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OUR INDIAN WARS.

The Oregon War Ended—Success of the United States Troops under Col. Wright—Two Other Battles Fought and Won—Indians Flying and Suing for Peace—Suffering of the Troops—Sharp's Rifles the Peacemakers—Speeches of Col. Wright and the Chiefs in Council—Another Victory in New Mexico—Indian Troubles in Texas.

Official Account of the Indian Battles for the Past Year and the Officers Engaged,

&c., &c., &c.

OUR SAN FRANCISCO CORRESPONDENCE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 14, 1858.

The Last Battle in Oregon—The Fight and Victory at Spokan Plains—Narrow Escape of Colonel Wright—The Bodies of Captain Taylor and Lieutenant Gaston Recovered—A Murderer Hung—The Jesuit Fathers Sue for Peace on Behalf of the Indians.

The Oregon war is now virtually ended. The Indians are suing for peace. The spirit of insubordination that prevailed for months and their high hopes of victory have been completely crushed by the energy and determination of the military commanders. Two other brilliant victories have been achieved by Colonel Wright and his troops. The Portland (Oregon) *Standard* says:—"The sanguinary contest waged by the United States troops against the savages in Oregon and Washington Territories has been brought to a close."

A letter in the *Oregonian* describes the late battles. It is dated, "Camp at the Cœur d'Alene Mission, Washington Territory, September 16:"—

You last heard of the expedition against hostile northern Indians from our camp at the Four Lakes, since which we have passed through scenes of much interest, and of an exciting character. The battle of the Four Lakes, fought Sept. 1, compelled the command to rest in camp until the morning of the 5th, when we resumed our march for the Spokan river over the Spokan plains. Early on the march the Indians had assembled to five or six hundred, and soon evinced a determination to impede our progress and give us battle. Our column being closed, and train well guarded, the foot companies of artillery were thrown out on either flank, under Capt. Keyes; the howitzer, under Lieut. White, placed in position, with Capt. Winder's company supporting it; dragoons, under Major Grier, held back. Soon a volley from the enemy announced that the battle had begun, but not before they had formed the third of a circle around us, and at every point set fire to the grass, and, the wind blowing high and against us, soon the command was enveloped in fire and smoke, which afforded a complete cover for the enemy, who, taking advantage of it, fired volley after volley. Soon the advance was sounded, and the men, flushed with the successes and victory at the Four Lakes, each determined that our enemy should either leave the field or bite the dust. Emerging from the smoke and flame, which was now enveloping and threatening the whole train, they showed fine proofs of the *lex talionis*, and poured volley after volley, which told with deadly effect, and drove the enemy from the plain to the timber, which lay in the rear about a fourth of a mile. The howitzer moving up, under Lieutenant White, under the general direction of Lieutenant Mullan, mowed down the enemy, and drove him from cover to cover, doing as much damage by frightening them by its whistling and explosion as by its more deadly effects.

The column and train being well guarded, Captains Ord and Hardie, Lieutenants Tyler and Gibson, are deployed through the timber, which now swarmed with the red devils, bellowing and yelling like fiends from hades. Lieutenant Gregg, with one company of dragoons, follows in the rear on the left, and Major Grier, with his own and Lieutenant Pender's company, on the right, each awaiting a favorable moment, when the enemy would move into a more open region, to charge down with their commands, which had already dealt such deadly blows in the battle of the Four Lakes. The enemy takes cover behind trees and stones, and lie concealed in dangerous, difficult ravines and canons; but men never moved more steadily, or confronted danger more terrible in better order, than did the foot troops of the Third artillery. But steadily, unwaveringly, as in a drill, they advanced, halted, fired, scaled difficult walls of pedrigal, and drove the Indians from cover to cover till the woods for four miles were cleared to the right and left. The firing was warm on each side, and the Indians were now flying in confusion to our front, but still loth to leave the field to us; and, marshaling their now scattered fragments, determined once more to contest for what they had now lost, and with this view groups of from four to twenty gathered at points in our front. But before this took place, finding a favorable occasion, Maj. Grier, with his squadron of his own and Lieut. Pender's company, sounds the charge, and like lightning the now anxious men and horses move over the ground, and soon overtake, cut down, and leave upon the field an enemy that was so exulting. But they had not yet left the field, but as the woods skirted us on all sides, they gathered in their scattered fragments and once more came to the attack. Again troops are thrown out to the right and left, and again we moved steadily onward and drove them again before us, and the command continued to fight for seven consecutive hours over a line of sixteen miles, without water, and firing at every point.

We killed two chiefs and many other Indians, wounding a large number, and killed and captured many horses. On one of the dead bodies was found by Lieutenant Tyler's company the pistol worn by Lieutenant Gaston in Steptoe's battle, his horse, saddle and all falling a booty to the company.

