THE OREGON ARGUS.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Between Maj .- Gen. John E. Wool, commanding the Pacific Military Department, and I. I. Stevens. Governor of the Territory of Washington, connected with the present Indian war in Washington and Oregon Territories, &c., &c.

HEAD QUARTERS, DEPT. OF THE PACIFIC, Benicia, California, Feb. 12, 1856. To HIS EXCELLENCY, ISAAC I. STEVENS.

Governor of Washington Territory: Sin: -I received your communication of the 23d of December and 29th January, 1856, on the 6th instant, but too late to reply to it by the return steamer. For the information which it imparts, you have my thanks. When you know my instructions to Col. Wright, of the 9th Infantry at Vancouver, you will discover that many of your suggestions have been anticipated. In presenting, however, your plan of cam paign, which is a very extended one, you should have recollected that I have neither the resources of a Territory nor the treasury of the United States at my command. Still you may be assured that the war against the Indians will be prosecuted with all the vigor, promptness and efficiency I am master of, at the same time withour wasting unnecessarily the means and resources at my disposal, by untimely and unproductive

With the additional force which recently arrived at Vancouver and at the Dalles, I think I shall be able to bring the war to a close in a few months, provided the extermination of the Indians, which I do not approve of, is not determined on, and private war prevented, and the volunteers with-drawn from the Walla-walla country.

Whilst I was in Oregon, it was reported to me that many citizens, with a due pro-portion of volunteers and two newspapers, advocated the extermination of the Indians. This principle has been acted on in several instances without discriminating between enemies and friends, which has been the cause in Southern Oregon, of sacrificing the case of Maj. Lupton, and his party. (vol unteers) who killed 25 Indians, eighteen of whom were women and children. These were friendly Indians on their way to their reservation, where they expected protection from the whites. This barbarous act is the cause of the present war in the Rogue River country, and as Capt. Judah, U. S. A., reports, is retaliatory of the conduct of Maj. Lupton.

By the same mail which brought me your communication, I received one, now before me, from a person whom I think incapable of misrepresentation, which informs me that the friendly Cayuses are every day menaced with death by Gov. Curry's volun teers. The writer says they have despoiled these Indians-who have so nobly fol lowed the advice of Mr. Palmer to remain faithful friends to the Americans-of their provisions. To day, he says, these same volunteers, without discipline and without orders, are not satisfied with rapine and injustice, and wish to take away the small remnant of animals and provisions left. Every day they run off the horses and cattle of the friendly Indians. They have become indignant, and will not be much longer restrained from resisting conduct unworthy of the whites, who have made them so many promises to respect and protect them if they remained faithful friends. The writer further says, if the volunteers are not arcrested in their brigand actions the Indians will save themselves by flying to the homes of their relatives, the Nez Perces, who have Executive Office, Tex. Washington, promised them help, and then all the In-

person whom, I am assured enjoys your respect and confidence.

I need not say, although I had previously instructed Col. Wright to take the Wallation to the Cayuses from the depredations of The volunteers. It is such conduct as here complained of, that irritates and greatly increases the ranks of the hostile tribes, and if the Nez Perces join in the war against blunders of the past.

You have probably learned how much cossity of my calling out volunteers.

You have probably learned how much cossity of my calling out volunteers.

dians of Oregon and Washington would

I have recently sent to Poget Sound two manded by Lieut. Col. Casey. This force, with several ships of war in the Sound, to which will be added in a few days the United States steamer Massachusetts, it seems that I can prove, by incontrovertible evitable of the line of the showing the line of the Suchomish, where they were establishing block houses, and closing the passes of the state of the state of the state of the such proves and in the letter which submitted your own northern battalion occupied the line of the Suchomish, where they were establishing block houses, and closing the passes of the state of the such proves a submitted your own northern battalion occupied the line of the Suchomish. Where they were establishing block houses, and closing the passes of the state of the such proves a submitted your own northern battalion occupied the line of the Suchomish. Where they were establishing block houses, and closing the passes of the state of the such proves.

The Oregon Argus.

