

Olympia, Aug. 3, 1855

8bre (copy)

My dear monsieur le grand vicaire(vicary)

Brother Blanchet tells me that our printers being busy as the others has elevated ramparts around Olympia there will be no Pioneer this week.

I come therefore in haste to make up for this deficit.

~~The~~ We suppose that Mr. King has followed the troops in their expedition. He should have made us known. Maybe has written. Anyway we do not have news of him and Gallagher went to Steilacoom, there he has learned that Mr. King went with Capt. Maloney to join the soldiers camping in the White ~~River~~ River. We thought that Mr. King would come back then at Steilacoom but he did not come back and we do not doubt that he has followed the soldiers. Until it is talked only about Mr. MacKarlester and Braddeley(sic) who have been killed by the savages on the side of the Puyalap river and if Mr. King had been killed or had been in some danger we would have known it.

We have organized around here some companies to run on one side or another to see if the savages are great and particularly if the Yakimas do not come down the mountains. Nineteen of these Rangers therefore went on toward the Puyalap river to look around here and Mr. MacKarlester and Braddeley with 2 savages, were walking in front far enough from the others where as they crossed a passage surrounded by bushes about 20 shots some over them. Only one savage could escape to tell to the others who were arriving. This group, 11 in number, hid as fast as possible in a little wooden house. The savages, about 150 in number came to Ossageo and ? them. The shooting lasted over 14 hours without an American wounded. The Americans were shooting on their side through the bushes where they could see something moving and from where a shot was leaving. Finally the shooting ceased and the assieged profited of the night to come out and come back to Olympia. The savages of whom I just talked on the Yakima ~~then~~ that is the people of Tiaies who habitually have ~~been~~ their camp on this side around 60 miles from Nesqually.

To go faster and profit of the courier Brother Blanchet is writing to you to tell the rest.

On every side everyone is leaving town, they assemble in strength in the middle of the prairies. Actually we are alone; all our neighbors are in Olympia. We are waiting for worse news to see if we also must go to Olympia. The little ~~stream~~ steam boat went to Victoria to ask for a war ship and the boat of the company of Mr. Douglas have nobly offered for the present state in four or five days they will be here.

We are not yet very frightened. However we all have the same sinister intuition. Fortunately the savages of the Bay do not move. The two men of war keep them scared.

Excuse the haste with which I write to profit of the courier which I hope will not yet be gone when Brother Blanchet will arrive in Olympia.

Your all devoted P. Ricard, petre O.M.I.

Follows what Brother Blanchet wrote:

Father Ricard not being able to give all the local news because the mail will soon leave, I add a few words to his letter to follow what he tells you.

Since the unfortunate expedition of our Rangers, the country is in a terrible excitement. The savages have become more bold and run the country around Nesqually and Steilacoom; we are waiting for an attack in those two places, which I do not believe probable. The savages fear death too much to ~~leave~~ brave 800 cannons which are awaiting them at Steilacoom without counting about 60 men. Anyway, they have in some sort free field to destroy the country, take away the cattle, burn the houses for all the inhabitants have gone in provisory forts or to Olympia, Steilacoom and Nesqually. The savages of the sea are in a troubling attitude and we fear at every moment that they will riot. All the settlers of the bay have abandoned their houses as those of the prairies and have retired to defended places.

It is very fortunate that we have at this time the Decatur's 8 to 16 cannons and 250 men) with Mr. J. Davis, otherwise I do not know what would happen.

(noon) Arrived in Olympia. I learn other news that I am transmitting to you. The troop of Capt. Maloney have said to be on their return and that they are now among the Clicitats who have killed MacAlister and Bradley. This troop had sent 7 men in front as an express, these seven men have been attacked on the way, two have been killed, A. Moses and Dr. Burns, the others have been able to go to Steilacoom.

The return of our little army, 240 men, has reassured the country.

I think that the Yakimas and Clicitats will have enough work to cross the mountains this winter and the troops of Steilacoom with the volunteers will be sufficient, I think, to keep the savages west of the mountains. (sic)