About four o'clock the command struck the Spokan river, much exhausted and broken down. Only one man was wounded in the fight, none killed; which may be regarded as the most wonderful thing on record, for the firing by the enemy was warm and long. But our long-ranged rifles placed them at great disadvantage, and they had to give way before us. We made camp on the Spokan, where, being much exhausted, we rested the next day to recruit men and animals. Never did men fight braver or bolder. The blood of men slain without cause or provocation seemed to impel each individual soldier to a surer aim, and, with a determination to make safe his enemy, lowered his rifle and caused each his man to know we were fast becoming their masters. Colonel Wright, with his staff, Dr. Hammond, Captain Kirkham, Lieutenant Mullan and Lieutenant Owen, were moving from point to point over the field, while Major Grier and his ever ready dragoons spread dismay among the Indians. Lieutenant Pender acted during the fight with marked gallantry—coming up with an Indian, with his hand hurling him from his saddle, and then despatching him. Lieutenant Tyler's company and Capt. Ord did most effective service, and bore in all probability the greatest brunt of the battle. But each and all deserved the highest credit, for the enemy was braver and bolder than Indian enemies usually are, and only left the field from the most dire necessity. The ever active and energetic Captain Keyes, with his line of skirmishers, assisted by his adjutant, Lieutenant Kipp, moved from end to end of his line, near a mile long, and did most gallant service, the balls whistling round him at every point. Colonel Wright made a narrow escape from being shot while the balls told through our ranks throughout its length during the early action. Capt. Dent's and Lieut. Davidson's companies, and the friendly Indians, under Lieut. Mullan, guarded the train, that now move on like a piece of machinery.

Gaining the river, we found our enemy on the opposite bank, flying to his camp, with his bands of loose horses with him, to gain points far from our reach. The Indians, however, still hovered around us on the opposite bank, watching our movements, and anxious to know our next steps, for they had tried both plain and forest, and being worsted in each must have been now at a loss to know how to move next. Garry, the Spokan chief, sent in for permission to enter our camp, to explain his position and connection with the affair of Col. Steptoe, which was granted him, and he entered our second camp on the Spokan.

Leaving this camp on hearing our enemies were in force above on the Spokan, we determined to move up, which was done along the south bank of the Spokan for a distance of six miles. On the first day's march we passed the great Spokan Falls, a most beautiful sheet of water, where the whole river, having a fall of from forty to fifty feet, comes plunging over an inclined ledge of rocks, through a high, narrow basaltic canon, with beautiful fore and back grounds, affording a landscape that the artist might truly envy.

Reaching our new camp, some of the hostiles coming in, two of them were made prisoners, one being Polahtken, the chief of the Spokans. One, proving to be one of the murderers of the miners on the Palouse in early spring, was hung.

Moving our camp the next day we came upon a large camp of Cœur d'Alenes and Paulouses travelling, when preparations were again made for battle, but finding the Indians in hasty retreat, the dragoons, under Major Grier, and the friendly Indians, under Lieut. Mullan, were sent in advance, and, after a pursuit of six miles, overtook them, drove them from the field, and captured a band of eight hundred horses and a band of horned stock.

The command were again compelled to remain in camp two days to kill the horses captured, as they would not only be in our way, but we wanted to inflict a blow upon the enemy, and hence determined to shoot them; and after picking out one hundred of the best, seven hundred beautiful horses and mares were driven in a corral and left dead. Major Grier with his command was again sent out, and burnt a village and seven barns of wheat. The command then moved towards the Cœur d'Alene Mission, burning fences and fields and every vestige of improvement by the roadside, when the Indians sent in a Father to sue for peace. The Palouses and Spokans have fled. The Cœur d'Alenes are coming in, acknowledge their action, and will abide the result. They were our bravest enemies and fought well.

We may remain here for several days, and hence start for Col. Steptoe's battle ground. Four Cœur d'Alenes bear this express to the settlements. We await anxiously the news from more civilized sections. We are now in the mountain fastnesses, weather cold at night, short rations, men almost barefoot, but the command in good spirits, for our successes have been unprecedented in Indian warfare—one complete series of brilliant successes, without as yet one reverse. Col. Wright, thus far, has received the encomiums of all, and that a kind Providence and a prudent, discreet, sound judgment on his part may hereafter guide the remainder of his acts while on this expedition, is the only wish.

For the satisfaction of those who have friends in the expedition, we will merely give in addition a passage from the official report of Captain Keyes, mentioning the officers deserving of special commendation for their gallantry:—

"The companies and officers particularly distinguished yesterday were Company K, Captain E. O. C. Ord and Lieutenant M. R. Morgan; Company G, Captain J. A. Hardie and Lieutenant D. Ransom; Company M, Lieutenants Gibson and Dandy; Company A, Lieutenants Tyler and Lyon; and the detachment Company D, Lieutenant J. E. White. The conduct of Lieutenant Lawrence Kipp, Adjutant of the battalion, was excellent throughout the day."

The day after one of the Fathers came in from the Mission, in the name of the Indians, suing for peace. Councils were then held, and the tribes unconditionally surrendered, giving up their women and children as security for good behavior. Hostages have thus been obtained from all the tribes, who will be detained till spring at Walla Walla and Fort Vancouver.

