

A. C. R. Shaw  
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# Oregon Spectator.

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

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**The Massacre at Waiilatpu.**

After the horror solicitude that has filled the public mind since the intelligence of the horrible treachery at Waiilatpu for the survivors of this melancholy affair—those helpless men and children—it is with feelings of pain and pleasure that we announce their deliverance from captivity and safe arrival in our midst. The pleasure incident to their rescue from danger and captivity is increased, however, by the painful intelligence that a portion of them have been subjected to further outrage and insult—the basest—the deepest that can possibly be conceived, and from which our mind recoils with horror. In our career as a public journalist, for the last five years, we have never shrunk from our duty, in recording events however painful and abhorrent to our feelings, but in this case our pen refuses—we dare not chronicle the terrible story of their wrongs.

Pity for the poor sufferers—for the grievously injured: let there be, for them at least, an oblivion of the past; let human kindness assiduously strive to assuage the bitterness of the pang and again replume the spirit that has been crushed in the violation of its honor.

But for the barbarian murderers and violators let there be an eternity of remembrance; let them be pursued with unrelenting hatred and hostility, until their life blood has atoned for their infamous deeds; let them be hunted as beasts of prey; let their name and race be blotted from the face of the earth, and "the places that once knew them, know them no more forever." Oh, how terrible should be the retribution. There are no mitigating circumstances. They knew the enormity of their conduct. Their unparagonable insult was achieved with the coolest determination and the most unmistakable intention. Then let the knife be bared and in throwing away the scabbard, let the cry be "to the knife and the knife to the hilt."

Peter Skeen Ogden, Esq. Chief Factor of the H. B. Co., reached this place on Wednesday evening, accompanied by the survivors of the massacre, whom his courageous energy and indefatigable efforts had delivered from fearful servitude. Thanks would seem but a trifling recompense for such distinguished service. To him we are indebted for our principal information and the various documents subjoined.

Mr. Ogden arrived at Walla Walla on the 19th of December last, having accomplished the journey from Fort Vancouver in ten days. Immediately upon his arrival at Fort Nez Percés, in the evening, and during the second day, he despatched couriers to call a meeting of the Cayuse Chiefs; on the third day in the evening two Chiefs arrived accompanied by about thirty men—Cayuses.—The council assembled on the 23d ult., in which the several speeches were made, the substance of which will be found appended. The council continued until late at night and was concluded upon the savages agreeing to deliver up the captives within six days, on the promise of a ransom being paid for them. In the intermediate time speeches were made by the Nez Percés in regard to the surrender to Mr. Spaulding. During this space of time Mr. Ogden suffered considerable anxiety of mind, fearing from the various reports in circulation and constantly reaching the Fort, that the attempt had been fruitless and that the prisoners would not be restored.

On the evening of the 29th ult. a few of the principal men of the Cayuses arrived at the Fort, bringing with them the captives, so, with some of their property, were conveyed in five wagons. Every preparation had been made to receive them so far as the limited means of the post would allow, and here we are that the hospitalities extended on the occasion were the source of as much

pleasure to the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company as to the numerous recipients thereof. The day after the restoration, the promised ransom was paid and many speeches followed. A day or two thereafter brought Indian reports of the arrival of our troops at the Dalles, and the excitement consequent thereupon, among the Indians, was so great that Mr. Ogden assures us, that it was his firm conviction that had not the women and children been given up, they undoubtedly would all have been murdered. At the same time Mr. Ogden could make no downward movement in consequence of having pledged himself, to await the arrival of Mr. Spaulding and family, who happily had their appearance on the ensuing Saturday evening, escorted by a formidable body of Nez Percés. The greater part of that night was passed in council with these Indians, and on the following morning the line of departure was taken up for Fort Vancouver, the safety of the party, and their arrival at which place, was first communicated by the subjoined letter from James Douglas, Esq. which was received on Sunday week and its gratifying contents imparted to the congregation of the Methodist church.

