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Col. Cornelius' Official Dispatch.

HEAD QUARTERS 1st REGT. O. M. V.,
CAMP YAKIMA, APRIL 24, 1856.

Sir:—On the morning of the 9th ult., I despatched Lieut. Chas. B. Pillow, Co. A, of the 1st Battalion, in charge of a detachment of fifty men, to form an encampment at or near Fort Walla Walla. I gave him orders to hold that post, to scout the adjacent country, and preserve open the line of communication from the mouth of Snake river to our military post on the Umatilla. Having completed my preparations, on the same date, I took up the line of march for Snake river with companies A, D, E, H, and K, of the 1st Battalion of Recruits, the command numbering about five hundred persons. We were supplied with full rations of sugar and one half rations of flour and beef for the period of nine days. Beyond this we were destitute of supplies of any kind, the commissary department being wholly barren. The first night we camped on the Touchet. In the evening Lieut. Wright, of Co. E, whom I had previously despatched to reconnoiter the mouth of Snake river, returned and reported he had discovered stock in the forks of the river, heard by Indians. The command did not move on the 10th, as I judged it advisable to await for one day the return of an Express detachment I had been forced to send to the Dalles to obtain a needed supply of ammunition. Lieut. Miller of Co. H, with a detachment of that company I sent beyond Mill Creek to obtain cattle. He returned on the evening of the 11th with twenty-one head of beef which, unfortunately, effected their escape from us at Snake river. On the 11th we proceeded down the valley of the Touchet. The afternoon of the 12th, after a march of forty-two miles from Camp Cornelius, we arrived on Snake river, twenty-five miles above its mouth, and before nightfall the command had accomplished the passage of the river, with the exception of Co. A, Capt. Harding, of the Recruiting Battalion. The transit over the river was made without loss or accident beyond the loss of two or three animals. On approaching the river a very feeble encampment of Indians was perceptible on the opposite shore. Immediately after a portion of our advance guard had crossed the river, I went in pursuit of the enemy, who had fled in the direction of the Columbia on observing our boats. A quantity of their packs, provisions, a small amount of ammunition, and some horses were captured and brought into camp. Capts. Hembree, Wilber, Reavis, Burch and Ankeny, and Lieut. Miller, with portions of their respective companies, were engaged in this movement. We succeeded in killing four of our enemy, and captured one Indian boy of some four or five years. This had I have entrusted for the present to Capts. Hembree and Ankeny. In the pursuit two Indian women were overtaken—they were suffered to pass unmolested. The succeeding day, Capt. Reavis, with a detachment of his men, Co. K, and Lt. Taggart of Co. A, of 2d Battalion, with a detachment under command of Major Conroyer, struck across the country to the mouth of the Yakima, while Capts. Wilber, Hembree, Lt. Harding, and Lt. Haley of the 1st, and Capts. Burch, Ankeny, and Settle of the 2d Battalion with their companies, under my immediate command, proceeded down the river to its mouth, and thence up the Columbia for ten miles to opposite the mouth of the Yakima, where we were met by the detachment in charge of Major Conroyer. We failed to find any considerable force of Indians. A small number were discovered, pursued, and three or four were killed. The remainder, with a small band of stock, had succeeded in crossing the river before they could be overtaken. These fled with great precipitancy towards the north. We returned to camp by different routes, having travelled this day some seventy-five miles, over a country presenting no indications of having been occupied by a force of the war party of our enemy. While Lt. Small of Co. K, and one other man were together making their course to camp they were fired upon by eight or ten Indians. The Lieut. returned their fire, succeeded in killing one of the Indians, and himself and companion escaped unharmed. The same evening, private Harvey Robbins of Co. D, was slightly wounded in the thigh with an arrow. The wagon train I had employed for the transportation of our boats, on the 14th I ordered to proceed to Walla Walla with five of the boats. One boat was *cached* on Snake river. On the afternoon of this day I took up the line of march directly

