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GEO. L. CURRY, Editor and Proprietor.

OREGON CITY, SATURDAY APRIL 15, 1848.

FOR THE STATES.—We understand that several companies are making preparation for a return, over-land, to the States. We have heard different statements as to the number going—which we conclude will be from 50 to 60. They intend starting about the 1st of May, by the Southern route.

THE LATE ENGAGEMENT.

We have several items of information concerning the battle of the 14th and 15th ult., on the Tucanyon and Tuchia, that does not appear in the official report, as published, which we have obtained through conversation with individuals who were engaged in the affair.

It appears that on the morning of the 14th, after the detachment of the army (numbering 155 men) had travelled nearly all night, they came upon an encampment of Indians at the mouth of the Tucanyon, which, from all that we can learn, were undoubtedly the enemy they were in pursuit of. The Indians professed friendship, but at the same time were hurrying off their cattle, horses, and women across Snake river, which did not look much like the confidence of friendship, to say the least. Large herds of cattle, and bands of horses covered the surrounding hills, which were acknowledged to belong to the Cayuses; some three or four hundred head of which, in obedience to orders given, were herded by our troops, to be driven to Waiilatpu, or Fort Waters, as it is now called.—Some of our men were exasperated at seeing the enemy escaping, and one of them, firing, killed an Indian, who, with others, was crossing the river in a canoe. We have since ascertained, beyond dispute, that "TELOQUOIT WAS IN THAT SAME CANOE. Indeed, it is believed, that most of the "murderers" were in that encampment when it was surprised.

That it was the loss of their stock that brought on the fight, it is altogether probable. Before any hostile demonstrations were made on either side, a few Indians rode boldly up and drove off a band of beautiful horses which some of our men were driving in to take to the Fort.

The detachment, with its reprisal property, had taken up its line of march to return to Fort Waters, when the Indians commenced gathering in from the adjacent hills, brandishing their weapons, and shouting the war-whoop, and shortly after, commenced firing upon our troops. The battle was thus commenced, and although the detachment continued its retrograde movement, the troops that composed its rear-guard, were almost continually engaged until evening, either in facing about and charging upon the enemy when they made any stand, or in holding commanding points on the route, essential to the general safety. The encampment of that night was surrounded by the enemy, who kept up an occasional firing all night; during which time they succeeded in getting back their stock—nor was there much effort made to prevent them, from what we hear—if in fact the stock was not actually given up. On the next morning, (the 15th,) the encampment was hardly broken up, and the troops in marching order, before the same desultory attacks of the preceding day were recommenced, with increasing boldness. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the detachment reached the ford of the Tuchia, where the enemy had strongly posted themselves in the brush and undergrowth, and resolutely and bravely contested the passage of the river. After a good deal of hard fighting, the Indians were driven from their position,

and, indeed, silenced—for they did not renew the fight, nor even follow our troops beyond the Tuchia. Here ended a campaign, the consequence of which, we fear, will be to embolden the enemy, and perhaps tend to bring them allies. It is said that six Indian scalps were taken on the Tuchia, which, really, for the sake of humanity, we trust is incorrect. We are endeavoring to punish the savage for his barbarities—not to imitate him. Capts. THOMPSON and MAXON, and Messrs. RHINEARSON, PURVIS, and OLNEY, have been named to us as having greatly distinguished themselves by brave and serviceable acts.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.—We are indebted to the politeness of Mr. MCKINLAY for the following items of news, which we extract from a letter from Mr. OGDEN, dated the 13th inst., at Vancouver:

I have only time to tell you that MCARTHUR is arrived. All quiet at Walla Walla. Some of the Cayuses are returning to their lands—all wish for peace. The Little Chief calls out loudly for it; stating, 'there has been enough killed, and let us have no more fighting.' It is said Joe Lewis and three Cayuses have gone to the Mormons—if so, he will never return. Ellis and all his family are dead—in all, 60 members. They died at the Buffalo Plains. McBean writes the navigation is free for boats—no danger to be apprehended.

Under date of April 4th, Maj. MAGONE writes from Fort Waters to Mr. JENNINGS, at the Dalles, as follows:

By express from Walla Walla we learn that Ellis is dead, and some 60 of his men. This has cast a withering blight on our prospects with the Nez Perces. They, we are informed, have had a big feast with the Cayuses, and the supposition is, that they are disposed to lend their aid.

The Walla Walla chief looks upon us as his enemies—and if this should reach you before any party leaves the Dalles, it might be well for them to come by way of Umatilla. Mr. Taylor died on the 24th ult. The wounded are generally doing well.

From a letter from Mr. CRAIG—sub-agent for the Nez Perces—to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, of the same date as the above, we obtain the subjoined:

The Indians appear unsettled—the Walla Wallas especially. The Yellow Serpent says he was told that his property should not be disturbed—but they take his cattle and horses without asking for them. He says he knows the Americans and their way of doing business—he asks the reason why he should be deprived of buying powder and ball: he is not a murderer—but if he is to be deprived of such things he does not know what he may become. Ellis and 60 of his men have died of the measles, while in the buffalo country. The ballance of his party have returned. It is not known how they will act. They say when they move camp the Cayuses come and camp close to them, and they cannot get clear of them. 'Five Crovvs' is said to be with Joseph (chief of the Nez Perces) at the point of death. 'Tamsuckie' is in the Grand Round, on his way to Fort Hall. Joe Lewis, with Teloquoit's 2 sons, have gone to get the Mormons. The 'Young Chief,' Stickus and others, are going into the mountains to stay until the war is over. The other Cayuses are with the Peluces and a few 'cultus' Nez Perces, waiting for the arrival of the Americans to fight them one time more, and then leave for the buffalo country, and abandon their own. These reports come from Walla Walla. 'Vvelaptuleek' has arrived there and delivered up all the goods in his possession—some horses, cattle, etc. etc.—says he does not wish to be an enemy to the white man.

Ass't Quartermaster GOODHUE writes from the Dalles to the Commissary General, under date of the 8th inst., that the appointment of MAJOR LEE to the chief command had given general satisfaction. He says: