

THE TELLER.

LEWISTON, NORTH IDAHO.

SATURDAY.....APRIL 13th, 1878.

OUR ENLARGEMENT.

To-day we issue the first number of our enlarged sheet. When we commenced the publication of THE TELLER we promised to enlarge so soon as the condition of things in the country would warrant us to do so. THE TELLER has managed, to keep out of debt, has paid its expenses by means of its patronage, but the publishers have made nothing, save their personal living. In circulation it has slowly but steadily increased, which has been evidence to us that its policy has been acceptable to the people. Its advertising patronage has not been commensurate with the business of the place. In fact our dealers have not been up to the standard of other places in the matter of publishing their wares. Nor did they until recently seem to drink in the importance of advertising as a means of extensive trade, and that is a reason why some of the merchants of the lower towns have been able to secure advantages. A little time and a little more competition from surrounding traders who do advertise liberally, has had the effect to apprise our dealers of their mistaken notions about the value of advertising in their local paper. They now think that *Printer's Ink* judiciously employed is their best fertilizer and will the sooner bring them on the road to fortunes. Having now more space we have reduced some what our rates of advertising to meet the condition of all who wish to support a local paper. We will be to about double the expense each and every week, in making up our paper, and trust that a generous and appreciative public will duly consider the advantages which we offer to the people here and to the country at large, and promptly come forward with such patronage as our increased efforts seem to them to merit. Our remoteness from the great news centers often renders it difficult to obtain the news material of which to make up the best class of news reading matter, but such as we deem of the most importance to this public that comes within our reach, we shall always endeavor to give either condensed or in extenso, and thus seek to make THE TELLER a valuable paper for home reading in every family and workshop, as well as valuable to send to friends abroad for information, in regard to the superior advantages of this country for settlement. It will maintain its complete independence upon all political or other questions offending the public, and in its editorials will ever reflect the opinions of its editor untrammelled by the dogmas or edicts of any sect or party. Its columns will ever be open to the views of correspondents concisely and courteously expensed, upon any and all questions of public importance. It will be a newspaper for the public, and will rely upon the public in the ordinary and legitimate manner of subscriptions and advertising and job work for its full support. We trust its friends everywhere will not hesitate to aid us in every proper manner in enlarging our patronage, and making THE TELLER not only a power in, but a blessing to the country.

Hope Fate not Similar.

"On Friday we noticed three yoke of cattle attached to a wagon, on the cover of the wagon was 'The Palouse country or bust.'" - *W. Times.*

This reminds us of the emigrant wagon crossing the plains, years ago which had painted upon its covering "Pikes Peak or bust." A few days afterwards the same wagon was found on the plains wrecked, its team stolen and its owners and attaches all murdered by the redskins.

TELEGRAPHS.—Some things were intimated and other things looked ominous of a telegraph line leading to Lewiston, as we went up street the other evening. The parties interested are more reticent than wise in this matter.

Beginning of the Nez Perce Hostilities.

Mt. IDAHO, I. T. Dec. 22nd, 1878. MAJ. HANCOCK, COMMANDING AT CAMP HOWARD, NEAR MOUNT IDAHO.

Dear Sir:—

In compliance with your request, asking for such information as I possess relative to the early scenes of the late Indian war, and what in my opinion was the immediate cause of the same, I submit the following: I have resided in what is now known as North Idaho, since July, 1861, and am consequently familiar with the scenes surrounding what is in fact the early settlement of this country by the whites. It is true that long prior to that time a few Missionaries lived here for the purpose of civilizing and christianizing the Indian. How well they have succeeded late events have demonstrated.

The discovery of gold at Oro Fino in the Fall of 1860, attracted a large immigration of miners and traders to that place. During the following Summer and subsequently, other mining camps were discovered, all of which have been worked more or less up to the present time. These camps may justly be termed, the key that unlocked this country to civilized men, for the first who came to any considerable number, were attracted hither by the reputed richness of the same. Many however, when here, after laboring to their satisfaction in the golden fields, turned their attention to agricultural pursuits, and built for themselves permanent and happy homes, or what would have been, had it not been for the treachery of the Indian, who laid waste some homes and made the scene, the untimely grave of the inmates.

From the time of the settlement of this country up to the Nez Perce outbreak, the whites and Indians have with a few isolated exceptions lived upon amicable terms.