Among the chiefs captured was Ouhi, one of their greatest leaders. A few days afterwards his son, the celebrated Qualchin, came into camp, not knowing his father was a prisoner. He was one of the worst and most dangerous Indian chiefs in the Territory. He was at once seized, and after some resistance, for he was well armed, disarmed by the guard. An order was received from Colonel Wright that he should be hung at once, which was done. His struggles were fearful, and it required six men to put the rope around his neck. Quite a number of others were hung, who were proven to have murdered miners.

A detachment was sent to Col. Steptoe's battle ground, who brought back the remains of Capt. Taylor and Lieut Gaston. They likewise recovered the two howitzers lef by him; the carriages had been burned by the Indians. Various other articles belonging to that command have been surrendered up by the Indians.

The troops then commenced their march back, and by this time have reached Walla Walla. On their return to Fort Vancouver the battalion will be broken up and the companies again distributed to their posts.

Thus ends the Oregon war, which last May threatened to be so serious. With his officers Col. Wright has established the character of a most able commander, and we trust that government will show their appreciation of the services both of himself and his subordinate officers. Capt. Keyes particularly, who commanded the artillery battalion, is worthy of the highest praise for his discipline as well as gallantry in the field.

Our Indian wars heretofore have told a sad story of the loss of life and property. Here, it is the reverse. Everything has been accomplished with no loss of life, and in a single campaign. The Indians have been thoroughly overawed, and we have permanently "conquered a peace."

OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT'S ACCOUNT.

RESUME OF COLONEL STEPTOE'S CALAMITY—THE MARCH OF COLONEL WRIGHT'S COMMAND TO AVENGE IT—THE BATTLE OF THE "FOUR LAKES"—DEFEAT AND FLIGHT OF THE ENEMY—THE PURSUIT AND FINAL SUBMISSION OF THE INDIANS—HANGING SOME OF THE CHIEFS—INFLUENCE OF THE PRIESTS—THE INDIAN COUNCIL AND SPEECHES OF COLONEL WRIGHT AND THE BRAVES, ETC.

