

Olympia, April 11, 1856

Monsieur L'Administrateur:

Though your letter dated March 30 and what the Pioneer told us, we see that without the preservation of the steam boat which could escape, all inhabitants of the Cascades would have fallen under the attack of the savages and Vancouver would not have been sheltered.

What a triumph for the cause of General Wool, and what a defeat for the cause of those who unthinking, without provisions ? without ammunition; went to run after the savages. The lesson is too harsh not to bear fruits. I am asking you, what would have the country below become if the regular troops and all the volunteers had found themselves above and up river of the Serpents. The savages would have had a nice luck on your side and around here. At the very beginning of war we ~~would~~ were exposed here to an entire destruction because of a lack of judgment. For if the regular troops and volunteers, sent from here, had not, because of a wrong information, received orders to come back this part of the territory would have been undoubtedly ~~partly destroyed~~ been destroyed by Leshai and the savages who would have joined him in a greater number. It is a true unfortune that so many persons have perished at the Cascades. But this event will turn to good and will save people by showing what must be done before everything. That is what before thinking of avenging the dead, it is necessary to put the living in safety. You will learn with pleasure the capture that your brave volunteers have made. With the aid of a guide they have taken by surprise a camp of savages who were stealing cattle and were doing other destruction. After one fire only and the death of 7 or 8 savages, the camp surrendered itself without trying a defense. We have brought two of the prisoners in Olympia. But before they had been judged one of them hanged himself in the night. We will keep the other to use him as a guide and take other camps by surprise. These prisoners report that Leshraie has crossed the mountains to go ask help from Kamaiarcan and that his intention is to come back as soon as possible. According to the reports of Leshraie has sworn on

heart that in less than two months Olympia would be in ashes. But we are warned and we hope that Leshraie will loose his head before the ruin of Olympia.

The Canadians are at Steilacoom. We do not like that as they stay on their claim. But nothing has been said against them and they are free and feed at the expense of the government.

Several persons had been seized and thrown into prison. Smith, Murry, Willson, etc. and they were accused of providing ammunition to hostile savages and some were talking of putting their power in action. But for lack of proof all are put back to freedom. But they have been forbidden to return on their claims until peace is established, Such are we summarizing the news around here. Leshraie having passed on the other side and his savages being spread by groups in the woods, we hurried to chase them, to surround them.

At the sight of the defect that I find in the present page I ask you to excuse me. I see it too late. May the excuse I ask you spare me the trouble of copying on another page what I have just written.

The savage Peter came back to see if you had sent the Ayas papers (Les Echelles ?) that you had promised us. I had to answer "Think about it and try to send us some as soon as you can."

This Peter is very amusing and very interesting, all sick that he is, he has an extraordinary courage.

When Pat Kenem was back from his expedition Peter saw him and told him, "as you come from war you are going to give me back the Echelle and all image that father gave you. Bloody hands should not touch them. You are excommunicated. Do you think that you can ally prayer and war? If we pray we cannot fight and if we fight we cannot pray, You have taken the arms, you have killed, you have cut heads, consequently you have resumed the idea which prevails among the savages who do not have yet distinguished an unjust war from a just war." Pat Kenem did not give him the Echelle (ladder rack.) for this and other papers of the priest.



He resumed the causes of the war and the motives which has urged him to take the arms and finished to assure him that neither him nor his had ceased to pray, even though they were at arms. It is true that were not singing and did not pray in loud voice, so as not to be discovered by the enemy, but there nevertheless praying in a low voice and in their heart. He added that if they had not attacked the camp of Leshraie during the night it was because, before starting the battle, they wanted to say the morning prayer, and have the mind more free to think and recommend themselves to God during the battle. The reasons and the strength prevailed and Pat Kenem kept the echelle (ladder) (not probably Catholic ladder prayer stick..see account in Blanchet's account of Catholics in the Northwest.) and the rest and Pete did not say anything more. Furthermore the savage who was spared and had to serve as guide to Pat Kenem told us something which gave us great pleasure and proves the effect of prediction even on those who do not ask for baptism.

He said then, that seeing himself taken and in chains and waiting to be hanged (though he could not see himself capable of any crime which merited death) he would pray and recommend himself to God.

Here, Mr. Administrator, is something to encourage the poor missionaries. There are very few savages who do not understand that what the priest says is true and advantageous. Now, if despite this conviction they do not ask for baptism it is because, it is only because they also understand that it must be followed of a fine and saint life, such as they do not believe themselves capable of leading it. "Alas, how many Christians among civilized people, do not go to confession, do not make their Pascol communion uniquely for the same reasons.

Try to tell me in your next letter if you know if the regular army has replaced the volunteers near Walla Walla. When are our Fathers Chirouse and Richard going to become if no one is there to protect and defend them. Now I am well enough. What are your fevers doing. I remain your all devoted servant and friend. P. Ricard petre O.M.I.