

Letter from Neely.

FORT GASTON, HOOP VALLEY,
MONDAY, August 17th, 1863.

Dear Editor Times:—As your fellow townsman, Mr. J. L. Southmyd is making ready to return home, I have concluded to trouble you once again with another hasty and imperfect letter.

Neyer have I seen so much feeling manifested by our company as when the news of the heinous and brutal murder by Indians of our much esteemed friend Samuel Minor reached us. He was well known by almost every man among us; and ever known to be brave, generous and noble-souled.

A man named Sponcar White was arrested by military authority, nigh this post a few days ago, charged with tampering with the Indians. He is now in the guard-house awaiting trial by court-martial, which will be called as soon as possible.

Saturday evening last news reached us that the Indians had made another attack on the few remaining settlers of Now River. Two Chinamen are known to have been killed. It is also stated that four white men were closely besieged, within a small house, by a large force of yelling, blood-thirsty red skins. Major Taylor at once dispatched a detachment of 25 men under Lieut. Hempfield with instructions to make all possible haste to the scene of murder. We expect to hear news from the boys in a few days that will be of good cheer. Sergt. Overlander is also out with a small detachment on a short lookout for the enemy.

Another battle was fought among the Indians here, a few days since, in the western part of the valley, near the farm of Mr. George Norton. The attacking party was led by the famous "brave" "Ce-na-nal-ting-John." In this war he and "Charley Hostler" are the acknowledged "mow-we-mus" of the struggling bands. Charley is at present scarcely well of a late wound, so his brother "Billy" has assumed command for the time being. In this battle "Ce-na-nal-ting-John" came out victorious, having killed one of his enemy and wounded two more. The Indian killed rejoiced in the silver name of "Two-Hits" and was widely noted and noted only for meanness. I am informed by good authority that he was one among the band that so obligingly permitted Mr. John Fairchild to remain in the mountains three days to remove his stock.

Rev. Mr. McDonald, Presbyterian Minister of Astoria, has suddenly and kindly made his appearance among us. He preached to a large assembly of citizens and soldiers, in the open air, both in the morning and evening of yesterday. I vote with pride and pleasure, the attendance of quite a number of ladies. He continues his journey, soon, further over the mountains. Of a certainty he is obeying the divine injunction "Go ye into all the world and preach." May unlimited success crown his truly Christian labors.

Rev. S. P. Wright favored us with a call some days ago. Judging from the strong sentiments expressed in his speech,

I have concluded that he is all right on the Union question, and will do well to risk a vote upon. Next Wednesday we are by appointment, to hear what can be said by R. F. J. first, candidate for the Assembly for this county and Del Norte.

In my next if nothing more interesting should transpire, I propose giving you a short sketch of the interests, agricultural and otherwise of Ilwaco. I shall also have something to say about the Indians of the valley. In closing this hasty effort I would compliment your unknown correspondent, "J. J. of Company '64." His letter is truly well written, in fact it has been seen in the Times among the army correspondents.

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