As your readers are aware, Colonel Steptoe, with 120 men, mounted and armed with the short range musketoon and two howitzers, were attacked in May last, about thirty miles south of Spokan river, by some 1,200 Indians. After a gallant defence of twenty-four hours, having had two officers and five men and his interpreter killed, and fourteen men wounded—the Indians having all the advantage of ground, overwhelming force, and long range rifles, with which they could stand afar off and shoot down his men, without danger from his musketoons—Col. Steptoe, to save his men from utter annihilation, was compelled to retreat, which he did, leaving two howitzers, a number of packs of provisions, and some pack animals, to the Indians. The Indians, who suffered in this affair twice the loss inflicted on us, were instigated by the rumors that the white men intended to build roads into their country, (there is now an appropriation for that purpose), to drive them from it, and take it for themselves; hence the "Cœur d'Alenes," "Spokans," "Pend d'Oreilles," being ignorant of the power and motives of the whites, were influenced by the most desperate of the "Yakimas" and "Palouses," "Walla Wallas" and "Renegade Nez Perces," thieving bands who having depredated for some years upon the frontier settlers and miners of Washington and Oregon Territories, who wished to unite as many powerful bands as possible with them against the whites, whom they had already made enemies. As Col. Steptoe was in the midst of their most populous and fruitful, or rootful region, with a small party of soldiers, they selected their own time and the best position to fall upon him, which attack, being among what as yet were known as friendly Indians, he was unable to resist. To punish the Indians engaged in this and previous outrages against the whites, Col. Wright's command was organized by detachments of artillery ordered from California (some of them had to travel from the remote south), by dragoons from Washington, and infantry from Oregon territories; the command of 600 left Walla Walla on the 7th; after a five days' march (during which part of Col. W.'s command suffered much for want of water, the heat and dust), Snake river, south fork of the Columbia, was reached—a road having been constructed part of the way. Here, the stream being wide, rapid and deep, boats were built with which to cross the men and stores, and a small fort constructed, and a garrison of sixty men of the Third artillery left in the fort to protect the ferry and keep open our communications with Fort Walla Walla. The rest of the command, 540 strong, with thirty-five days' stores and provisions, carried by a train of 500 animals, crossed Snake river on the 25th and 26th, without the loss of an animal, and on the 27th of August took up the march for the Spokan country, where it was rumored the united tribes of the whole north had prepared to meet them. After five days' march over a waste of rocks and pampas—the grass having been burned most of the route—the advance of the enemy attacked our piquets forty miles south of the Spokan river, and were driven off. The next day, after a severe march of twenty miles without water, the rear guard skirmishing part of the way, we camped at a small pond, being near what is called the Four Lakes, and twenty-five miles from the falls of Spokan river. Next day, the 1st of September, the Indians (who were all well mounted) had the impudence to approach our piquets and dare us out to fight them. (Hitherto we had continued our march to their villages on the Spokan.) Col. Wright, with 300 men, consisting of parts of companies K, G, A and B, Third artillery; B and E, Ninth infantry; C, E, H and I, First dragoons, were formed. The dragoons, in one column, were directed to approach a high bare hill (on which about forty of the enemy showed themselves) by the left; the artillery and infantry, on foot, approached the hill by the right; when opposite the hill a detachment of each (the foot under Capt. Ord and the dragoons under Lieut. Davidson) drove this party from the hill; discovered the main body of the enemy, about 300 strong, occupying a strong position (between two lakes bordered with timber) at the foot of this hill; the position of the Indians being flanked by the two lakes and the timber, was such that it could not be turned. The attack was made; the result you have read. After a short sharp resistance the Indians fled, and we drove them, or the scattered detachments of them, for several miles; their good horses enabled nearly all to escape, though thirteen were reported killed and more than twice that number wounded. After this battle, called the "Four Lakes," we rested four days. On the fifth we marched for Spokan Falls; the enemy in great force attempted to intercept our march by burning the grass on the plains, and attacking the column during its march through the woods at every point which offered them cover, so that the march was a continuous and harassing fight for four or five hours, during which we were at times surrounded by the flaming grass, under the smoke of which the enemy attempted a general attack; they were repulsed and driven at and from every point. We continued our march, which, being without water for twenty-five miles, were out the foot men more than driving off the enemy. We had but two wounded; the enemy lost a number killed and wounded, but from the nature of the ground this loss could not be ascertained. Spokan Geary reports having lost two of his brothers and the Cœur d'Alenes a chief. On the 6th and 7th inst., on the banks of the Spokan, the Indians gathered and supplicated for peace, but Col. Wright drove them from his camp unless they would submit to an unconditional surrender of themselves, with their arms and families. On the 8th, after hanging an Indian against whom murder was proven, the march was continued for the Cœur d'Alene Mission, distant sixty miles, at which point Col. W. was informed by the priests the Cœur d'Alenes were assembling to submit to his terms. On the way, in Spokan Valley large herds of horses were being driven off by the enemy—Spokans and Palouses. They were pursued, over a thousand captured, and the herds being too numerous to drive along, two days were spent in camp to shoot those animals—a cruel but necessary labor—the best having been selected for use; seven hundred and ninety-two horses were shot. Our march was continued to Cœur d'Alene lake—a pretty sheet of water, surrounded by mountains—thence through dense pine, cypress and hemlock forests, over rocky spurs, across quiet glades and pretty valleys. In three days we reached the mission, with its towering old civilized looking church, around which were huddled the uncouth Indian lodges. Lowing herds, smiling, well fenced and tilled fields, barns full of grain and many well constructed log houses, told what fifteen years of missionary labor had done for these savages. Evening and morning the air resounded with their prayers and hymns; and under the guidance of their priest, whom they had forgotten in the heat of battle, they agreed to Col. W.'s terms—delivered the leaders of the attack on Col. Steptoe from their band (four hostages) for future good behaviour, all the captured property, and proved themselves sorry for what they had done. It was on the 17th of September that the council was held with the Cœur d'Alenes. The head chief (Vincent) opened the council by rising and saying: "My people have committed a great crime. We are fully conscious of it now, and are deeply sorry for it. I and my people are rejoiced that you are willing to forgive us." He sat down, and the Colonel replied: "Cœur d'Alenes, as your chief has said, you have committed a great crime. You attacked Colonel Steptoe when he was marching peacefully through your country, and you slew some of his people. It has made angry your Great Father, and I have been sent to punish you. But you ask for peace, and you shall have it on certain conditions. The Great Spirit hears me. You see that you contend against us hopelessly. I have a great many soldiers. There are as many more at Walla-Walla, and I am expecting a large number from Salt Lake. What can you do against us? I can place my soldiers on your canons, plains, at your fishing grounds, and in the mountains where you catch game and gather berries, and your helpless families cannot run away. These are the conditions on which you may have peace.—You must deliver up to me the young men who struck the first blow in the affair with Colonel Steptoe. I will take them to the General. You must deliver to me one of your chiefs and four of your men, with their families. I will take them to Walla-Walla, as security for your good conduct hereafter. You must deliver to me all the property of every kind taken at the fight of Col. Steptoe. You must allow all troops and all other white men to pass at all times unmolested through your country. You must not allow any hostile Indians to come into your country, and you must not engage in any hostilities against the white men. Besides, you must be at peace with the Nez Perces. On these conditions you can have peace. I will withdraw from your country, and you may have peace forever." Vincent said that "he wished to hear the Nez Perces speak." Uchimalikin, their chief, rose and said—"You behold me before you. I will lay my heart open to you. I desire that there shall be peace between us. I will never wage war against you, nor against any of the friends of the white men." Vincent replied:—"It does my heart good, and makes all my people glad to hear you speak so. I have ever desired peace between us. There shall never be war between us, nor between us and the white men. The past is forgotten." The pipe of peace was smoked all around. The conditions of the Colonel were complied with, and we have with us here four of the young braves and a chief and four men, with their families, as hostages.