In August 1875, Samuel Benedict who then resided with his family at the mouth of White Bird creek, killed an Indian, under the following circumstances: Late at night, several drunken Indians came to his house and demanded admission; and upon being refused, commenced smashing in the windows and breaking in the door, in the mean time his wife with her children, under cover of darkness escaped through a back window, waded White Bird creek and went to a neighbors house. Benedict, in defense of his property, and what he no doubt believed to be the life of himself and family, fired and killed an Indian and wounded one or two others. I afterwards had a conversation with some of the Salmon river Indians in relation to the matter, and they said that Benedict was right, and that they did not blame him for the act. Something like a year or more prior to this occurrence, Larry Ott, who lived on the South side of Salmon river, had a difficulty with an Indian, which terminated in the death of the latter. The facts as I have been informed, relative to the matter are these: Ott was living upon and cultivating a piece of land that the Indian wanted; and while engaged at work in his garden, the Indian came and struck him a severe blow on the head with a rock, and was about to repeat the blow when Ott shot and killed him. The Grand Jury impanelled upon the part of the United States, had, (as I have been informed by one of their number,) the killing of this Indian by Ott, under investigation, and were unable to find sufficient evidence of guilt to justify them in bringing in a bill of indictment against him. Since which time Ott has continued to reside in this country, traveling from place to place, and frequently meeting Indians when all alone, far from any settlement, and they never have shown any disposition to molest, or any indication of harboring a spirit of revenge against him. And notwithstanding the false reports that were sent abroad to the effect that he was among the first victims of the late massacre, he is still alive, and a living contradiction of the report which was sent broad cast, that the killing of this Indian by him was the cause of the late outbreak. The commencement of which as near as I can ascertain, was late in the afternoon of Wednesday, June 13th, by the killing of Richard Devins an old man who lived alone on Salmon river, about 12 miles above Slate creek; the next on the line of the bloody march were Henry Elfers, Robert Bland and Henry Beck-

roge, which took place between the hours of six and seven o'clock on the following morning, after which the blood stained villains, mounted the horses the murdered men had been working in the field, and with the fine guns they had captured rode off down the river. Their next victim was Samuel Benedict who was out hunting his cows and near the road when the Indians came along shot and wounded him, he crawled upon his horse and succeeded in reaching his home and did not receive his quietus until later in the afternoon of the same day. There were but three Indians engaged in the killing of Devins, Elfers, Bland and Beckroge, and in the wounding of Benedict two of whom were Salmon river Indians named Mox-Mox and Wall-tits and the other was a strange Indian, name unknown, supposed to belong to Joseph's band. I got this information from Charles F. Cone; a resident of Slate creek who met the said three Indians a short distance below that place, as they were coming from the scenes of the first murdering, he recognized the horses that they were riding as those of Elfers. A few days after Perry's fight with the Indians on White Bird, and while the people at Slate creek were fortified up Mox Mox returned to that place, and upon being asked why they had killed Elfers and the other citizens, said that they did it to get their guns. Thus showing that it was neither hatred or revenge. So far as these men were concerned, that instigated them to commit the act. After the three Indians had wounded Benedict they left him and come up to Camas Prairie where a large band of Indians were camped, and it is said that some 17 or more joined them and all immediately returned to Salmon river, this was in the afternoon of the 14th, on their way they shot and wounded J. J. Manuel and little girl, killed James Baker, a man 74 years old, and upon arriving at Benedict's place, they discovered him attempting to escape across White Bird creek, when they shot and he fell dead in the water, floated down the creek a short distance and lodged against a rock, at the same time they killed a Frenchman named Basin. On the following day, if I am not mistaken as to the date, they killed Mrs. Manuel Osborn, Mason and a Frenchman whose name I do not now remember, and Mrs. Osborn and Mrs. Walsh fell into the hands of the Indians, and received treatment that to them was but little better than death. The first information of the outbreak was received at Mt. Idaho in the afternoon of the 14th. Lew Day was immediately sent with a dispatch to Fort Lapwai for assistance. He had proceeded on his way about 25 miles when he was overtaken and fired upon by some Indians, from whom he made his escape with a slight wound in the shoulder, finding that it would be impossible for him to get to Lapwai, he attempted to return, coming by way of the Cottonwood House, kept by B. B. Norton. At which place he found B. B. Norton, Mrs. Norton, Hill Norton, Miss Linn Bowers, John Chamberlain and wife and two children and Joseph Moore. Who were informed of what had occurred, immediately made preparations to go to Mt. Idaho, distant about 18 miles. Mrs. Chamberlain, wife and two children, Mrs. Norton, Hill, Miss Bowers and Lew Day got into a wagon and all hands started at about 10 o'clock at night, Norton and Moore being mounted on horses. They had gone about 10 miles when the Indians came up in their rear and commenced yelling and firing at them, they put their horses to the fullest speed, but still the Indians kept in range and continued to fire. Soon Norton and Moore were both wounded and they abandoned their horses which had also been shot, and got into the wagon and continued their race for life, their team horses however, were soon shot down, and thus apparently, they were left to the mercy of the Indians, when their horses were shot down Miss Bowers and little Hill Norton got out of the wagon and made their escape unharmcd. Mr. Chamberlain, wife and two children got out attempted to escape, but had gone but a short distance when they were discovered by the incarnate fiends. Chamberlain and his little boy were killed, the boy was killed according to the statement of the mother by hav-

