

Office Capt Ind Affairs  
Dayton O. H. Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1855.

Sir

In my letter of 25<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> I expressed an intention of proceeding to the Cayuse country if a suitable escort could be obtained, but after waiting several days it was found impracticable to properly equip a command deemed adequate to a military occupation of that country in less than ten days, I therefore returned to perfect arrangements with the tribes in this valley, and Southern Oregon, all of whom are in a state of alarming suspense. The white settlers throughout the entire country are bordering on insanity. The scattered settlers are congregating, fortifications and various devices for defense are being erected, refugees from settlement to settlement are seen hurrying from points deemed the center of secure operations. The Indians are threatened with extermination, which by demonstrations already made in Jackson County and in the Umpqua Valley induces those in this valley to apprehend a fulfillment of those threats.

The congregating in various bands and closing over them dissent persons has tended greatly to quiet the apprehension of many of our alarmists. But should there be a failure in our troops making a decisive and successful campaign against the Indians in Middle Oregon

and Washington - It would be almost impossible to save  
the lands of this valley, from the grasp of our inhabitants.  
No inquiry will be made as to their guilt or innocence  
it will be sufficient to know that they are Indians and  
as such they merit death; not for what they may have  
done but for what they might do if disposed.

The cause of this condition of affairs, <sup>in the South</sup> is directly traceable  
to the doors of the white man, but it is useless at this  
time to speculate upon ~~causes~~, man is upon us, and no  
man can hesitate which side to take, whatever may  
have been the original cause, defenseless women and  
children are being slaughtered, and the property of our  
citizens destroyed by the ruthless savage.

I have adopted the plan which appeared to me the  
most feasible to save a remnant of the red man, <sup>on this expedition</sup> the  
accomplishment of which must necessarily involve  
a considerable expenditure.

I am satisfied that the attempt to permanently  
settle the roving and Indian on Table Rock Reserve will  
be futile. And that the rescue plan will be too abundant  
that reservation altogether. With this view I have  
examined a tract of land on the head waters of the Gault  
River distant about twenty five or thirty miles west of  
this point and adjoining the coast reservation upon  
which is now located some twenty <sup>five</sup> white settlers  
with improvements amounting in value to as many  
thousand dollars. These settlers with the exception

Greatly to be desired, and the time for effecting  
this object is at hand, in fact I believe it the only  
means of saving <sup>the</sup> from extermination - but being thus  
satisfied I shall act with reference to its accomplish-  
ment. The enclosed estimate from the funds  
necessary to carry it into effect is respectfully  
submitted. Owing to the ~~delay~~ arrival of the tools and  
materials for use in constructing buildings on Table Rock  
and temporary Reservations, but little progress has been made  
in that work - so that if a change of location be  
contemplated it would be economising to do so prior  
to the expenditure of that fund.

The funds provided for by treaty stipulations with  
the several Tribes if <sup>properly</sup> expended upon one tract will secure  
a greater amount of good <sup>to</sup> the Indians than if  
expended upon several Reservations. As in selecting  
~~the~~ sites for the various improvements reference may  
be had to the accommodation of the greatest possible  
number of Indians.

I have been so well satisfied of the necessity  
of an immediate removal of the <sup>funders</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>people and agent</sup> ~~the~~ ~~people~~ ~~and agent~~ ~~the~~ ~~people~~ ~~and agent~~ ~~the~~ ~~people~~ ~~and agent~~  
Mrs H. M. Meeker has been instructed to proceed  
forthwith to that district with instructions to agent  
~~ambros~~ ~~to~~ receive these funds to the tract designated  
in the head matter of your Bill <sup>previously</sup> ~~previously~~ ~~referred~~ ~~to~~  
One consideration inducing this step is, that in

much as they are prohibited from obtaining their usual supplies of food, and relying wholly upon the government for subsistence. And the enormous cost of bread stuffs in that district; the difficulty and expense of transportation; it will lessen the expenditure at least one hundred per cent during the winter by removing ~~the~~ Indians to the point designated; besides this, the men may be advantageously employed in opening and constructing a wagon road from their encampment, which will be on the line of travel, <sup>to the mouth of the river</sup> to the mouth of Salmon River, along which may be an extensive Indian settlement; and should the winter be an open one considerable progress may be made in preparing houses and other points in their contemplated settlement.

The mere ratification of the coast Treaty and the absence of funds specifically transmitted for these objects may be urged as a barrier against the immediate ~~commencement~~ <sup>progression</sup> of this plan of operations, but if in emergencies like these we are to await specific instructions and remittances it would be to date to ever hope, by any possibility, to save the lives of these Indians. It may be doubted even whether the friendly propensities of those miscreants who delight in shedding Indian blood, who have engaged in our other organs will permit these friendly hands to leave that settlement unless escorted by a strong

military force, the procurement of which is very doubtful  
at this time. The discussion <sup>to induce</sup> of Act Anubore and subject  
Metcalf may however enable them to secure the passage of  
the Indians to the contemplated encampment.