We have received considerable other information relative to this melancholy affair but so desultory in character that we hardly think it worth while at present to give it publication. One of the most horrible circumstances of the tragic event is, that of the two men who were prostrated by sickness at the time of the massacre, and nine days after ward dragged from their beds, killed and mangled in the most shocking manner. This shows plainly that there had been no reaction of feeling after the first massacre—nothing like regret for what had been done.

There will be many painfully interesting incidents, doubtless, hereafter to be told of this terrible tragedy—of intense suffering and hair breadth escapes—but the force of circumstances will prevent us telling them; may they find a more efficient chronicler. We cannot close however, without alluding to the surprising escape of our friend Mr. Stanley, the Artist, who was returning from the mission of Walker and Eels, and on the day of the massacre encamped on Snake river. Two days after the sad event he reached, within less than two miles of Waiilatpu, before he was apprised of it, when he took the trail to the Fort, where he arrived in safety—having encountered in his unarmed condition, but one of the murderous villains, who, by ready stratagem he succeeded in getting rid of.

Messrs. Walker and Eels, whose Mission is situated in the "Spokane" country, it is thought are not in danger, in the event of it however, they will, of course, fall back, upon Fort Colville, the nearest place of safety. It is intended we understand, to discontinue the Catholic mission among the Cayuses, for the present.

FORT VANCOUVER, Sat. 12h. 40m. P. M.  
GEO. ABERNETHY, Esq. }  
GOVERNOR.

Sir—Mr. Ogden has this moment arrived, with three boats from Walla Walla, and I rejoice to say that he has brought down all the women and children from Waiilatpu, Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding, and Mr. Stanley, the artist. Messrs. Walker and Eels were

safe and well—they were not considered to be in danger. The reports of the later murders committed at Waiilatpu, are all absolutely without foundation—not a life having been lost there, since the day of Dr. Whitman's death.

Mr. Ogden will visit the Falls on Monday and give you every information in his power respecting the Indians of the Interior. The Cayuse, Walla Walla, Nez Percés, and Yakonias are said to have entered into an alliance for mutual defence.

In haste,  
Yours respectfully,  
JAMES DOUGLAS.

CLEAR WATER, Dec. 10th, 1847.

Mr. McBRAN:  
My dear Sir—Will you have the kindness to lend me four blankets? Give two of them to these men, one to each. The five you had the kindness to let me have, were among the goods plundered at Waiilatpu. Please to send also 10 shirts, 10 lb. tobacco, 12 scalpels and 20 awls. I am in great need of these things to pay for moving my property and family up the Valley, some 10 miles where the Nez Percés are camped. I reached home on foot, travelling six nights, suffering from hunger, cold and sore feet. Mr. Canfield escaped wounded and reached this place three days before me. There are here 5 Americans, 2 Frenchmen and my family, except my daughter, who is yet at Waiilatpu. Please let me know about the women and children, and give other information. These people have pledged to protect us if we will do all we can to make peace, to prevent the Americans from coming up to avenge the late deaths. We have agreed to do so, and hope you will have the goodness to send to Governor Abernethy and request for sake of our lives, that they will keep quiet. Should the Americans come up I think it would prove our ruin and involve the country in war. We beg you to keep quiet. The Nez Percés wish to have peace continued. Could Mr. Grant come to see us it would be a great relief.

May the God of peace protect us and stay the work of blood.

Yours in love,  
H. H. SPALDING.

CLEAR WATER, Dec. 10, 1847.  
To the Bishop of Walla Walla, or either of the Catholic Priests.

Reverend and Dear Friend, this hasty note may inform you that I am yet alive, through the astonishing mercy of God, the hand of our merciful God brought me to my family, after 6 days and nights from the time my dear friend furnished me with provisions and I escaped from the Indians. My daughter is yet a captive I fear, but in the hands of our kind heavenly father—two Indians have gone for her.

My object in writing principally is to give information through you to the Cayuse, that it is our wish to have peace, that we do not wish Americans to come from below to avenge the wrong; we hope the Cayuse and Americans will be on friendly terms, that Americans will no more come into their country, unless they wish it. As soon as these men return, I hope if alive to send them to the Governor, to prevent Americans coming up to molest the Cayuse for what is done.