for the Palouse river, following the rough trail of the Snake. On the 16th, after a march of some forty miles from our crossing of Snake river, we encamped two miles below the Palouse. On this march we discovered no manifestations that the country had been occupied during the past winter by any large body of Indians. At long intervals were to be noted evidences of temporary camps of a few families. Signs of numerous horses having passed along the trail were perceptible. On arriving in the vicinity of the Palouse, I ordered Capt. Hembree forward to ascertain if there was an encampment of the enemy at the mouth of that river. The same evening he reported no Indians there, and no appearance of an encampment at or near that locality since late in the past autumn. The 17th I sent an express to the post at Walla Walla for supplies. We moved up the Palouse, a distance of eight miles, and encamped until the morning of the 23d. Prior to reaching the Palouse our scanty stock of provisions were exhausted and we were reduced to the necessity of subsisting on horse meat. Many symptoms of strong reluctance to proceed further had been for several days manifested by a portion of the command. I called a council of the officers on the evening of the 17th, when it was determined to await there the arrival of provisions, and in the mean while send detachments to scout the country. On the 18th Capts. Hembree, Reavis, Burch and Ankeny, and Lieuts. Hutchison, Myers, Wright, and Haley, with detachments from Companies D, E, H, and K, of the 1st, and B, C, of 2d Battalions, under command of Lt. Col. Kelly, proceeded up the Palouse and across the Colville trail to Clear Creek. At the crossing of the Creek the Col. divided his force, sending one part under Capt. Hembree, down the Creek to the Palouse, thence up the Palouse a distance of thirty miles from the encampment of the Regiment. Col. Kelly with his party followed up Clear Creek a further distance of twelve miles, thence over the country to Sinking Spring, on the trail leading from the Falls of Palouse to Priest's Rapids, and from that section pursued an easterly course to camp. The command of Lt. Col. Kelly was absent two days. He saw no Indians or cattle, and but one horse which was appropriated by the men for their evening's meal. The Col. reported that his command discovered a recent encampment of Indians on the Palouse, some seven miles above my encampment; that it was evident the whole body has crossed the country towards the Columbia; that no other camping ground of the Indians was found; and that there was but one trail leading from the Palouse river over the Palouse country to Priest's Rapids. The day of the return of Col. Kelly to camp I despatched a second express to Walla Walla for provisions. Fortunately on this day we found on the south side of Snake river a band of forty Indian horses. With the assistance of a few men I succeeded in driving them to camp. Most of the number were used for the subsistence of the Regiment. On the morning of the 20th I was induced by a series of circumstances to order a parade of the Regiment, at which I informed the command that it was my desire and intention to follow the trail across the Palouse country to the Columbia, and to penetrate the country of the Yakimas before I marched the command to the Dalles, and that such were your orders to me. I regret to be under the painful necessity to name the fact that one of the field officers exhibited his disbelief of my plan in a manner into which he ought not to have suffered himself to be betrayed. Lt. Col. Kelly and Maj. Conroyer in unequivocal terms expressed their decided approbation of the line of march I had proposed to pursue. On the 21st Capt. Wilson, having in charge Watson's pack train with provisions, reached Snake river. Capt. Cason of E. company, Recruiting Battalion, reported his command at Walla Walla ready for duty. I ordered him to form an encampment at the mouth of Snake river; to scout the country on both sides of the river; and after the 24th to have our boats at that point prepared to cross any express I might forward or the whole command. Watson's pack train brought rations of flour and sugar for twelve days, and coffee for nine days. From some mismanagement by the Asst. Qr. Master in the field but two hundred pounds of coffee were forwarded to me. I had ordered four hundred and fifty pounds to be sent. At the time there was some two or three thousand lbs. of coffee at Walla Walla. Several instances of mismanagement have occurred in the Qr. Master's Department in the field that have seriously embarrassed my plans and movements. On Sunday, the 23d, we resumed our march, taking alone one of our boats, following the trail that had been discovered by Lt. Col. Kelly on the 18th and 19th, en route to Priest's Rapids, and late on the 26th encamped on the bank of the Columbia. We were four days in traversing the country between the Palouse and Columbia rivers. Throughout the march the men and animals suffered severely for want of water and subsistence. Numbers of horses became so exhausted they were unable to travel. The route was exceedingly difficult; no man in the regiment had before penetrated the country. Not an Indian was seen. A very few miserably poor horses were secured which were consumed as provisions. Capts. Hembree and Harding and Lt.

Col. Kelly, with five men, on the 27th followed up the Columbia for several miles above Priest's Rapids. Capt. Hembree reported that the party discovered three Indians on the West bank of the Columbia; that they conversed together; and that the Indians stated they had no fire-arms, and did not wish to fight; and that they declined to cross the river to our men. He further reported no more or different indications of the locality of the Indians than are presented in every part of the Palouse country. I was extremely solicitous to cross the Columbia at the point we had attained, and pass directly into the heart of the Yakima. At a Council of my Officers I submitted for consideration several propositions—one as to the expediency of at once passing over the Columbia. The exhaustion of both men and animals, the absence of supplies and the uncertainty of obtaining provisions from the trains supposed to be on the route to Walla Walla, in conjunction with other causes, led to the determination that the command be marched on the East side of the river to the mouth of the Yakima. On the 28th we moved down the Columbia, over a wretched trail, and on the 30th camped opposite the mouth of the Yakima. Capt. Cason arrived at my camp this evening and relieved our immediate wants by driving in eight head of beef, captured by his company on the Umatilla. It now became imperative to decide whether the country of Kamiakin should be entered and thoroughly scouted. The troops of the United States were hourly expected to arrive in the valley of Walla-walla, and thus relieve the volunteers of the duty they have for months performed, and enable them to return to their homes. Governed by considerations that impressed me as the best and most prudent I could adopt under existing circumstances, I ordered Maj. Curl to take command of companies H, and K, of the 1st Battalion, and A, D, and E, of the 2d Battalion; proceed to Walla-walla river; form there an encampment; scout that valley to the base of the Blue mountains; occupy the country until he was satisfied that a sufficient body of U. S. troops had come into the valley to hold the same; and march the command directly to the neighborhood of the Dalles. That command is now in the Walla Walla. To Capt. Cason I gave an order to proceed with Company E, to the head-waters of Wild Horse Creek, the Umatilla and John Day rivers, into the Ureka Valley, and to the Dalles by way of the Warm Springs; to collect and drive in all the horses and cattle on the route, and arrest and hold in custody any and all white persons he might find in charge of stock. Cap. Cason has departed to fulfill this mission. The same day I issued an order to the Regt. Qr. Master and the Commissary and their Assistants, to withdraw all supplies, stores, and property whatsoever in their charge, from the field to the Dalles, whenever the Left Column of the Regiment might vacate the country. The Commanding Officer of Company B, of 1st Battalion, I have ordered to abandon Fort Henrietta, totally destroy that post, and march to the Dalles on the approach of the Left Column to the Umatilla. Lt. Pillow has been ordered to cross the Columbia with his force and re-join my command in the Yakima. On the last day of March I crossed the Columbia with Companies A, D, and E, of the 1st Battalion, and B, and C, of the 2d Battalion. Lieut. Col. Kelly, Major Conroyer, and Capt. Reavis, accompanied me. On the first of this month, with Major Conroyer, Capts. Burch and Ankeny, Lt. Hult, and nine men, I followed up the Yakima river a distance of thirty miles. We found neither Indians or evidence of an encampment since last autumn. Capt. Hembree, Lt. Wright and a handful of men, in an opposite direction, penetrated the country about the same distance. They report no recent traces of the enemy. Lt. Col. Kelly re-crossed the Columbia in search of cattle, but returned without success. I had despatched Lt. Caldwell to Walla-walla for one thousand pounds flour and twenty-five rations of coffee. With this quantity I purposed immediately to take up the line of march through the Yakima, and depend on the capture of wild horses for all deficiencies of provisions. Lt. Caldwell has returned and reports that Major Curl and Lt. Miller, despite his remonstrances, took possession of four hundred pounds of the flour, and that he succeeded in obtaining but fourteen rations of coffee. With him came your express messenger, Mr. Robinson, with your advices, and communications from Capt. Pownall, the Reg'd Qr. Master, and from Hubbard's wagon train. A wagon and pack train with provisions are en route from the Dalles. If they be not delayed or discharged at Ft. Henrietta—which I am fearful of, although I have given an order for the trains to push through direct to Walla-walla—I have hope of obtaining such supplies as will enable me to perform a campaign in the Yakima without danger of suffering for want of subsistence. Qr. Master Pownall communicates that the Cascades have been attacked by Indians, and the United States troops, at that time en route to Walla-walla, had been recalled to the Dalles. I am apprehensive that the failure of the regular forces of the United States to occupy this portion of the Indian country, will retard the return of the left column of the regiment to the Dalles. Under the present order