ing its head pined between the knees of a powerful Indian and crushed to death; the other child was taken from its mother, a piece of its tongue cut out, a knife run entirely through its neck and thus it was left alone on the prairie to die, while the heart stricken mother was taken and used to satisfy the lust of her hell-born captors, and when this was accomplished, they took their hands and lacerated her womb and the poor woman was left heart broken and bleed on the prairie. Norton, Lew Day, Joe Moore and Mrs. Norton who were left in the wagon crawled out wounded, and lay behind the dead horses for protection against the deadly missiles that were still flying thick and fast, one of which struck Norton and killed him on the spot. Moore was shot through the hips, Day through the shoulder and leg, and Mrs. Norton through the lower part of both legs. The Indians kept up a desultory firing until about day light, when for some unaccountable reason they went away. Miss Bowers having reached Mt. Idaho, the alarm was given, and two or three young men started for the bloody scene, arriving in the vicinity they found Mrs. Chamberlain who had just been abandoned by the Indians also the wounded child lying in the grass. At the wagon they found Mrs. Norton, Mr. Moore and Mr. Day still alive, all of whom were put in the wagon and brought to Mt. Idaho. Day died on the following afternoon; Moore lingered for about six weeks and died. Mrs. Norton got well, also Mrs. Chamberlain and child.

In conclusion I will say, that in my opinion, the immediate and only cause of this outbreak, was the abortive attempt to put these Indians on the reservation.

Very respectfully yours,
J. W. POE.

The above statement has been submitted to me by Mr. J. W. Poe. His statement of the murders and outrageous treatment of our citizens; and the circumstances under which they were committed I believe to be substantially true; and I fully concur with him in the belief that the immediate cause of the war, was the attempt to force these Indians upon the reservation with a force inadequate to the emergency.

Geo. M. SHEARER,
Maj 2nd. Reg't. Idaho Vol's.

Reverses of Emigration.

Waha, April 6th.
Early in the Spring of the present year, two brothers took up land claims on the South side of Red Bird canon, Nez Perce Co., Waha Precinct. They at once proceeded to erect a house upon the dividing line of their claims. Feeling safe and isolated from danger, they resented themselves for a few weeks in the timber, cutting rails and house logs, but on returning to their claims, they found the couplet of a poet verified:

"I never thus from childhood's hour
I have seen my fondest hopes decay."
But if I had caught that prairie flower,
I would turn his steps some other way.

The house they had built was demolished and scattered about the prairie. Some trained cattle stood but a short distance, modest but silent spectators, at once a warning and a protest to any further invasion upon their master's range. But the boys of York were not so easily intimidated, when last seen, they were climbing the skeleton frame of a more commodious and substantial building. Two young married men J. Lambert, and J. A. Lathrup from York State made locations in Waha Precinct last week. They bought the Redfield ranch, consideration three thousand (\$3000) dollars. They also took up two pre-emption and one timber claim joining the Redfield place. I. Bradshaw and other New Yorker has taken a timber claim joining the Jack Olliver ranch. F. W. Godard of Rochester New York, is now getting out logs to erect a cabin on a pre-emption claim that he has just taken up joining the Dave Johnson ranch on the north side. Jack Olliver, the Michigan Yankee is still swearing about his killed horse and when last seen was working out his takes on the county road. Walter Fee has just finished sowing his 80 acre lot and is now breaking sod on his pre-emption. The Underwood & Stevens ranch is looking well. They have eighty acres of wheat in and are now turning sod for their oat crops. Everything about this part of the country is animation. Everybody is busy. The fields are dotted with the moving of plows and barrows and those not busy in the fields are hauling or cutting timber for cabin and fencing purposes. J. A. Glass is making preparation to meet his five daughters at Kelton on their arrival from the east. He has not seen them for sixteen years. They are coming to live with him on his homestead. C. B. B.

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Lewiston I. T. Jan., 19th, 1878

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