From the Mission we followed down the Cœur d'Alene river (a placid stream, flowing through forests and mountain meadows) to its junction with the lake of the same name, thence across pine covered hills to St. Joseph's river, which flows through a beautiful little valley, thence to this camp on the L'Hatta, via open plains with spurs of pines. Here we have met the assembled Spokans, who have gladly accepted the same terms as the Cœur d'Alenes. We have taken some of the worst Yakimas and Palouses; in all we have twenty-four prisoners, among them the notorious "Owhie," a Yakima chief of desperate character; have executed his son Qualchin—the worst Yakima alive since the death of "Quitomeany." In addition to our other successes we learn that the two sons of Polatkin—war chiefs of the Spokans and principals in the attack of Col. Steptoe—are wounded, that Kamiakin was nearly killed by a shell, and that the Palouses and renegade Nez Perces are waiting to meet us and take any terms for peace, near the banks of Palouse river, for which point we start to-morrow. Yesterday we recovered the howitzers left by ol. Steptoe, and the remains of the officers and men killed there. Thus the country, in the space of six weeks, is entirely pacified and open to travel—more than sixty of the enemy, including some of their leading men, killed or wounded—security obtained for the future and indemnity for the past—only three of our men wounded—a number of the enemy's barns and houses, containing quantities of grain and property, were burned on the banks of the Spokan, and many of their horses killed in our fights, which I omitted to mention. These results are attributable to a good command, well managed and armed. The road from Fort Benton to Fort Walla Walla will now soon be opened, for there will not be a hostile Indian left in the country through which it passes west of Fort Benton.

The officers and men of our command have worked hard and fought well.

The officers, according to rank, are—

Col. Geo. Wright, commanding	Ninth Infantry.
Brevet Major W. N. Grier	First Dragoons.
Capt. E. D. Keyes	Third Artillery.
Capt. E. O. C. Ord	Third Artillery.
Capt. F. F. Dent	Ninth Infantry.
Capt. C. S. Winder	Ninth Infantry.
Capt. J. A. Hardie	Third Artillery.
First Lieut. H. G. Gibson	Third Artillery.
First Lieut. H. B. Fleming	Ninth Infantry.
First Lieut. R. O. Tyler	Third Artillery.
First Lieut. J. L. White	Third Artillery.
First Lieut. M. R. Morgan	Third Artillery.
First Lieut. H. B. Davidson	First Dragoons.
First Lieut. D. R. Ransome	Third Artillery.
First Lieut. George P. Ihrie	Third Artillery.
Second Lieut. W. D. Pender	First Dragoons.
Second Lieut. D. McN. Gregg	First Dragoons.
Second Lieuts. Lyon, Dandy, Howard, Kipp	Third Artillery.

And the staff of Col. Wright, being Capt. Kirkham, Assistant Quartermaster; Assistant Surgeons J. F. Hammond and J. F. Randolph; First Lieut. Mullan, Second Artillery, acting Topographical Engineer; and First Lieut. P. A. Owen, Adjutant Ninth Infantry.

EFFICIENCY OF THE GENERALS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 20, 1858.

General Clarke's Ability—Advantage of Having Only One Pacific Military Department—The Troops to Remain at Their Present Posts, &c., &c.

Throughout this whole transaction General Clarke has acted with consummate military skill, sagacity and judgment. His plans were well and maturely laid, and their full and complete success show not only this but also that Colonel Wright and Major Garnett carried them out faithfully and vigorously.

There is one most important fact to be noted in this Indian war bearing vitally upon the future welfare of the inhabitants of the Pacific coast, and it is this:—If there had been two departments upon the Pacific instead of one this campaign could not have been so prompt and decisive. As there was but one department, Gen. Clarke met with no delay whatever in making his arrangements and carrying forward to a completely successful termination this glorious campaign. This blow of retaliation was struck promptly, vigorously and successfully, and that, too, in a period of time which would necessarily have been lost in sending to Washington had two departments existed on the Pacific instead of only one. As it was, one head had the sole control, and all was success. Had there been two departments this could not have been done, for the Commandant of the Department of California could not and would not have permitted the troops to be taken thus from his department without the necessary orders from Washington city.

Again, San Francisco is the great commercial centre of the whole Pacific country—the news from all points most rapidly reaches this point, and all other parts are supplied from it. Nature, as well as commerce, points it out as the proper central position for military affairs and operations and supplies, as well as for commercial pursuits.

Generals Clarke and Harney have decided to let the troops remain for the present as they are now, viz., Utopia, Humboldt, Crook, Terwaw, Tejon and Yuma, to retain their present garrisons, and that on their arrival the Sixth regiment of Infantry shall be detained in the new department of California until they can hear from Washington city. All this seems to me the result of sound judgment. It will save the great outlay that would necessarily result from sending the Sixth regiment to Oregon and bringing the artillery down here.

