

Paloos.. (DeSmet) (The 3 USL Set)

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On the 20th I arrived at Fort Walla Walla where I was cordially and civilly received by Mr. Archibald McKinlay in charge of the post. I employed several days here in making all preparations for the rest of the journey, making all for I had twenty horses to buy and as many saddles and bridles to get made. On the 28th I took farewell of the amiable McKinlay family thanking them most sincerely for their kindness to us and for the assistance which they had so liberally lavished upon us. I went a few days ahead of Reverend Father M. in order to send him the cattle and extra horses that I had bought. An Iroquois and a Canadian from Colville served as my guides.

., The first night we encamped on the Walla Walla river. The next day we crossed the Lewis or Nez Perce river, one of the largest tributaries of the Columbia.....At the crossing of the Nez Perce we found a small camp of the Indians called Palooses belonging to the tribe of the ~~Captans~~ Capetans or Nez Percés. On the high plain between this river and the Spokane we found abundance of sagebrush as well as bunch-grass excellent for horses.

..page 560--The eighth day after my departure from Fort Vancouver I landed safely at Walla Walla with the goods destined for the different missions.....

before we could reach the crossing of the Nez Percés or Lewis Fork whose source is in the angle of the Rocky and Snowy mountains between the Forty-second and forty-fourth degrees near the sources of the Rio Colorado (Green River) the Platte, the Yellowstone and the Missouri rivers. Its western course till it reaches the Blue Mountains and hence its northern direction till it joins the Columbia together with its principal tributaries are sufficiently



known to you and have been empty described already.

We found about a dozen Indian lodges called the Palooses a portion of the Sapetan or Nez Perces tribe. We procured from the Indians here some fresh salmon, for which we made them a return in powder and lead. But as the grass was withered and scanty and the pilfering disposition of these Indians rather doubtful we resolved on proceeding eight or ten miles farther and encamped late in the evening on the Pavilion river.

The Nez Perces and Spokane plain is at least a thousand feet elevated above the bed of the river. It is dry, stony and undulated covered with bunch and nutritious grass, with prickly pear and wormwood. The basaltic and volcanic formations which extend through the whole of this region are really wonderful. ....Pheasants or quails were very abundant..we daily killed what we wanted for our meals.

. On the fifth day of our departure from "alla Walla we reached the Spokane river and found a good fording for our animals..

...731--there the Indian tribes had formed a powerful league against the whites; they had surprised Col. Steptoe and had killed two of his officers and several soldiers; a general uprising was imminent in all that region. Nine tribes had already entered into the coalition, namely the Palooses, Yakimas, ~~Snohomish~~ Skoyelpis, Okinagans, Spokans, Coeur d'Alenes, Kalispels, Kootenais and Flatheads. These poor savages formerly so peaceable, the last four especially, had become very uneasy over the frequent incursions made by the whites upon the lands in the southern and western portions of the territories of Washington and Oregon. Feb

..surprised at my arrival at Walla Walla after an absence of 11 years...the distance from Walla Walla to the Traverse, a place called thus because Snake river is traversed there is about

fifty miles. There are rather uneven plains covered with rich pasturage and in some places mountains entirely bare of timber.

We reached the Traverse on October 15 h by the valley of a little wooded river called the Two Canyons. At the mouth of this spread the small fort bearing the name Taylor has been built. Here there was ~~an Indian~~ a numerous camp of ~~Opawitlo~~ Palooses. The chiefs received us with kindness and eagerly aided us in getting across the main river with our horses and baggage. We went on and camped in the Paloos valley at the foot of the Bad Rock four miles above the mouth of that river. A large number of Palooses came and spent the evening with us; they seemed hungry for news in the critical situation in which they were engaged in regard to the whites.

They were charged with having taken an active part in the attack on Colonel Steptoe and having been among the principal instigators of the warfare on the whites. I found them very attentive to my advice and to the religious instruction that I gave them; several even gave evidence of a desire of having a Catholic mission among them.

Page 749---I have spoken of the prisoners of war made among the Coeur d'Alenes by the United States Troops. The following are the causes of the war:

For some years past the Indians had given signs of uneasiness relative to the future invasion of their lands by the whites. The treaties negotiated by Governor Stevens and the wars that had followed had provoked these fears. They demanded urgently of the governor that the troops should respect the portion of the country included between the Columbia, Snake and ~~and~~ river and Rocky mountains; they proposed to remain neutral and desired to have this territory respected by



both parties. They seemed disposed to renounce invasion but this did not suit the chiefs Kamiakin, Telgawee and consorts, who at the time of the war between the Yakimas and Cayuses had tried every means to draw the Coeur d'Alenes into the trouble on their side. The Catholic missionaries of the country used their influence to restrain them and though they were sometimes ~~acc~~ accused of siding with the Americans against the Indians they succeeded in holding their people in.

When the Yakimas counseled by Father Pandosy had made their peace in spite of Kamiakin and the military post of Simcoe had been established, Kamiakin took refuge among his own men, the Palooses. Tinewe, Telgawee and a number of other Cayuse, Yakima and Walla Walla ~~0000~~ refugees were there also.

Kamiakin could not keep quiet. By means of gifts he won over the richest of the Coeur d'Alenes. He came and spent the winter of ~~000000~~ 1857-58 with him and south without ceasing to communicate to him his own sentiments of distrust among the whites, even the priests. "They are white like the Americans" he told ~~0000~~ him: "They all have one heart." Because the Coeur d'Alenes refused to come out ~~enough~~ they were called "women--little dogs who only know enough to bark when danger is at hand."

Fresh rumors were circulated every day; especially after murders had been committed by the Palooses, the excitement grew more and more. Several Indians told Father Joset "that they were tired of Kamiakin's doings." A white man had told them: "Poor savages. It is all up with you now. The troops are coming this year to take possession of your lands." Another, "I have seen them already, 500 of them, camped on Snake river." A third white man had assured them that ~~\$000~~ "500 soldiers would come first to Colville; that they should soon be followed by 500 more and ~~so~~ soon until they would lay aside the mask and

and ~~become masters~~ declare themselves masters of the land.

Another day the troops had formed three columns and crossed Snake river at three places to take possession of the whole country at once." Father Joset could not assure himself whether white men had really said these things; but he has very little doubt that false reports were often spread among the Indians to excite them to war. A good many Americans looked on war as a good thing for the country and a means to make money plentiful.

Despite all Kamiakings efforts there was no apparent likelihood that the Coeur d'Alenes would let themselves be drawn in; this was far from the case; three weeks before the Steptoe fight the chief Vincent told Father Joset that "It may very well happen that we shall have to fight the Paloooses who are very sore against us because we will not declare war against the Americans.

The sudden approach and inexplicable march of Colonel Steptoe came in here to ~~vindicate~~ give the lie to all the arguments of the most sensible men and those best disposed toward the whites. "I had always repeated to our Indians," says Father Joset, "have no fear. If the troops cross the river it can only be against the Paloooses or the whisky sellers at Colville."

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Proceeding toward the north one comes to the Nez Perces. There are places in their country very fertile and well adapted to agriculture; also vast and rich grazing lands. These Indians own a great number of horses; some have as many as 500 or 600. The nation of the Nez Perces contains near 2,500 inhabitants. Though there are Protestant ministers among them from reports which they themselves made, as well as conversations, I have had with several of the chiefs, it is clear that they would be charmed to have Catholic missionaries.

In the west of the Nez Perces are the Cayuses decent peaceably and