AMERICA ... Knows nought of golden promises of Kings. | | Knows nought of Coronets, and Stars, and Strings." OREGON CITY, OREGON TERRITORY, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1856. SUBSCRIPTION, Five Bottars & Year.

to me, if rightly directed, ought to be suf-dence, that Pen-peu-mox mox had been ficent to bring to terms two hundred in-hostile for months—that he exerted his in relation to which road and its military have to meet a combination of from 1800 hundred in arms in that region

W. L. ADAMS. Editor and Proprietor.

VOL. 1.

In regard to the operations east of the the volunteers of Oregon moved upon him. Cascade mountains—if Governor Curry's Pen-pen-mox-mox was slain fairly. I the Indians in that region to terms, not.

Perces. He was not entrapped by a flag withstanding the volunteers killed the chief, nities subsequently committed upon his

I am, sir, too old a soldier ever to abantion of the ears and hands, as reported by volunteers, person. and sent them to their friends in Oregon.— Are All this, too, after he had met them under a flag of truce, declaring he "was for peace,
—that he did not wish to fight," and if any of his young men had done wrong, he Such conduct may have caused feel ings difficult to ovorcome. I trust, however, that I will be able to do it.

As soon as the war is terminated east of the Cascade mountains I will be able to send all my disposable force against the Indians on Ro ue river and Fug ! Sound It is however due to the truth to say, that at no time were volunteers required. or in any sense of the term n cossary for he d fense of the inhabitants of Occoor from the redations or barbarities of Indians, occurs ing the country east of the Cascade mountains. Nor was there any elecumstances to justify Governor Curry in sending his troops from Oregon to Washington Territory to make war on the Walla wallas from whom the Oregonians had no danger what-ver to apprehend. On this subject I would refer you to the report of the Secre-tary of War, dated the 3d of December, relating to the affairs of the Army, in which he says, "the department at this distance, and in the absence of more definite information, especially in regard to the extent of the combination among the hostile tribes, This is a matter which must be necessarily left to the military commander in the department of the Pacific."

the mulitary authorities in disbateding the have heard from them long since the friend since, right ladians, only one was convict. Can you presume, sir, to be able to corchance."

to represent me to the department, I trust it will be prudent not to despise them. you will be governed by truth and truth only. Perhaps it is equally due to frankwhatever touching the Indian war, from any civil functionary either in Washington or Oregon Territories, and I have received but one from the military, and that was from Col. Nesmith, who requested me to farnish him with two howitzers which I refn.ed.

I have only to add that I disbanded no troops raised for your relief; and your communication gave me the first intelligence that any were raised for such a pur-I am, very respectfully, pose.

Your obedient servant, JOHN E. WOOL, [Signed:] Major General.

Olympia, March 20, 1856, MAJOR GENERAL JOHN E. WOOL,

join in the common defence. This informa-Commanding Pacific Division Sin :- I have the honor to acknowledge 12th February, and to state, generally, in the executive of the territory, information answer thereto, that the events of the past as to the condition of the country. four weeks in connection with your own walla country at the earliest moment pract official course, affords satisfactory evidence and two additional companies of regulars, Coable, that I directed him to give protect that the most objectionable positions of and direct Col. Cas y to call upon me to your letter have been abandoned, and that two companies of voluntee s. you have finally become awakened to the

quire a much larger force than we now have you have been misted in your views of the in Washington and Oregon Territories to operations by the Oregon volunteers, and presumed that Col. Casey informed you, resist savage barbarities and to protect the how much unnecessary sympathy you have that the whoje available force of the Sound

companies of the 9th Infantry. These at the statement made in your letter to me. gaging the enemywith three companies there, will give a for lam the authoritative witness in the case. force of nearly four hundred regulars, com- and in the letter which submitted your own northern battalion occupied the line of the

The gallant Capt. Swartwout, who goes to continue peaceful—that he had sworn in the Massachusetts, Commander in chi f to take my life, and cut off my party-that of the naval forces in the Sound, will I am he and the adjoining tribes of Oregon and assured, zealously, efficiently, and. I trust, successfully, co operate with Col. Casey to bring the war to a close.