San Diego and San Bernardino are to be re-garrisoned as soon as the Sixth regiment arrives, and a detachment of the same will immediately be sent to relieve the volunteer company near Humboldt, called out by Governor Weller.

SUBMISSION OF THE SPOKANS.

COLONEL WRIGHT AND THE SPOKANS IN COUNCIL—SPEECHES OF THE COLONEL AND THE CHIEF MELCAPSY—ARREST OF TWO YAKIMA BRAVES AND EXECUTION OF ONE OF THEM—GOOD SERVICES OF A JESUIT PRIEST, ETC.

A correspondent of the San Francisco *Herald* gives the following account of Colonel Wright's interview with the Spokans on the 23d of September, at the camp near Steptoe's battle ground, Washington Territory:—

The Spokans met the Colonel here in council yesterday. All their chiefs were present, and numbers of the men. The same terms were offered to them that were offered to the Cœur d'Alenes. They accepted them, after numerous expressions of thanks. There were a chief and one or two of the Pen d'Orielles, and a chief and eight or ten men of the Pelouse Indians, present, but not enough to enter into a treaty with. Melcapsy, the wealthiest of the Cœur d'Alenes, was present. He had not met us at the Mission. Toward the close of the council the Colonel addressed him as follows:—

"Melcapsy! I saw your letter to General Clarke. You said to the General, 'perhaps you think that we are poor and desire peace. We are neither poor nor wish peace. If you want peace you must sue for it, and in doing so take care that you do not come beyond the battle ground.' Who asks for peace? I do not. And where stands the battle ground? Melcapsy thinks that he is rich—has bands of horses, houses and farms, and barns of grain. Let him remember that riches sometimes take wings and fly away. Tikowitz was once wealthy. He is poor now. Melcapsy, look upon the banks of the Spokan. I wish to hear Melcapsy speak."

Melcapsy reflected a moment, whispered a few words to a friend at his side, removed his head dress, rose and said:—"I am now aware that I have committed a great crime; I am very sorry for it; my heart is cast down. But I heard your speech just made in the council, and I have confidence in what you said, and thank you for it. I am ready to abide by the terms of the treaty."

In the afternoon Owhy, the Yakima chief, came into our camp most unexpectedly. We had had no communication with him; he had been driven out of his country by Major Garnett; he came in without a white flag, and was made prisoner. He was ordered to send a messenger forthwith to his son, Quaichin, a notorious bandit, and say to him that if he did not join the Colonel before he should cross the Snake river, within five days, that Owhy should be hung. This morning the Colonel had a talk with the band of one chief and ten men of the Pelouse Indians. He reminded them that he had warned them, before the expedition left, that if they engaged in the war he would hang them. He retained three of them under guard and released the others, telling them to go and inform their people that if they did not come in with their families before the expedition returns across the Snake river, the three men retained should be hung. Shortly after this two fine looking Indians, with a remarkably pretty squaw, rode boldly into our camp and halted in front of the Colonel's tent. We were surprised to find that the head of this little party was Qualchin himself. So daring was the act, and so peculiar his bearing, that it seemed probable his intention was to commit some desperate act. The guard was brought, and before he had collected himself he was conducted to the guard house. The two men were armed with Hudson Bay muskets, and the squaw with a beautiful lance. On reaching the guard house he became unruly, and it required six men to manage him. He was secured by cords, and a navy revolver, loaded and capped, was found on him. By order of the Colonel the murderer was immediately hung. As he was borne off to the gallows, his father disclaimed him, saying, "He is not my son; he has always followed the counsels of Kamiakin." He died cursing Kamiakin. The others of his party left camp immediately, unmolested.

The 26th instant we will march from here, and in ten days will reach Fort Walla-Walla, and thus end the expedition against the northern Indians. In closing, it is but just to say that, notwithstanding the military skill displayed, the severe chastisement given the Indians, and their dismay, and, perhaps, some good fortune, there is not a doubt that, had it not been for the influence and great exertions of the Father Jesset, of the Society of Jesus, who has for the last fourteen years had charge of the Mission of the Sacred Heart in the deep wilderness of the Cœur d'Alene mountains, the present result to the expedition would not have been obtained. Scourged and scattered as the Indians were, they could not otherwise have been brought in—their very dismay would have kept them out.

THE INDIAN WAR IN NEW MEXICO.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF CAPTAIN HATCH—BATTLE AT THE ARROYO AND DEFEAT OF THE INDIANS.

FORT DEFIANCE, N. M., Sept. 25, 1858.