I know that you will do all in your power for the relief of the captive woman and children at Waiilatpu, that you will spare no pains to appease and quiet the Indians.—There are 5 Americans here, my wife and three children one young woman and two Frenchmen. We cannot leave the country without help. Our hope, under God, is your hands and the hands of the H. H. B. Co. can help come from that source? Please let this be known to the H. H. B. Co. Ask their advice and let me know. I am certain that should Americans attempt to come, it would

be likely to prove the ruin of us all in the upper country, and would involve the country. God grant that they will not attempt.—At this moment I have obtained permission of the Indians to write more, but have but a moment. Please send this or copy to Governor Abernethy. The Nez Percés held a meeting yesterday, they pledged to protect us from the Cayuse if we would prevent the Americans from coming up to avenge the murders. This we have pledged to do, and for this we are at the expense of our lives at this place and at Mr. Walker's. By all means keep quiet; send no war reports, send nothing but proposals of peace. They say they have buried the death of the Walla Walla Chief's son killed in California; they wish us to bury this offence. I hope to write soon direct to Gov. Abernethy, but as yet the Indians are not willing, but say willing that I should send these hints through you. I hope you will send by all means and with all speed, to keep quiet in Walla Walla. Could Mr. Grant come this way, it would be a great favour to us and do good to the Indians.—I just learn that these Indians wish us to remain in the country as hostages of peace.—They wish the communication for Americans to be kept open. We are willing to remain so if peace can be secured. It does not seem safe for us to attempt to leave the country in any way at present. May the God of heaven protect us and stay the work of blood. These two men go to make peace, and when they return if successful with the Cayuse they will go to Walla Walla.

We have learned that one man escaped to Walla Walla, was crossed over the river and went below, he would naturally suppose that all were killed; besides myself, another white man escaped wounded, and reached my house 3 days before I did. Late Indian report says that no women except Mrs. Whitman or children were killed, but all are in captivity. This people, if the Cayuse will consent, will bring them all to this place—I travelled only nights and hid myself days, most of the way on foot as my horses escaped from me—suffered some from cold, hunger and sore feet, had no shoes, as I threw my boots away not being able to wear them, also left blanket, God in mercy brought me here. From the white man who escaped and from Indians we learn that an Indian from the States who was in the employ of Dr. Whitman, was at the head of the bloody affair, helped demolish the windows and take the property. We think the Cayuse have been urged on to do the dreadful deed. God in mercy forgive them for they know not what they do.

Perhaps these men can bring my horses and things. Please give all the particulars you have been able to learn and what news have gone below. How do the women and children fare? How extensive is the war?

In giving this information and by sending this letter below to Governor Abernethy you will oblige your afflicted friend.

I would write directly to the Governor, but the Indians wish me to rest till they return.

Yours in affliction and with best wishes,  
H. H. SPALDING.

FORT NEZ PERCÉS, Dec. 23, 1847.  
REV. MR. SPALDING,

Dear Sir—I have assembled all the chiefs and addressed them in regard to the helpless situation of yourself and the rest at Waiilatpu, and I have got them to consent to deliver them all to me; Yourself and those with you, save the two Canadians who are safe enough among the Indians. And have now to advise you to lose no time in joining me, at the same time bear in mind sir, you have no promise to make them or payments to make; once more use all the diligence possible to overtake us.

Yours truly,  
P. S. OGDEN.

CLEAR WATER, Dec. 25, 1847.  
TO PETER OGDEN, Esq.

My Dear Sir, your kind favour of 20 inst. came to hand this evening, it gives us great joy to learn that you are about to rescue the captives at Waiilatpu may the Lord enable you to land them safe at Vancouver. This people are unwilling that I should leave their country and I have promised to return and live with them provided the melancholy affair at Waiilatpu can be settled and the Nez Percés continue friendly to the whites and keep their hands clean from blood and plunder.