of facts I may find it indispensable for the public good to place either Lt. Col. Kelley or Major Conroyer in command of the troops on the south of the Columbia river. I shall remain in this section until the arrival of the expected subsistence trains. I contemplate a direct, forward movement into the Yakima valley. I shall go through the Clickitat valley. From that point my course must depend upon contingencies that may arise. I propose to send a force down White Salmon river, and, if you deem it advisable, proceed by the mountains and valley to the north on to Vancouver. In relation to the loss of Dowell's pack train, no supplies were obtained by the Indians. The animals were stolen about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 25th of February, on Wild Horse creek. Pursuit was given but with no avail. I attribute the loss to carelessness on the part of persons having the animals in charge. At the time the train left the Umatilla, Co. A, of the battalion of recruits, was encamped about one mile from the train. I was then at the Umatilla, and supposed it would not be hazardous to leave the train, as it was to proceed to camp Cornelius with Co. A. In addition to this force Hubbard's wagon train was proceeding with the pack train, and under the escort of Capt. Harding. I am very resp'y,
Your obt' serv't,
T. R. CORNELIUS,
Colonel 1st Regiment O. M. V.,
His Excellency Geo. L. CURRY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Salem, O. T.

THE BRITISH PRESS AND THE CENTRAL AMERICAN QUESTION—A COMPROMISE PROPOSED.—We published on Sunday several extracts from the London newspaper press on the central American question. That from the *London Times* is, unexpectedly, generous and conciliatory; and the flat-footed protocol of the "Thunderer" for a pacific settlement of this warlike entanglement is a refreshing novelty in its way.—The *London Times* (we repeat its own words) manfully says:—
"Let us frankly give up our questionable right to the Mosquito protectorate and the island of Roatan, and, by way of delivering ourselves of the whole embarrassment at once and forever, throw the worthless settlement of Belize into the bargain. In return, let us call upon the American government not only to observe its portion of the treaty, in respect of which we have hitherto had nothing to complain, but also to root out the gang of pirates and murderers who have taken forcible possession of the State of Nicaragua, and hold it in defiance of the will of both countries.—Such an example, would do more to carry out the intention of the treaty than any amount of protection to drunken savages or occupation of worthless islands."
This arrangement, if duly ratified and carried out between the two governments, would certainly make clean work of the whole business; but we agree with the *London Globe*, that the proposal to "root out" that alleged "gang of pirates and murderers" is just the point where the shoe would pinch. We could do no such thing. Those men have expatriated themselves. They are no longer citizens of the United States. We are no longer responsible for their acts; and if upon a call from one native revolutionary party in Nicaragua, acting against another such party, Gen. Walker and his followers have gone and conquered the country, it is an affair to be settled by the sovereign people of Nicaragua. If they consent to a better government than they have ever had before we have not the right to interpose or to complain. The Clayton-Bulwer treaty simply binds the United States government against all attempts to colonize or to fortify any portion of the territories of Central America.

We copy the following from the Washington correspondent of the *San Francisco Herald* of Feb. 19th:—
"The committee on Foreign Relations is composed of intelligent, prudent and conservative gentlemen, who will not rashly plunge the country into a war, and yet who will not be ready to preserve peace at the sacrifice of the honor or of the interests of the country. Among the subjects to come before the Committee of Foreign Relations, is that of the purchase by the United States of the rights in Oregon and Washington Territories of the Hudson's Bay and the Puget Sound Agricultural Companies. I think the Committee is favorably disposed towards this measure, and that it can be carried during the present session with the exercise of due diligence and tact by the British parties interested. An earnest push should be made for the consummation of this important scheme at the present session—for if it fails now, there is reason to fear it cannot be presented so favorably again for years to come. The proposed purchase would put an end to the serious disturbances now occasionally occurring in the Territories named, between our people and subjects of Queen Vic., growing out of the anomalous possessions of the latter within American jurisdiction."

From the Oregon Standard, April 17.
ANOTHER BATTLE NORTH!
The Volunteers Victorious!!
CAPT. HEMBREE KILLED—I WOUNDED.

By the politeness of Col. Stark, aid to the Gov., we have been furnished with the following official despatch from Col. Cornelius:
HEAD QUARTERS, 1st REGT. O. M. V.,
Dalles of the Columbia, O. T.,
April 13th, 1856.