To take my the and cut on my pury—that he and the adjoining tribes of Oregon and washington had taken up their military position as warriors at the proper points of the Walla-wallayalley—and all this before

volunteers have not driven the friendly bave investigated that matter on the ground of the hostile tribes, and they should be of the Oregon volunteers and the eye witwithdrawn from the Walla-walla country. I messes of his death, but the testimony of sixty to eighty days provisions, after decideration and the friendly Indians, both Cayuses and Nez sive blows have been struck, and when have only been driven out within the last

formation?

under the charge of the Oregon agents,-These Indians were reinforced, after the

That some turbulent men of the Oregon

both by letter and in person, these Indians would have been protected. They could not set, because they had no authority cannot judge what volunteer re-inforcement from you. The presence of a single com-

The responsibility, if evil follows, will atshould state, that I have determined to sub-self, all under my administrative charge, mit to the department the course taken by and if let alone will continue friendly. I

wilhdrawn into garrison, and I was left to | Thave to refer you, sir, to my memoir or my tribes known to be hostile. It remains yet experience, and I would advise you, sir, in lected by the President to make treaties that as regards the opinions of men who, and that tribe would break out-for, at with indians in the interior of the continent with perhaps not very inferior abilities to times, great uneasiness here prevailed ence, and a knowledge of the country and In your "frankness" and determination the Indians to which you cannot pretend, But the course of the authorities has been

In your letter of the 12th January, you state, "I have recently sent to Puget Sound ness on my part to say that your commu- two companies of the 9th Infantry. These, nication is the first that I have received in with the three companies there, will give relation to yourself, or on any subject a force of nearly or quite four hundred reg-whatever, touching the Indian war, from ulars, commanded by Licut. Col. Casey.— This force with several ships of war in the Sound to which will be added in a few days the United States steamer Massachusetts it seems to me if rightly directed ought to be sufficient to bring to terms two hundred Indian warriors. Capt. Keyes in his last report received, says there are not quite two hundred in arms in the region."

Here you have exposed a very confident You thought proper to quote Capt. Keyes as to the number of Indians, but you found it did not suit your purpose to refer to the requisitions he had made upon you for six additional companies, two of which only had been sent forward; nor could you find time to refer to the fact that Col Casey had recommended, after the war was over, that eight companies should be permanently stationed for the protection of the Sound

You think volunteers entirely unneces the receipt of your communication of the sary, althou hafter having received from

It is now March, a month later, and you

Thus have you practically acknowledged true condition of the Indian way, and are that you were wron and that I was right, seeking a me amends for the nufortunate and thus have I given your testimony, as against yourself, in viulication of the ne

As regards this call for volunteers, it is wasted on the infamous Peu-peu-mox-mox territory was bearing arms, and that the For your own reputation have I felt pain great proportion of hem were actively en

That organized in two battalions, the

fit for your position, and should give place manifest an incapacity beyond example.

Therefore, the call on me for two comwithdraw the troops now in the field, with

don a well considered plan of campaign, or Are you aware, sir, that the great vic- to do otherwise than to press forward with unteers of the two Territories now in the tory achieved by the gallant volunteers of all my energies in the path marked out, field, and of your doing every thing to fa-Oregon in the Walia walla valley was promising, as it does, the speedy terminafought near the line separating the two tion of the war; and, sir, I am too wary Territories, and that more of the Indians of a man not to detect the snare which has would make restitution; while he at the Oregon were engaged in it, than the In- been laid for me. You never expected, their troops, to abandon their plan of camsame time offered the volunteers cattle for dians of Washington? Your letter would sir, that the requisition would be complied paign in order to comply with your requi see m to show that you were ignorant of this with. You knew it was a practical impossition, or to meet your peculiar notions, I fact. Where sir did you derive your in sibility; but not baying the courage to ac- warn you now, sir, that I, as the Governor Italf the Walla-wallas live permanently in the hope that my refusing your requisiin O. egon, all the U-matillas, over one-half tion might enable you to occupy my van the Cayuses, all of the John Day's Deshutes, and Tyh Indians. These were the Indians sive. I hold you sir, to the facts and nethat met the volunteers of Oregon; and all cessity of the case, clearly demonstrating the regular service, whatever may be the these Indians were by an arrangement by your own confession the propriety of made between Gen Palmes and myself, my course, and the necessity, on my part a steady adhesion to it.

first three day's fight, by 100 balonses de. Cas y, in which my views in regard to this changed you will have difficulties, in relatatched from the force under Kam at-akan, scheme of yours is given in full.

