

9 Dec. 1855

Ricard:

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

Monsieur L'Administrateur:

Through your letter of Nov. 24th and the articles in the newspapers I just learned what happened to the mission at the Yakima and what would have happened to the missionaries if they would have been in their house. After having thought again of the danger in which the priests in this country are, and at your request, I have written again to our Gov. Mason, who not without delay has finally given me the answer of which I sent you a copy. And so that you will be able to judge better of its value I am sending you a copy of my letters asking for it. It is not therefore in the power of the Gov. to put this in the papers to protect a certain class of citizens, may each one defend oneself as he is able. As for that which concerns the mission our Gov. did not receive any official report and I wonder if he will ask for it in case the Major Rains forgets to give it. Your plan was to begin to inform the public, this is a noble task which you have the right to do for it is the bishop or to the one who is taking his place to defend the honor of our holy religion, and the priesthood when attacked. To help you I am sending you all which I have in possession and which prove the constant conduct which the priests have had towards the superior authority and for the public good. However, because of the false position in which is the adm. I do not think that it is convenient to publize texturally all the letters which I am sending you, which prove that the question of the land is the first and main cause of war. For the time being you should try to take from it, only what is necessary, for historically report of these incidents. The public will take from it the consequence and will see the priests are enemy of the state. If it is they who make the savages uprise. The treatment that they underwent when their belongings were destroyed,

their house burned with the church and their sacerdotal ornaments profaned.

Inform yourself if Major Rains has given an exact report of what happened as he was at the head of the expedition, it is his honor to make it. And to justify himself in the eyes of civilized people. It is good that you should know, that there is not great confidence to be placed in our delegated.(sic) What he said after his journey to Colville did not contribute little to the arguments the predigest against our priests.(sic) Advise the reader. I was thinking of writing to Gen. Wool , to recommend to him the poor missionaries. But I was thinking that I had to take your advise before. Maybe it is better that you do it yourself. There is nothing new around here, if it is that except that the weather is turning dark, the horizon is troubled. I do not know what to do for our poor Fathers. It is completely useless to write. We would like very much to have the letter that the agent Bolon left for Father Pandosy, which was found here when Mr. Bolon passed up there. What malice to say "the Catholic mission where Mr. Bolen was killed." You know very well the Englishmen, and you will also have the favors from the state to confound the enemy of our religion.

My friendship and respect to Mr. Bayard and Mr. King. Tell to this one that the Sebastopol d'Olympia has ended by surrendering itself and gave birth to a child of peace and reconciliation. The Catholic servant who is at the Tilton gave birth to a bastard whose father she had met coming here. Poor country.

P. Ricard O.M.I.