Sir—On the evening of the 9th inst., on my march through the Yakima country, I camped on Canon creek, a distance of six miles from the Yakima river. Companies A, D and E, of the 1st, and B and C, of 2d battalions, comprised my command, and made two hundred and forty-one men for duty. Immediately after sunset the officer of the guard reported that a small column of dust or smoke had been observed on the hill-side a few miles above our camp.—With Capt. Hembree and four privates, I ascended and proceeded along the crest and chain of hills separating and overlooking the Simcoe and Canon valleys. We could not detect the presence of any body of Indians. Two were espied at the summit of the hills. They fled at our approach. We returned to camp about ten o'clock that night. In order to determine the best course for the command to pursue from this point, a council of my officers judged it expedient to ascertain if any portion of the Yakima tribe was encamped in the Simcoe valley; and for this purpose Capts. Wilson, Hembree and Wilbur, and Lts. Stillwell and Hult of Co. C, with four privates, volunteered to scale the hills at an early hour the succeeding morning and reconnoiter the country beyond. Near six o'clock on the morning of the 10th they departed from camp for the purpose I have specified.—One and a half miles from camp and before they had reached the top of the hills, they were suddenly surrounded and fiercely attacked by a force of seventy or eighty Indians headed by the notorious chieftain Kamiakin, who had previously concealed his warriors amongst the canons and rocks on the hill-sides. It is with deep regret I have to report that Capt. A. J. Hembree of Co. E, fell mortally wounded on the first or second fire, and that he died where he fell while returning the murderous volley of the assailants. The remainder of the party endeavored to protect and rescue the fallen body of the brave and gallant captain, but the overwhelming superiority in number of the enemy, and the headlong precipitancy of their charges rendered the effort fruitless, and was only accomplished by the cool, prompt and effective return of the fire of the attacking party. At the time of Capt. Hembree's death, the Indians were within ten paces of the foremost of our little band. Some of them were killed in this close encounter. This unexpected onslaught was a signal for the instant appearance of Indians on every prominence overlooking our camp. The most accessible entrance to camp was from the hills opposite those where Capt. Hembree was slain, and thither Kamiakin and the proportion of his warriors were rapidly hastening, for the unmistakable purpose of throwing themselves into our midst. Fortunately the movements of our men were more rapid and decisive than were his. The furious onset upon the party with Captain Hembree had been in part witnessed from camp. Lt. Hibler, with part of Co. E, and Lt. Caldwell with part of Co. D, rushed to the rescue of their captains, and dashed up the points taken by the Indians near where Capt. Hembree fell, driving the enemy therefrom. Capt. Wilber here rejoined the detachment of his company, and led it in its further operations.—Capt. Ankeny, with a detachment of Co. C, attacked and drove the Indians from the extreme right. Major Conroyer had command of these forces, and succeeded in wresting the body of Capt. Hembree from the hands of the enemy.—He drove and hotly pursued those on the north side of the creek for several miles in the direction of the great canon, killing and wounding several. Lt. Powell, with a detachment of E, cleared, drove and held the bottom to the west, while Lt. Hayer with a portion of B, held the bottom to the east, and prevented the occupancy of the brush that skirted the stream. On the south, and before the return of Capt. Wilson, Lt. Pillow with Co. A, charged and carried a steep and elevated position occupied by a large body of the enemy. Capt. Wilson there rejoined his company, and was ordered to retain the butte as it afforded complete protection to our camp and animals. Lt. Myers with the greater part of Co. D, assailed a force which had collected on the East of Co. A, dispersed and pursued them until they had joined a party with Lt. Hutchinson with which company B was warmly engaged. Lts. Stillwell and Hult swept the hills to the left of the butte held by company A, and drove the Indians up the creek. Captain Burch ascended over the hills on the south and led detachments of companies B and C, in eager chase of the routed and flying enemy for several miles. Capt. Reavis gallantly participated in the attack and pursuit; his company (K) was then stationed at Walla-walla. During the execution of the different movements to which I

have hastily alluded, I was on the southern hills and had a clear view of the strength and positions assumed by the enemy and of the operations of my command. The Indians having been dispersed at every point, at noon I recalled the different detachments to camp, preparatory to a movement of my whole command in pursuit. The extent of ground covered by the enemy had compelled me to divide each company and assign to each officer a particular district from which to dislodge the threatening foe, and maintain the same at all hazards from its re-occupancy by the Indians. This necessity in connection with our total want of knowledge of the numerical force which we had to contend, and the broken nature of the ground induced me to issue the order I gave each officer in command of a detachment, not to delay in charging and carrying with all possible expedition the more prominent positions the enemy had selected from which to attack us. In no single instance did an officer or private hesitate or falter in the performance of his assigned part; and each and all bravely and promptly well did his full duty. I cannot over commend the gallantry of my command. To the valuable assistance of my adjutant Capt. Farrar, I am greatly indebted. I was detained in the removal of camp by the non return of four men who had the previous afternoon been dispatched back on our route to recover several lost animals. A removal of camp, even for a distance of 2 miles would have been equivalent to an abandonment of these men to certain destruction. That I could not do. I sent Lieut. Hutchinson with twenty-five men from Co's B and C down the Yakima river for ten miles in search of the absent. Before his return some of my scouts reported that the Indians were fortifying on an abrupt and rocky eminence six or seven miles up the creek. Immediately I ordered Maj. Conroyer with detachments of the companies, excepting A, to proceed forward and dislodge them. Between two and three o'clock he left camp with one hundred men and returned at nine in the evening. Capts. Wilson and Burch I retained, and ordered positions commanding camp, to enable them to repel any attempt of the enemy to charge upon it. Lieut. Pillow was assigned to the command of a force ready to be sent forward, should Maj. Conroyer require to be reinforced. I regret that I am unable at this time to send you a written report from the Major; as soon as received I will transmit it. He reports verbally the force of the Indians he engaged to be three hundred warriors.—Their position was formidable. It was strengthened by stone structures from behind which the enemy poured forth a steady fire. With a portion of his command the Maj. scaled the heights, routing and driving forth the enemy who fled to the adjacent hills on the west, receiving and returning the fire of the remainder of our force stationed at different localities along the hills. The defeat of the Indians was as decisive as it had been in the former part of the day. Quite a number of their party were killed and wounded. In the engagement Kamiakin occupied a position on a butte in the vicinity of that held by the warriors and directed their actions. Capt's Wilber and Ankeny, and Lieuts. Caldwell, Hibler, Myers, Stillwell, Cooper, Powell and Hult with their men behaved gallantly and executed their several parts with commendable prudence and alacrity. Late that day the men who had been out in search of missing horses came safely in. Two of them were chased by a band of twenty-five Indians for several miles, but fortunately escaped unharmed. The number of Indians engaged in the forenoon would not fall short of three hundred. Some of my officers estimate the number considerably higher. Not far from the same number were opposed to Major Conroyer. Provisionally none of my command were killed after the loss of Captain Hembree, and but one was wounded slightly.—The succeeding morning not an Indian was perceptible. Scouts traversed the hills but failed to detect the enemy, as the course taken by the Indians in their flight the day previous had been towards the mouth of the great canon, and that night camped some few miles from its entrance. Throughout the day not an Indian made his appearance. Before sunrise on the 12th inst. twenty to thirty Indians were discovered on the brow of the hill above camp. This imparted to us the hope that Kamiakin with his band of Yakimas and Clickitats would meet us at the mouth of the canon. I put the command in motion at an early hour, and proceeded over a rough trail winding along the base of projecting hills and bluffs until about one mile from the great canon. Here I ordered Capt. Ankeny and Lt. Stillwell to scale the mountain on the right with the advance guard and march forward as expeditiously as possible. Maj. Conroyer took command of the rear column while I proceeded with the front column to the mouth of the canon. At that point two Indians were discovered, they fled up a ravine to the right. We charged after them, overtook and killed them, but were disappointed at not meeting more. Not an Indian was in the neighborhood.—Capt. Ankeny and Lieut. Stillwell reported that the Indians were not in possession of the bluffs or ravine overhanging the canon, and that those who had been seen in the morning had broken and fled precipitately

