

# THE TELLER.

VOL. 1.

LEWISTON, NORTH IDAHO, SATURDAY JULY 14, 1877.

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## THE TELLER.

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—BY—

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The Judicial Districts and the times and places of holding Courts in each are designated by the Supreme Court when in session and are liable to change each year.

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## SITUATION AT KAMIA.

Friday, July 6, 4 A. M.

We give below facts given us by one who was an eye and ear witness of things at Kamia Agency. On the 4th of July there were 253 male Indians just below the Agency mill besides women and children, supposed to be reservation Indians, about 575 in all. There were two white men at the Agency in charge the miller and engineer, and from what had been seen and known, among the Indians were about from fifty to seventy-five guns, some of them Henry rifles, and some revolvers. These guns in several instances were kept cached since the outbreak and not shown in the presence of the whites. One of the Indians told the whites that they had cached their guns. On Sunday the 1st one of the Indians told the miller that he had better go away from there, that he was liable to be killed by some of the Kamias. Before Whipple cleaned out Looking-glass at Clear creek, 17 of Looking-glass' men went over to Joseph's camp, six of them returned and were with Looking-glass at the time of Whipple's attack. Looking-glass had then with him about 30 men. After the attack, Looking-glass came to the Agency, and some Agency Indians went up to Looking-glass' camp. Looking-glass left on the 3d with 17 men to go to Joseph's camp and said he would be back on the 4th, but he had not returned on the morning of the 6th. On the night of the 5th just after dark, two of Joseph's men and three of Looking-glass' men rode near the quarters of the two whites fired off two guns, then gave a war whoop and charged down to the main reservation encampment of Indians. About three-quarters of an hour afterwards four reservation Indians came up and told the whites through one of their number who could speak English, that Joseph's camp was only 12 miles from them, that he would cross the river at Kamia the next day at noon with all his families and stock and was going to the buffalo country, and advised the whites to leave at once lest they be found there and killed by Joseph, and offered to give them an escort of five or six Indians to take them either on the road to Pierce City or Lapwai. They also said that the Agency Indians would not fight Joseph to protect them and the Agency. They declined the escort, and told the Indians to go back, that they would not leave. After they had gone the whites debated about what they should do in this extremity. One was for taking to the brush and secreting themselves till Friday evening relying upon an Indian boy to post them what was going forward with the Indians. The other was for leaving the place immediately and under cover of the night and make their way to Lapwai if possible. They remained in this state of uneasiness till 4 A. M. Friday and then with their horses took the lower trail and made Lapwai without seeing an Indian. Our informant says that Lawyer told them and those at the Lapwai Agency that his Kamia people would not fight Joseph and would not do scout duty against him, that it was all he could do to keep them from joining Joseph against the whites. What has taken place at Kamia since the morning of the 6th we know not up to the time of writing: It is however apparent that the whole Kamia Agency is virtually in the hands of Joseph and his band and with this advantage to stimulate the young men there, it is more than probable that he has received large accessions to his warriors from the Agency Indians. His strength is thus increased and many

more troops will be required to stand him off and save the country from devastation. Since the above was written Jim Reuben informs us that on Friday Joseph with his stock, women and warriors crossed to the North side of Clearwater, destroyed some of the Agency fields and fences, went and made his headquarters between the forks of the Middle and South fork of the river, held a council of his men, some were for going to Montana and others said they were not fighting for Montana, but for this country and they would fight there till they died before they would leave it, and that they concluded to leave their stock, women and children and recross the river and clean out Camas Prairie.

## HOWARD'S CAUSE OF THE WAR.

We find the following as the text of the first dispatch of Gen. Howard to Gen. Sherman, relating to the present outbreak; and the prospect before him: "Indians began by murdering a white man in revenge for a murder of his, killing three others at the same time. Since they have begun war upon the people near Mt. Idaho. Capt. Perry started with two companies for them. Other troops are being brought forward. Give me authority for twenty-five Indian scouts. Think we shall make short work of it."

This was telegraphed from Washington to New York on the 19th of June and published on the morning of the 20th. Here is an official dispatch from Howard charging that the "Indians began by murdering a white man in revenge for a murder of his." No fact existed at that time to justify Howard's sending such a telegram. The cause assigned at his adjutants office in Portland on the eve of the 16th of June, was a horse trade of Ben Nortons. Does the Gen. now think he will make short work of it? He will first get out of the hole in the rocks he moved his army into scenting Joseph, while Joseph himself and his murderous band are back on Camas Prairie fighting volunteers and destroying Agency and threatening Lapwai Garrison and even Lewiston. Nature made a trap between Salmon and Snake rivers, Joseph baited it by shaking a red blanket at Howard defiantly across the river. Howard followed the bait and consumed three days in crossing his 500 men over the stream. When over, Joseph runs back on this side and returned to Camas Prairie. Howard stayed in his trap two weeks before he finds he is in a trap.

## PROPHETIC OPINION.

The Louisville Courier and Journal of June 28th uses the following language in reference to Generals Crook and Howard:

The other two Brigadiers are the gentle HOWARD and the rough-and-tumble CROOK. General CROOK is a first-class Indian fighter. Indeed, he is about the only practical, old-fashioned Indian fighter left. He sticks his breeches in his boots, keeps his powder dry, eats hard tack and goes for 'em. It is whispered in the frontier settlements as he passes that "there ain't no foolishness about him," which remark has reference to the entire absence of sentiment in his contemplation of the Indian question. HOWARD is just the reverse of CROOK. He regards the army as a kind of missionary society for the conversion of the Indians, and he considers himself as the head of a kind of red freedman's bureau. He will inform every redskin he meets that he is his brother, and that brothers should live in peace. The red brother will assent and will mournfully repair to the nearest unprotected settlement and endeavor to secure a lock of his white brother's hair as a remembrance.