join him they would take him in spite of all law Divine and human

in this kind of rage they have burnt the entire mission. It is said that the officers of the regular army have already taken its contents and also the objects of the chapel which are going to be given back to me at the Dalles. If the Rev. Fathers have fled through Olympia may God be blessed but without delay Rev. Father Pandosy should justify himself of his supposed mistakes of which he is charged and this for his own honor and for the good of all missionaries and missions of Oregon. It is said also that there was found in the ground some guns and powder a barrel or two of shells belonging to the Rev. Father and on the table in the house an accounting book giving receipt 35 carbines brought to be sold to the Indians and daily accounting a sell (sale) of considerable ammunition seceded (sic) to the Indians since the beginning of the mission. The above mentioned accounting book will certainly figure in public papers, soon. If this is true we are all poor missionaries, lower than earth. We are going to pass everything for the last man, and moreover our lives are in danger. The Rev. Father Pandosy has always been in my eyes a priest so animated by the spirit of God and full of zeal for the salvation of souls but let it be said between us, that the Rev. Father has often lacked prudence either in his relation with the Indians or with the white people who fortunately were rare otherwise his character would be more blackened. I do not pretend to attack this moral conduct May God preserve me from that. But only his political and civil conduct. Which according to what I have heard or understood have always been those of a man very much too rustic. I am sending you under the same envelope a letter from the Rev. Father Chirouze which letter must be put in the public news papers. Thus I ask the great Vicar Brouillet, to stop it and having it put in the paper and then to address it to you. The Rev. C. Chirouze (sic) is also find himself in war and maybe also in many incidents. He could have avoided that if he had left his post 5 weeks ago but he thought himself with his Catholics as behind fortified wall,

impenetratable and now he is wandering with all those who were supposed to protect him in his strength. Later it might even be those who will take his life.

Respectfully your

T. Mesplie, priest