over the jagged hills and ravines far to the north.

The conclusion was inevitable that Kamiakin would not willingly again meet us and we were in no condition to hunt him down. Our supplies consisted solely of coffee and flour, and of the last we had but a single ration. Horse meat even we had not been able to obtain in the Yakima country. Some of my men had consumed all but the last morsel of their flour. There was but one course to take, and we then took up the line of march for the Klickitat valley. Yesterday I left Major Corwoyer thirty miles from here en route to form an encampment in that valley, while I return to the Dalles to procure provisions for my brave but well worn out command.

I am very respectfully
Your obt servant,
THOMAS R. CORNELIUS,
Col. Com'g 1st Reg't O. M. V.
To Hon. GEORGE L. CURRY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,

Pioneer and Democrat.

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,
FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1856.

J. W. WILEY, EDITOR.

"Truth crush'd to earth will rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers."

Legal Advertisements.—After this date, (April 4, '56,) no legal advertisement will be inserted in this paper unless it is accompanied by the cash.

To Delinquents.—U. S. Scrip.—Those indebted to the Pioneer and Democrat office for subscription or advertising, are informed that U. S. Scrip will be taken at par in payment of old debts, or even to settle accounts to date—4th April, '56.

The following letter from our attentive Washington correspondent, received by the last mail, will advantageously supply the place of a leading article this week. That portion concerning the probable action of Congress in reference to this Oregon territory will be read with a deep interest by all classes of our citizens.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE

[OF THE PIONEER AND DEMOCRAT.]
WASHINGTON CITY, DIST. COL.,
March 4th, 1856.

ED. PIONEER AND DEMOCRAT:

The federal city has been in a state of fermentation for the past two weeks. First, the Kansas question "stirred 'em up." After the "negro worshiping" agitators had received the mortal blow given them by the President's proclamation, they made desperate efforts to resuscitate. They tried to deprive Kansas of a representative in Congress by obtaining power for the committee on elections to delay a report on the contested seat until the end of the session, by summoning all the "negro worshipers" in Kansas to swear Reeder into his desired position. In this they failed; though the question is not yet settled as to who shall hold the seat. The committee on elections in the House still have the matter under consideration. In the meantime, we have had several strong, powerful speeches on each side in the Senate. The "negro worshipers" talk strong fanaticism. They are answered with strong facts and common sense. A few days since, John P. Hale, the Talleryrand of their band, entertained the Senate for one day's session with a bombastic stump speech, filled from beginning to end with *bancombe* for the approaching election in New Hampshire. He was answered most effectually and severely, justly, keenly rebuked for his degradation of his position, by Mr. Toombs, of Georgia. Such things evince the spirit of the coming contest for President. This Kansas-Nebraska bill is to be the issue. Upon that issue we will gain an easy victory. The Know Nothings will not be in the race. Their Philadelphia nominations are laughed at all over the country, and the party itself is esteemed defunct. "Negro worshipers" is now the name of the opposition to Democratic principles. Their object is the same as it ever has been—to consolidate the powers of the government, and stifle and destroy the rights of the States. Their nominee will probably be W. H. Seward, of New York. Benton's name is now mentioned in that connection. This is all stuff. Their leaders think the people are simple enough to be gulled by the show of liberality which the mention of Old Bullion's name is to make. He will not be their nominee; nor will any other man who does not bow, humbly and sincerely to their negro-God. See if this is not true.

Another most exciting matter, for a short time past, is the prospect of trouble with England on the enlistment question. The history of that whole matter, "in a nutshell," is this: England sent agents to the United States to enlist soldiers for the Crimean war. The United States protested against the procedure as a violation of both our municipal and international laws. England replied that instructions had been given to those agents "not to violate our laws"—and to prevent further violations, their agents should be withdrawn. The United States said in reply to this:—our international laws had been violated, and that violation was also an indignity, because the minister of Great Britain himself had been instrumental in causing the violation. That minister was still near our government, and an apology would be expected.

ed. England denied the guilt of her minister. The United States reiterate the charge, and demand that minister's recall. This is the enlistment difficulty.

Another trouble is the Central American question. This grows out of a difference of construction given to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty by the representatives of the two governments. We say they have no right to colonize Central America—they say they have—by the terms of the treaty. All these difficulties have been growing until their "size and magnitude" looked threatening indeed, a few days ago. Now it seems the whole matter is thrown back to a point where a settlement can again be talked of and expected. It seems the minister of foreign affairs in London made out, last November, and sent, through his representative here, a proposition to our government to arbitrate these differences. This proposition was not presented by Mr. Crampton until a few days since. Of course this deadens Lord Clarendon's speech in Parliament, and gives him a fine chance to make ample apology. And they will do this, too, or something else, to prevent war. You will receive flaming stories and prophecies, and all that, by this mail—such as may justify some of your most timid citizens in looking out for the "Otter" on a very different mission from that in which she was last engaged. But this is, in my opinion, all smoke. John Bull does not want to fight where he knows he cannot whip. Nor will he ever do it by making the assault. Therefore I think the fuss about the war with England is all fuss.