You have referred to the atrocities comvolunteers have done injury to the friendly mitted upon the friendly Indians by the Cayuses is unquestionable, and it is reprobatively a state that no man, to my knowledge, in the cased to possess.

Learning of Washington, adjugates the extra or state that no man, to my knowledge, in the cased to possess. Had, sir, the regulars moved up to the termination of the In lans. The authorities Walla walla valley, as I most earnestly here have not only us devery xertion to urged both Maj Rains and Col. Wright, protec them, but ther exercious has been completely successful. Dif you I a n. s. in your brief visit to the Sound, he mandy been moved from he war ground on the eastern shore of Sound and its vicinity to the adjacent islands, and have for nearly tach sir, to you, as well as to the volunteers. five months been living in charge of local ity of volunteer officers, tried some months most efficiency.

> such, they sympathise with their brethren. firm and decisive, commanding the confidence of the community, and the affections of the Indians.

> Besides these four thousand on reservations in charge of local agents, we have three thousand more on the western shore of the Sound and on the Strait of de Fuca.

> I have recently heard from the Nez Perces, the Couer de Alenes and the Spokanes. The former are firm in their al legiance. But the Spokanes urge me to have a military force on the great prairie between them and the hostile Indians, or these latter may not be driven to their country and thus incite their young men to war. The letter of Garry, chief of the Spokanes, is a most plaintive and earnest call for help, so his hands may be strengthened in keeping his people to their plighted faith; and the coincidence is remarkable, that this Indian chief, a white man in education and views of life, should ask me to do the very thing I have urged upon you. for you will remember in my memoir. I urged that the troops, in operating against the Indians, should be interposed between the friendly and hostile tribes to prevent these now friendly from joining in the war. I have, sir, studied the character of these Indians, and my views as to the influence upon the friendly Indians, of the mode of carrying the war against the host-les is confirmed by the only highly officiated Inlian of either Oregon or Washington, and he head chief of the tribe, in reference to which I mid the recommendation and felt the most solicitude. Non word has ever passed between us in reference to the sub-

You are doubtless informed that the Ineast of the Cascules, and have attacked the steamers plying between the Cascades and the Dalles, and the trains in ving toward have five hundred warrors, and that thes I blieve, sir, I would have forced my north of the line who have three to five way through the five or six hundred hostile hundred more. Unless struck east of the Indians in the Walla-Walla Valley with

dian warriors. Capt. Keys, in his last re-fluence to effect a general combination of port received, says there are not quite two the ribes—that he plundered Walla walls will be able to give you full information. stock will be in secure retreats in the mounand the settlers of the valley, distributing and that on both lines, decisive blows had tains, and unless before that time the India the spoils to his own and the neighboring been struck, and also that it was beyond ans here are completely subdued, the pass Lieut. Col. Casey has been directed to the spoils to his own and the neighboring prosecute the war with the greatest vigilance and activity.

and the settlers of the valley, distributing been struck, and also that it was beyond the spoils to his own and the neighboring been struck, and also that it was beyond the ability of our citizens to raise an additional company of even fifty men to hon-bouses, it will be within the range of probabilities that a large portion of the friendly ans here are completely subdued, the passhouses, it will be within the range of probabilities that a large portion of the friendly I have a right to hold you to a full knowl- Indians on the Sound can be incited to hesedge of our condition here. If you say tility. The Clickatats and Yakimas know you were misinformed, then you are not all the passes of the Cascades and can read. ily cross after the month of May. Hence for a better man. If you were informed, the necessity of the most vigorous blows then your measures, as a military man, now, of no changes of plan, of having troops in the settlements to guard against any sudden outbreak of the friendly Indi-Cayuses and the Nez Perces into the ranks having not only the testimony of the officers panies of volunteers, is a call upon me to ans. Two men have recently been killed within fourteen miles of the capital of the