SIR—I have the honor to report that in obedience to Order No. 9, and special instructions of Sept. 23, 1858, I left this post last evening at ten o'clock P. M., in command of Company B, Third infantry, Lieutenant Whipple, and fifty-eight rank and file, and Company I, Mounted Rifles, fifty-eight rank and file, and fifty-four horses. I reached Laganna Negra at five o'clock this morning. Finding the country beyond the Laganna open and rolling, I had no hope of concealing my march should I confine my gait to that of the foot troops and baggage. I therefore reluctantly separated myself from Lieutenant Whipple, leaving the baggage in his charge, and with him six of my mounted men, and moved with as much rapidity as possible, by a circuitous route, to the wheat field of Varcillo Largo, situated about nine miles from the Laganna.

By taking advantage of the irregularities of the ground, I reached without discovery the Arroyo with my company. I succeeded in conducting it within two hundred yards of the ranches of Varcillo Largo's people before I was discovered by them, arriving there at seven o'clock A. M.

I immediately formed in columns of fours, advanced to the front of the Noiges, and dismounted my men within fifty yards of them.

I was met by about forty Navajoes, armed almost exclusively with firearms. The fire was for a few minutes quite warm, when the Navajoes retreated, leaving six dead near the houses, and two certainly of those who escaped severely wounded; one of these, Varcillo Largo himself, the head chief of the Navajoes, probably mortally. My force was so small that I was not willing to allow it to be scattered in the thickets of oak near the ranch to look up the dead and wounded; were it not for this, I think I could have reported a larger loss of the enemy. I captured upon the ground over fifty horses, and a large number of buffalo robes, blankets, saddles, &c.; many of these latter articles I caused to be thrown upon the wheat stack, which was fired by my orders. I then moved with the company to the open ground one and a half miles west of the wheat fields, when I was joined by the remainder of the command, under Lieut. Whipple. After getting breakfast for the command, I returned to this post, where I arrived at six o'clock P.M., having marched a distance of fifty miles in twenty hours, and that upon one meal.

I am happy to be able to report that I bring my command back to this post in as good condition as when I left here. The only reason I can give for this is, that these Indians are unaccustomed to the use of firearms. Most of them were probably using for the first time arms purchased for this war. Had they been armed with bows and arrows, I must have had numerous casualties to report, for certainly no man ever behaved with more gallantry and coolness than did Varcille Largo, until he had discharged his last shot from his rifle and revolver. I cannot praise too highly the conduct of my company. Their prompt obedience to orders, under a heavy fire, proved their discipline, as their unflinching behavior and their gallantry. Where all behaved so well, none could desire special mention. The excellent conduct of First Sergeant McGrath can, however, be mentioned without injustice to the remainder of the company, as all will take pleasure in testifying that the reputation earned a few months since, under similar circumstances, was well sustained on this occasion.

None can regret more than myself the circumstance that forced upon me the leaving in the rear of Lieutenant Whipple and his gallant command. It was painful to my feelings, but I felt it was my duty to do so; and Lieutenant Whipple generously coincided with me in opinion. Yours, very respectfully,

J. P. HATCH,
Captain in command of Rifle Company I.

INDIAN TROUBLES IN TEXAS.

OUR CAMANCHE RESERVE CORRESPONDENCE.

CAMANCHE RESERVE, TEXAS, Oct. 26, 1858.

Trouble in the Camanche Reserve—United States Troops Called Out—Conflict of Jurisdiction between Federal and State Authorities—Duty of the Government either to Remove or Protect the Indians, &c.

Since Major Van Dorn's defeat of the Indians on the Wachita, some weeks ago, the most interesting event that has occurred in this remote quarter has been a conflict and almost a collision between federal and State (county) authorities on a question of jurisdiction over the Indians settled upon this reserve.

It seems that a young man, named Johnson, was wounded some months ago with an arrow, discharged at him by an Indian who met or overtook him on the road, some miles from this reserve. Now, although it was known at the time that a party of wild Indians were in that immediate neighborhood, with, as was since ascertained, Lieut. Burleson of the Rangers, in hot pursuit, Johnson and his friends have resolved, at this late date, to fix the crime upon some one of the friendly Indians domesticated at this place. The law must have its victim, and as it has proved impossible to catch either a Kickapoo, a Kioway or a wild Camanche, the offended peace and dignity of the very law abiding people of this region must be appeased by the sacrifice of a red skin, no matter whether the owner thereof may have been guilty or not of any other offence than the possession of a brick-dust colored hide.

Accordingly, on the 21st inst., the Sheriff of the county, armed with a writ issued by a county court, set forth from Belknap, some thirty-six miles distant, with a *posse comitatus* of some forty well armed persons at his back, with the intention of proceeding to the Camanche village, and arresting an Indian; no matter what Indian—they could fill up the blank in the writ when they found one to suit.