Washington and Oregon affairs progress as well as could be expected with a Congress which takes nine weeks to elect its officers. Bills have been introduced to provide for the payment of the expenses of your Indian war; to reimburse persons whose property has been destroyed by the Indians; to provide for extra mail service by sea from San Francisco to Olympia, and to grant patents to persons who have complied with the requirements of the land law for two years previous to the passage of the act. All these bills, you will perceive, are of a general character. Others more local, for military roads, light houses, public buildings, and the like, have also been introduced. The most important of all, perhaps, is a bill not yet presented, but will be in a few days. It is a bill to provide a regiment of mounted volunteers for Indian service on the Pacific coast. Such a force will be strongly recommended by both the Secretary of War and the President. It is just the force which has been so long needed by your people. I believe the bill will pass. In its support, as in all other matters touching the interests of Washington and Oregon, the delegates from each co-operate heartily, and bring all their influence to bear. The bill providing for mail sea service is another measure of very great importance to the people on and about the Sound. There is, I think, but little doubt of its passage, too, though it is exceedingly difficult to find any ground for "guessing" as to the doings of this House of Representatives. It is so mixed, you cannot tell what influences will bear most upon its action. The respect and esteem which the personal character of your delegate and his veteran colleague command, will of course be one strong lever.

Secretary Mason arrived on the last steamer, just 28 days from Steilacoom? Isn't this the quickest trip on record? The Secretary looks as fresh and vigorous as if he had never lived on dried salmon and slept on the ground. He will, no doubt, lend good assistance to the support of all measures for your Territory.

Scranton, the unchangeable, invincible, everlasting Scranton, too, is here, and just as he "used to was." He can still talk faster, say more, and laugh louder than any other live man in America. He is after those mail facilities on the Sound, with a quick, steady step, and loud voice. Success to him and all his efforts.

THURSTON.

Our Delegate in Congress, Hon. J. PATTON ANDERSON, has our thanks for valuable congressional documents and other favors received by the last mail. Hon. JOSEPH LANE will accept our acknowledgments for similar favors.

EDUCATIONAL.—The attention of parents and guardians is directed to the card of Miss BABB, in our advertising columns. Miss B. proposes opening a select school, on the ground floor of Masonic Hall, Olympia, exclusively for Misses—commencing on the fifth of May. We trust Miss B. will meet with that compensatory encouragement which her enterprise deserves—such a school, at this time, being very seriously required in this locality.

It will also be observed that Mr. and Mrs. WHITWORTH propose to open a school at the same date, for the youth of both sexes. It is to be hoped that the friends of education, both in town and country, will exert themselves in adequately sustaining both these schools.

THE INDIAN WAR!
Movements of the Troops, &c.

Mr. JAMES H. GOUDY, government express man between this place and the White river country, has just arrived from Fort Hays, and brings news of considerable interest. It appears that the Indians are beginning to show themselves again in the neighborhood of our defenses towards the Nah Chez pass.

On one night last week, the sentinels on duty at Fort Hays were fired upon by some of the lurking hostiles; and the same night a shirt hanging out at Fort Pike, was penetrated by a ball, having, as it is supposed, been mistaken for one of our volunteers. On Tuesday of the present week, four Indians were seen near the crossing of White river, and one at a time has been seen on several occasions. On Wednesday night last, considerable yelling was heard in the woods, since which time, no further evidence of the presence of Indians has been found. On one occasion, tracks of a party of ten were discovered, and at other times traces of a less number had been found. Major VAN BOKKELEN had sent out scouting parties, who found tracks, but were unable to follow them for any considerable distance. The command on White river being very small at this time, Major VAN BOKKELEN is unable to pursue them effectively without abandoning the block houses entirely.

It is now generally believed in camp, that Leschi, and his party, have not crossed the mountains; that the Indians above alluded to, are, perhaps, a party of some 10 or 12 spies, from head-quarters, watching the movements of our forces, and that the main body of the hostiles are encamped on some stream high up in the mountains, awaiting a favorable opportunity to make a "telling" strike upon our forces and settlements.

Our advices down the Sound, represent everything perfectly quiet north; that although there are quite a number of British-Russia Indians in that direction, yet they are perfectly peaceable, and appear less disposed to steal and commit depredations than is usual with them.

We learn that the Revenue Cutter *Jeff Davis*, Capt. PEASE, and the U. S. sloop-of-war *Deatur*, Capt. SWARTWOLT, are on active duty in the neighborhood of Port Townsend and Bellingham Bay—leaving Seattle defended, on the water side, by the U. S. war steamers *Massachusetts* and *John Hancock*.

Capt. WHITE's company of Pioneers having completed the erection of a block house at South Prairie, we learn that company, in connection with Capt. SWINDAL's company from Sawamish county, together with a detachment from Capt. RILEY's company, have received orders to cut a road through from South Prairie to the Michael fork of the Nisqually, and proceed to the erection of defenses in that locality. Capt. WHITE and SWINDAL, with their companies, are at present at Ft. Montgomery, awaiting the arrival of Capt. RILEY's company, to garrison that post, and will probably proceed towards the Michael fork to-morrow.

Capt. RABBESEN, with a detachment of 10 men of "B" company, we understand will garrison the block house at South prairie, for the present.

At the last accounts, Maj. VAN BOKKELEN's command—the Northern Battalion—continued to occupy Fort Hays, and was engaged in scouting the country between White and Green rivers.

Captain HENNESSY's company of mounted volunteers, we learn, will rendezvous for a few weeks at Kamy's prairie, for the purpose of recruiting their horses preparatory to any vigorous duty in which they may hereafter be called upon to engage.

The Indians in the direction of the Chehalis, Cowlitz, and the Columbia rivers—such as continue on reservations—are reported as remaining perfectly quiet.