It seems to me that the present condition of things imposes upon you the neces-sity of recognizing the services of the Vol-

cilitate their operations. But if you waste your exertions in the fruitiess effort to induce either the authorities to withdraw which may arise in consequence, and that by my firm, steady, and energetic course, and by determination to co-operate with provocation to the contrary, I will vindicate the justice of my course and maintain my reputation as a faithful public servant. 1 I enclose a copy of my letter to Lt. Col. warn you, sir, that unless your course is tion to which your only salvation will be the firm and decided policy of the two Territories, whose services you have igand whose respect you have long since

Volumeers being needed at all here; and as I have before observed, in calling for Volunteers after increasing a force deemed by you sufficient, two companies, you have indicated the justice and necessity of my four thousand Indians friendly indus, had acts in organizing the people of the Terrilory as its executive.

I have thus, practically, your own en-dorsement that I have judged rightly when the sir, to you, as well as to the volunteers. five months been living in charge of local you were in error, and my judgment have the Nez Perces though a portion live agents? That not an Indian in the whole ing thus been sanctioned in calling out At the conclusion of your communication of your communication you say. "It is due to frankness that I referred to between Gen. Palmer and my. whites except in battle? That where a matter, both of the numbers required and military commission, composed of a major- the organization which will give them the

cause in Southern Oregon, of sacrificing many innocent and worthy citizens, as in the case of Mai Lunton and his party (volume). They are organized for upon him, has not yet been executed? It Sound of a few days? and do you expect. the facts were presented both to Major Gen eral Wool and Maj. Rains, to send me as sistance. The regular troops were all man of them will join in the war. friendly Indians, and prevent any consider- ference between us ? Were you desirous, make my way the best I could through views, which will be found to bear the test of able accession to the ranks of the hostiles. sir, to harmonize the elements of strength And yet we have daily rumors, and have on the Sound, you would have seen that it to be seen whether the commissioner seconsidering that memoir, to bear in mind had for the last five months, that this tribe was your duty, at least, to have informed me of your presence, and to have invited me to a conference. There was ample time is to be ignored, and his safety left to your own. having greater special experi- amongst them, and they are Indians, and as for it, for it was less difficult for me to reach you, on receiving notice, than Col onel Casey, and I have shown throughout the most anxious desire to co-operate with the regular service.

Whilst in the country in the fall and winter you complained that the authorities of the two Territories did not communicate with you. Why did you not inform me of your presence in the sound on your arrival at Steilacoom ! I learned of your probable arrival by simply learning, on Saturday morning, by my express, of your having left Vancouver; and I immediately dispatched the chief of my staff to wait upon you with a letter. But you were gone; and whether you did not know the courtesy due to the civil authorities of the Terri tory, who had taken the proper course to place themselves in relations with you, or whether you were unwilling to meet a man whose safe y you had criminally neglected, and whose general views you had peen compelled to adopt, is a matter entirely immaterial to me. I enclose a copy of the letter transmitted by the hands of Adjt. Gen Tilton, the Surveyor-General of the Territory of Washington.

After the defeat of the Indians in the Walla Walla Valley, they were complete. ly cowed, and for weeks spies only crossed gradually be coming emboldened, they have men? and now they have more than recovered from the prestige of that defeat. They at the very moment the prospects are flatare making attacks on the whole line of tering to end the war. communication, and are more firm and united, more hopeful and have more strength toan when the war commenced.

which you condemn, and my party, with dians have come, need offensive operations the friendly Nez Perces, had been cut off? Walla Walla. This bold come will must in arms. Every tribe would have joined, est respect for your opinion, knowing how ble than to opera a upon the Spokanes, and the Spokanes, and the Spokanes, and the spirit of the Colvelles, the Okanes, the lower hostility would have spread east of the Pan d'Oreilles. The Cour d'Alenes who Batter Root to the Upper Pen d'Oreilles.

