
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
Benicia, California, October 19, 1855.

SIR: The Yakimas and Klikitats Indians, in Oregon and Washington Territories, being dissatisfied, it is said, with the treaty made with Governor Stevens, have assumed a warlike attitude, and have killed a number of white inhabitants going to and returning from the mines near Fort Colville. To punish these Indians, and to check their murderous intentions, Major Haller moved against them with about 100 men. He met them on the banks of the Pisko river, Sinqua valley, but finding them too strong, he retired to the heights and sent for a reinforcement. Major Rains, with all the forces under his command, marched to his relief. I have ordered two detachments, one from Benicia and the other from the Presidio, composed of one captain, two lieutenants, and seventy rank and file, to proceed in the steamer Columbia, to reinforce Major Rains. I have no doubt the Major will be able to chastise the Indians and bring them to terms.

The whites and Indians keep up a predatory warfare near Forts Jones and Lane. The whites have determined to exterminate the Indians in that region; hence they kill indiscriminately the innocent as well as the guilty.

I ordered Major Fitzgerald, with his company of dragoons, some two months since, to the Dalles; but owing to difficulties between the whites and Indians in Southern Oregon and Northern California, I suspended the order until his services could be dispensed with. It is rumored that he has recently had a brush with the Indians, when he killed and wounded forty of them.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,
A. A. General, Headquarters of the Army, New York City.

SECRETARY OF WAR.

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Respectfully forwarded by command of Brevet Lieutenant General
Scott.

L. THOMAS, *Assistant Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
New York, November 14, 1855.