Major Neighbors, Supervising Agent Texas Indians, being advised of the movement, immediately called upon the commanding officer at Camp Cooper (on this reserve) to assist him with all his force in maintaining the laws. Accordingly, on the morning of the 22d, Captain Palmer, of Second cavalry, who is in command of about half a company, got all his available force under arms, and proceeded, with Major Neighbors and several other gentlemen, to meet the invaders. They encountered them, brimful of wrath and whiskey, some four miles from the Camanche agency. After the compliments of the morning, a fierce war of words commenced between Major Neighbors and the Sheriff, but after a brisk discussion of about an hour the latter withdrew his forces. The only arguments used by Major Neighbors were common sense and an act of the Legislature of the State of Texas granting the reserves to the United States government, and ceding to it entire, sole and uncontrolled jurisdiction over such Indians as said government might choose to settle thereon. The Sheriff feeling satisfied that process must issue from the United States District Court, and be served by a United States Marshal, made a virtue of necessity and retired. I cannot say what effect the presence of the "bold dragoons" had in quickening the movements of the entire posse; I can only state that I would rather have been excused from being one of a party attempting to take a Camanche from the midst of his fellows. The ugly twang of seventy or eighty bowstrings would have been heard a dozen times in about as many seconds—every "twang" winging an arrow with force enough to drive it through man or horse.

This occurrence exhibits the necessity of maintaining a sufficient force on this reserve to protect the Indians from such lawless attacks as the above. No matter whether the red men should beat off their white assailants or not, the immediate consequence would be the same, namely, the Indians would fly precipitately to their former haunts and mountain fastnesses—the fostering care of three years, the expenditure of half a million in civilizing them so far, would all go as nought—and this frontier would have invoked upon it the vengeance of several hundred fresh enemies. Let the Indian Office and the War Department look to it.

INDIAN BATTLES FOR THE PAST YEAR AND THE OFFICERS ENGAGED.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 22.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
NEW YORK, Nov. 10, 1858.

The following combats with hostile Indians—in which the conduct of the troops, including volunteers and employés in the United States military service, is deserving of high praise for gallantry and hardships—have occurred, or been brought to the notice of the General-in-Chief, since the publication of General Order, No. 14, of 1857, viz.:—

I. *May* 24, 1857.—The northern column of the Gila expedition, commanded by Colonel W. W. Loring, Mounted Riflemen—having under him Company I and detachments from Companies C and D Mounted Riflemen; Company B and a detachment from Company E, 3d Infantry; a band of friendly Navajo Indians, and Captain Manuel Chavez's company of spies and guides—after a march, by the main body, of twenty-four days from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and four from the depot on the Gila, overtook, in a most difficult pursuit over a broken and mountainous country, at the Canon de los Muertos Carneros, in the Mogollon mountains, a band of the Mogollon Indians who had been committing depredations on the settlements of the Upper Rio Grande. The result of the action which ensued, was seven Indians killed—among whom was the notorious Mogollon chief Cuchillo Negro—and two wounded. The families of the Indians were taken prisoners, their camp equipage captured, and a flock of about a thousand sheep and a small herd of cattle retaken.

The officers engaged under Colonel Loring were—

Medical Staff—Assistant Surgeon J. Letherman.

Mounted Riflemen—Brevet Captain J. P. Hatch, 1st Lieutenant G. W. Howland, 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant Roger Jones, and 2d Lieutenant C. H. McNally.

3d Infantry—Brevet Major O. L. Shepherd, 1st Lieutenant J. W. Alley, and 2d Lieutenant R. V. Bonneau, the latter commanding the Navajo Indians.

Company of Spies and Guides—Captain Manuel Charvez.

II. *August* 26, 1857.—Captain W. H. Kendrick, Florida Mounted Volunteers, with twenty-five men, followed the trail of a party of Seminoles for two days, and came upon them in a thickly overgrown swamp near Lake Istokpogo, killing one warrior and capturing a quantity of Indian property.

III. *October* 20, 1857.—2d Lieutenant C. Van Camp, 2d Cavalry, with a few men of Company D of his regiment, from Camp Verde, Texas, after a vigorous pursuit of two days, overtook a small party of Comanches who had been depredating on the settlements, and after a hot chase of six miles over a country so broken and rocky that it disabled many of his horses, the sharp rocks tearing the shoes from their hoofs, wounded two Indians and captured most of their property.

IV. *November* 8, 1857.—2d Lieutenant J. B. Witherell, 2d Cavalry, with a small detachment from Companies C and K of his regiment, left the post of Fort Clark, Texas, in pursuit of a party of Comanche Indians, who had, the day before, robbed the mail party of a number of mules. After a pursuit of four days he came upon the marauders at a place near seventy miles to the northwest of the head of the west branch of the Nueces. They had in their possession all the stolen animals, except one mule, which had been killed for food. After a short and severe contest, the Indians were routed and fled, leaving one of their party dead, and all the animals and their own property behind.

Lieutenant Witherell was slightly, and privates Gehrung, of Company C, and Charles Morris and Patrick Connell, of Company K, were severely wounded. In their flight the Indians had made their first march of ninety miles without stopping.

V. *November* 21, 1857.—Capt. W. H. Cone, of the Florida Mounted Volunteers, with his own company and a detachment from his regiment, amounting in