Mention was made last week that Col. Shaw, with a detachment of the southern battalion—the companies of Capts. Maxon and Achilles, had made a lengthened scout to the heads of the Nisqually, &c. From Adj't. A. J. KANE, we learn, that leaving the encampment at McLeod's, Pierce county, April 11th, Col. Shaw, with Capt. Maxon's company, started out on a scout, in the direction of Michael forks of the Nisqually—some miles further to the eastward than had been previously traversed. The command proceeded in the saddle as far as the Michael prairie, some 20 miles removed from the settlements, where their horses were left in charge of a detachment. About 4 miles below the falls, an Indian, engaged in making a fish-trap was captured, who gave information of a *ranchere* near the falls. On proceeding up, another Indian, engaged in fishing was suddenly pounced upon and taken. On their way up, a third one was discovered, but the command being divided into detached scouting parties, he was mistaken for some one, supposed to belong to the expedition, and unfortunately effected his escape.

The *ranchere* referred to was reported as containing some 7 hostiles, and a number of women and children. It is thought that the Indian who escaped, gave the alarm, as on approaching the encampment, it was found entirely deserted. They had, in their haste to get away, however, left most of their plunder behind, and a quantity of salmon, blankets, wearing apparel, &c., one gun and a small amount of ammunition was taken.

Scouting parties were then immediately sent out in all directions, and in the meantime an Indian woman came into camp and was detained as prisoner. Encamped on the ground for the night.

Next morning, Col. Shaw, with a small detachment, proceeded back to the camp at Michael prairie via the Owshop lake, in which direction he had received information of, and succeeded in capturing some 7 head of Indian horses. Previous to Col. Shaw's leaving, however, one of the Indians taken prisoner was hung—identified as one of the party that murdered Messrs. White and Northcraft. The command then started for the Nisqually, and unable to reach the falls in consequence of being short of provisions, started back to the Michael prairie encampment, for supplies. Remained there one day, and started out again with five day's provisions; in company with Lt. Powell, of Capt. Achilles company. Capt. Maxon here dispatched one detachment towards the falls of the Nisqually. Lt. Powell with another detachment proceeded up the Michael, and the balance of the command, under Capt. Maxon took a north-east direction, up the Owshop and a chain of lakes between the Puyallup and Michael, skirting the base of the mountains. After a thorough search of three days and a half, Capt. Maxon again returned to camp on the Michael, without finding any hostiles, or any very fresh sign. During that time, however, he found some 6 or 7 deserted encampments, in which were found a considerable number of *caches*, containing saddles, saddle-trappings, camp equipage, &c., of but little value. Some seven dead horses were found, and everything that could be made use of to the advantage of the hostiles was destroyed. The camp on the Michael was broken up on the 19th, and on the 20 and 21st, the command reached the Nisqually plains, and encamped at Chas. Wren's.

Lt. Powell, of Capt. Achilles' company reports, that after separating with Capt. Maxon's command, he proceeded with eleven men about 4 miles up the Michael, found an encampment, containing an Indian boy, 2 women and 4 children—fired at the Indian without effect, who made his escape; the women appeared to be in a starving condition and made no effort to escape. Next morning, Lt. Powell struck out due south about 3 miles—crossed a stream—then proceeded due east, about 12 miles, and struck the Michael, about 6 miles above the camp; examined the ground closely—crossed and re-crossed that stream four or five times, without discovering any fresh sign or trail until he came near camp; he then found the tracks of two Indians pointing southward; followed them until near sundown, but was unable to overtake the Indians. On the same day, two of Lt. P's company were for a short time lost in the woods, in passing down the Michael, as near as he can judge, about five miles below the falls.—They had come to a large ranch, and thinking it impossible to make their escape, they charged into it—fired their rifles, both taking effect. One of the men shot a third with his revolver, after which, in consideration of the odds against them, they considered it useless for them to endeavor to capture the camp, and made good their escape. They think they seen ten men, and from the noise, concluded that there were a large number of women and children in camp. Lt. P. thinks the Indians have gone back some 3 or 4 miles from the river into the mountains, and that there are a number of small parties up the Michael and Nisqually rivers. All the new trails are bearing south. Nothing was found of tye "Jim" or his band of horses. He is supposed to be secreted in the gorges of the mountains near the snow. Some distance back from river, the ground is level, and excellent for travelling, the woods being quite open, but near the banks of the river, it is very difficult to penetrate the under brush, and get along over the fallen timber.

The communication of "J. H. S." from Washington city, was forwarded to us too late for insertion in this issue. It will appear next week.

We are indebted to the government expressmen for copies of the Oregon Times, Standard, and Oregonian, several days ahead of the mail.

It will be observed that one or two of the communications which appear in our issue of to-day were written several weeks since; they only come to hand, however, within the past ten days.

about Appropriations.—The U. S. Courts, &c. The question of the early payment of our accumulating war debt, is one of vital importance to the citizens of the whole Territory. Could Congress look in upon us, and rightly understand and appreciate the privation and misery which this Indian war has entailed upon all classes of our citizens, there is not a shadow of doubt but that provision would at once be made for their relief. But it is difficult for persons accustomed to the staidness and quietude of thickly settled communities, to form a just idea of the really suffering condition to which our citizens are reduced. The recent attacks of the Indians have driven the settlers along the Columbia, almost to a man from their homes, to take shelter in towns or in the uncomfortable quarters of block houses—all civil authority being virtually suspended—as much so, as though martial law were declared over that region.

We are informed that it was found impossible to hold a term of the U. S. court in the 1st Judicial district—that jurors, and the attendance of witnesses, &c., could not be obtained. A few days previous to the time of holding the court at Cascade city, the town was attacked and burned. At Vancouver, Clarke county, a part of the jurors summoned to appear, came forward and asked, unanimously, to be relieved from duty—stating that hostile Indians were known to be in the vicinity, and that their time was indispensably necessary in fortifying, securing their property, &c. They were accordingly dismissed. In Cowlitz county, we learn that neither jurors or sheriff appeared. Pacific and Chehalis counties were no better prepared, and consequently no courts. We are further informed that in the 3d Judicial district, with the exception of Island county, no business of importance has, as yet, been dispatched.