But in order to secure the acquiescence of the citizens  
in that vicinity <sup>for the removal of the spots</sup> <sup>to be</sup> <sup>located</sup> <sup>near</sup>  
you, several of these land claims <sup>may</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>deemed</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>department</sup> <sup>an</sup> <sup>assumption</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>warranted</sup>,  
but of <sup>your</sup> <sup>own</sup> <sup>consciousness</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>no</sup> <sup>means</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>which</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>avoid</sup>  
a worse calamity. The <sup>second</sup> <sup>article</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>10<sup>th</sup></sup> <sup>July</sup> <sup>1853</sup>  
with the Indian Tribes in this valley, seems the right  
~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>regarded</sup> <sup>as</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>part</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>considerations</sup> <sup>mentioned</sup>  
in that <sup>document</sup> <sup>for</sup> <sup>improvements</sup> "for paying for the permanent  
improvements of settlers, should any such be on said tracts  
at the time of its selection" &c.

The purchase of these claims with their improvements  
will place the Indians in a condition to realize the benefit  
of the outlet at a much earlier period than if desated  
an unimproved form. Besides no reluctance will  
be manifested by the Indians when required to  
remove to farms already in a better state of cultivation  
than those ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> occupied by them.

I may fail to urge reasons justifying the  
assumption of such <sup>a</sup> <sup>precedent</sup> <sup>but</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>cannot</sup> <sup>doubt</sup>  
that if it be viewed in its proper light my action  
will be approved. A departure from the  
rules laid down in the regulations of 1850  
in reference to the purchase of annuity lands

appears to me not only justifiable but absolutely  
demanded under the arrangement of annuity payments  
in this superintendency and whilst I do not desire  
to be clothed with <sup>unusual</sup> ~~unusual~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>power</sup> a due regard  
to the welfare of the Indians requires that a discretion  
you should be exercised in the selection and  
mode of purchase such goods as well as to the time  
of payment.

In the event of the abandonment of Table  
Rock Reservation for the objects for which it has  
been selected - a question may arise as to the disposal  
of this tract - considerable improvements in heavy  
land survey &c has been accomplished - and  
in accordance with article fourth of the Treaty  
with Sept 1853, improvements of equal value are to  
be made on the reservation to which they may  
be ~~located~~ ~~remained~~.

Table Rock Reservation if sold at public  
sale in accordance with usage of the Government  
would buy a sum nearly equal to the entire  
amount of consideration given by the Treaty of 10 Sept  
1853 for the Meigs Tree purchase - but unless  
prohibited by enactment would be purchased  
in a few weeks

fine one willing to sell their improvements at reasonable prices and vacate their claims, upon condition that they be permitted to locate claims elsewhere.

A portion however prefer to dispose of the few simple as they have perfected their title by the residence of the time required by the donation act.

This valley is separated from the valley of the Willamette by a high chain of hills amounting to a mountain, a narrow gap along the margin of the former draining this fertile valley excepted. The gap

through which the communication to the coast Reservations passes across this valley. From it three trails diverge one to the bases of Rechesne on Johnsons Pine and to Necanicum and one to Willamette - the former a wagon road is practicable and from this point is believed to exist the only available route for a wagon road <sup>to</sup> the northern half of this reservation. The soil in this valley is perhaps unimproved for fertility on the coast and has been successfully tested as wheat land - The former one is in a flourishing condition - having already about two hundred acres of wheat sown. A number of clearings have nearly their entire sections inclosed with substantial fences. The improvements are such as to be useful for the purposes of an Indian Reservation and the location such as to be favorable for the establishments of mills, schools, shops &c. &c. My intention had been to

visit the latter one in a flourishing condition - having already about two hundred acres of wheat sown. A number of clearings have nearly their entire sections inclosed with substantial fences. The improvements are such as to be useful for the purposes of an Indian Reservation and the location such as to be favorable for the establishments of mills, schools, shops &c. &c. My intention had been to

Locate the Indians of the Willamette Valley, on the Neacoma  
 but since the rupture with the Rogue River Indians and  
 the impracticability of carrying out the policy of the  
 government upon the Noble People Reservation. I am  
 in favour of settling these Indians upon ~~that stream~~ the  
 Neachema or Salmon River, and placing the bands of  
 this Valley, in the ground now referred to.

Through more extensive acquaintance with the whites  
 and the fidelity of many of the people located in such  
 manner as to occupy the entire tract between the Spews  
 of mountains bordering the Valley, acting as a key to  
 the entrance of the reservation destined to be the permanent  
 home of several thousand Indians makes this arrangement  
 desirable as it will give greater security and confidence  
 to our settlers.

The bands now residing immediately  
 at Fort Lane, <sup>number 334</sup> under the protection of that garrison, are  
 in imminent danger of meeting the fate so boldly and  
 recklessly handed them, that of annihilation, and unless  
 immediately removed the scheme will undoubtedly  
 be carried into effect. <sup>These bands comprise the original Rogue River and a set of those treated with civility 1854</sup>  
 One but little less some - one village having already  
 been attacked by a party of Saule's banditti, and  
 put to death, men, women and children. These  
 bands may also be located on this coast reservation  
 and comfortably provided for if the purchase of the  
 tract referred to be consummated. This tract will  
 be concentrating all the tribes in this Territory west of  
 the Cascade mountains upon one reservation, a considerable