

Headquarters Expdt against Northern Indians

Camp on the Spokane River W. T.

September 10th, 1858

Dear Sir:

I have this moment received your communication by the faithful Sebastian.

Kind fortune has favored us thus far beyond our most sanguine expectations - we have had two severe battles with the hostile Indians, we have entirely defeated them, killing several of their chiefs, besides many others either killed or wounded - I am truly happy that these poor people are brought to a sense of their true position - nothing but an unqualified submission to my will can now avail them - I shall march tomorrow, and hope to reach your mission in two or three days.

The Indians who have not joined the hostiles at any time, have nothing to fear; let them remain perfectly quiet with their women and children around them - I now speak to all Indians, whether Coeur d'Alenes or belonging to other tribes, who have taken part in this war, - if you are sincere and really desire peace you must all come to me with your guns, - with your families and all you have and trust entirely to my mercy -- I shall then say to you what I require you to do, if we are to have peace now and forever hereafter, I promise no life shall be taken for acts committed in this unhappy war. If you do all I require you shall have peace, - If you do not, the war will be prosecuted this year and next, until you are all killed or driven from your country. This from me, who never yet told a lie to the Indians.

- A large body of U. S. soldiers, as many as I have here with me, have already reached Walla Walla and a thousand soldiers from the Great Salt Lake are now on their march for the same place, all these troops will come to this country next year should the war continue.

I have captured a band of 800 horses belonging to Til-co-ax,  
the Palouse chief, and shot them all. I shall prosecute the war against  
the Palouses, but if they want peace, they can have it on the same terms  
I offer the Coeur d'Alenes.

With high Respect

I remain my dear Sir

Your obdt Servt

G. Wright

Col. 9th Inft

Commdg.

Rev. Father J. Josette

Sacred Hearts' Mission

Coeur d'Alenes

W. T.

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