Thus are the settlements within our Territory broken up, and seed-time employed in actual engagements with the enemy, or in the erection of defenses. The substance of the country is being absorbed in the prosecution of the war—our farmers, in many instances nobly devoting their whole time and means in furtherance of the cause. They find it impossible, fully to cultivate their lands—their horses, cattle, grain, &c., are furnished on the faith of the general government—they looking to Congress for a speedy remuneration, without which they are left destitute. Will the present Congress turn a deaf ear to their necessities? We have faith to believe that if there is any justice in the majority of the present Congress, our delegate will obtain a full share for the people of this Territory.

COL. CORNELIUS' DISPATCHES.—It will be observed that the first page of to-day's paper is mainly occupied with the official reports of COL. CORNELIUS, 1st Reg't. O. M. V.—a perusal of which will furnish the reader with a concise history of the movements of that regiment, from the 9th of March up to April 13th. As we desire to preserve something like a connected official history of the present war, these dispatches will be found useful as a matter of future reference. The campaign east of the Cascades has been a severe one—attended with a very considerable amount of suffering, and the last engagement of the volunteers with Kamiakin's force, near Canon Creek, has clearly proved that the Indians have at no time been in force on the other side of Snake river—that their demonstration in that direction was a mere strategy to decoy our volunteers as far away from the settlements as possible, and that the body of the hostile force is not far removed from the eastern slope of the mountains.

INDIAN PRISONERS.—The military commission organized for the trial of the Indian prisoners, taken by a detachment of regulars under command of Lt. KAUTZ, referred to last week, have brought the business before them to a close. All the Indians, (7 in number, we believe,) were found guilty. One has been sentenced to be hung; another has been sentenced to wear a ball and chain, and four years hard labor; another to imprisonment during hostilities, and so on—each being awarded punishment in accordance with the evidence adduced, as to the magnitude of his offence.

Three additional Indian prisoners have been brought to this place, during the past week; two from the reservation in the neighborhood of Seattle, were brought on board the *R. B. Potter*, on Wednesday last, and the third was sent in from the reservation on the Sawamish, on yesterday. We know nothing as to what they stand charged with.

THE OREGON CONVENTION QUESTION.—In seventeen counties in Oregon, including the vote cast by the volunteers in Col. CORNELIUS' command, the majority against a convention for the formation of a State government foot up 619. The question is lost.

We learn from the *Oregonian*, of April 9th, that the body of Capt. A. J. HEMBRER, of the 1st Regiment of O. M. V., who was killed in the late engagement with the Indians near Canyon Creek, in the Yakima valley, had been brought to Portland, on Thursday of last week on the steamer *Belle*, en route to its final resting place in Yamhill county. The body was taken in charge by the Masonic fraternity, of which Capt. HEMBRER was a member, and sent forward under the charge of members of that order.

Capt. S. W. PENCIVAL, just returned from San Francisco to this place, has placed us under obligations to him for files of San Francisco papers up to April 10th, and for the *N. Y. Herald*, and *N. O. Delta*, from the 8th to the 20th ult.

For the Pioneer and Democrat.

Mr. EORR.—It is truly refreshing, after having witnessed the commotion, dejection and despondency that prevails in some portions of our territory, to visit this Island. The peace and quietude that reigns in this vicinity, reminds one of those times, when peace and plenty were visible in every portion of our territory, and happiness and contentment were to be met with, wherever you might turn your steps. Since my arrival here, I have met with nothing that seems to indicate a feeling of alarm or apprehension. All with whom I have conversed place implicit confidence in the ability of Governor Stevens, and those with whom he is connected, to conduct the war in a manner that will conduce to the general good, and as soon as it can be consistently done, bring it to a termination; and thus restore to the country that peace for which it now languishes. I am told some one or two families, of the most timid, left the Island at the commencement of hostilities; the remainder are pursuing their usual avocations, and so far as my observations have extended, their prospects are flattering for an abundant harvest. It is true, a goodly number of the residents are now in the field, some of whose farms are being cultivated by those who remain, and it is more than probable they will be able from this surplus, to supply many of those who have been driven from their homes by the savages, and thus rendered unable to provide for themselves.

The governor's letter to Gen. Wool, has met with that reception, it so justly deserves. It breathes the pure spirit of independence, which none possesses in a greater degree than Gov. Stevens, and every line shows a proper solicitude for the territory and its inhabitants.

I visited the camps of the Indians, rendezvoused on the Island, and under the superintendence of Capt. Fay and Dr. Hill, both of whom deserve great praise for the manner in which they have governed the Indians under their control. They have cultivated the best of feelings among them, and taught them the relation existing between themselves and the whites.—These lessons, and the manner in which they have been instilled, will result, no doubt, in great good in the future. Capt. Fay has sent the greater portion of those in his charge to the rivers contiguous to plant potatoes, where he is also in person the greater part of his time, instructing them, and at the same time keeping a careful watch upon all their actions. Thus, without their knowledge, he is enabled to discover any dissatisfaction that may exist, and form his plans accordingly.

I cannot close this communication without reverting to my visit to McDonald's Island, which is immediately adjoining this, and is the timber station of Messrs Gronnan & Cranney, who deserve the highest encomiums for the perseverance and industry they have always exercised in this branch of business since their arrival in the territory. They are at present engaged in making spars or masts, which, when presented in a foreign market, cannot fail to establish the reputation of our young Territory in point of superior timber; for they are decidedly the finest sticks that have come under my observation; one of which I measured, and the dimensions were 115 feet long, 40 inches in diameter, one sixth of the entire length from the butt, and 28 inches in diameter at the point. They have been to great expense in making roads and furnishing the necessary apparatus for drawing these monsters to the water, but with their present facilities, they are enabled to achieve it without much apparent difficulty. They doubtless will continue this, and other branches of the timber business for some time to come, for in addition to their other improvements they have erected a fine, spacious dwelling, comfortably situated, and handsomely furnished, and the men in their employ appear cheerful and everything presents an air of comfort and contentment.

Yours, &c.,
O. W.

A despatch from Washington states, that the secretary of the treasury has decided to pay the \$7,500,000 Texas claims, as soon as the required notice has expired, in July next.