fifty odd white men and one hundred and fifty Nez Perces. Would you have ex-pected it? Could the country expect it? And what was the duty of those having forces at their command? Gov. Curry sent his Volunteers and defeated the enemy. You disbanded the company of Washington Territory Volunteers raised

expressly to be sent to my relief. I have reported your refusal to send me succor to the Department of War, and have given some of the circumstances attending that refusal. The company was under the command of Capt. Wm. McKay. Before your arrival, there was a pledge that it should be mustered into the regular ser. vice and sent to my assistance. Maj. Raince informs me that he did everything in his power to induce you to send it on. Win. McKay informs me that he called on you personally, and that you would do nothing. I am informed that your own Aide-de-camp, Lieut. Arnold, endeavored to get you to change your determination. What was your reply? "Gov. Stevens can take care of himself." "Gov. Stevens will go down the Missouri," Gov. Stevens will get aid from Gen. Harney." "If Gov. Stevens wants aid he will send for it." These were your answers, according to the changing humor of the moment.

And now, sir, in view of your assertion that you disbanded no troops raised for my relief, and that my communication gave you the first intelligence that any were raised for that purpose, I would commend the chalice to your own lips, "that I trust you will be governed" hereafter "by the truth and the truth only."

I am, sir, very respectfully, Your obedient servant, ISAAC I. STEVENS. Governor Territory of Washington.

LETTER FROM GOV. STEVENS TO COL. CASEY. Executive Office, Ter. Wash., Olympia, March 16, 1856.

LIEUT. Cot. Silas Caser,
9th Inft'y, Com'g Puget Sound Dist.,
Fort Stellscoom, W. T.: Siz-I have received your letter of the 15th inst., advising me of the accession to your command of two companies of regulars, and requesting me to issue my procla-mation calling into the service of the United States two companies of Volunteers, to serve on foot for the period of four months, unless sooner discharged. These compa-nies you wish to be mustered into the ser-

vice at Fort Stellacoom. You also express the opinion that if this requisition be complied with, that you will have a sufficient number of troops to pro-tect this frontier without the aid of those now in the service of the Territory.

I am also advised that you have been authorized to make this requisition for troops by the General commanding the Department of the Pacific.

You have been informed by me, not only of the Volunteer force which has been called out to protect the settlements and to wage war upon the Indians, but of the plan of campaign which I have adopted, of the position which these troops occupy, and of the blows already struck by them against the enemy.

I take it for granted that this information has been communicated to Gen. Wool, and has been considered by him in his offi-

In the two visits which I have made to made at great personal inconvenience, I have waived eviquette in my anxious desire to co operate with the regular service.

I have communicated unreservedly my plans and views, and have endeavored, so far as my spere was concerned, to conduct affairs in a way to insure the whole force operating as a unit, in the prosecution of he war.

I am happy to say, that in our several interviews and communications, you have met me in the same spirit of co-operation to the extent that the impression has been made upon my mind, that such disposition had been made of the Volunteers, in your opinion, as to make them an officient element in the general combination.

Now your requisition on me to issue my proclamation to call into the United States service two companies of Volunteers, in connection with the expression of your opinion, that if the call be complied with, the service of the troops now in the Territory may be dispensed with, is in fact a call upon me to withdraw all the troops now in the field with their sixty to eighty days' provisions, to abandon the block houses, to eave the settlements both North and South open to the attacks of the marguding Indians, and at the very moment when our troops were prepared to strike a, and perhaps the, decisive blow, to abandon the campaign and re-organize anew.

Are you aware that in the patriotic reponse of the citizens of the Territory to the call of the executive, over one-half of our able-bodied men are bearing arms?-That the people are almost entirely livingin block-houses? And that it is entirely beyond the ability of our citizens to organthe Snake river to examine the country; ize an additional company of even lifty

ince come over in small parties and got fore not be raised, except by the withdrawal ome small successes in running off horses, of the troops and abandoning the campaign

For these reasons alone it will be impossible to comply with your requisition. Nor can I suppose that, in making the requisi-What, sir, would have been the effect if lion, either Major General Wool or your-Gov. Curry had not made the movement self believed for a moment that the requisition would be seriously entertained by me.

But I am of opinion, that were the requi-Sir, there would have been a hurricane of sition complied with, your force would not war between the Cascades and Bitter Root, and three thousand warriors would now be sions, I am constrained to express my judgment that you would soon be obliged to call

(Concluded on Fourth Page.)