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THE TELLER.

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—BY—

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RETURN OF CEARLEY,

Position of Hostiles, Howard's Position, Hostiles Buying Ammunition, Russians Disheartened.

LETTER FROM L. P. BROWN

MT. IDAHO, Aug. 9th 1877.

A. LELAND—DEAR SIR.—Capt. J. L. Cearley, who left here July 26th with dispatches from Gen. Howard to commanding officer in Bitter Root valley, returned yesterday. Sargeant Baker went with him and they were joined at Elk City by Wesley Little. they traveled over the old trail from Elk City which they found much obstructed by fallen timber, reached the Bitter Root in five days. Capt. Cearley got a fresh horse at the settlement near Girds creek and traveled down the Bitter Root on the east side in the night. He states that the hostile Nez Perces were all in the valley and camped on the west side of the river below Willow creek. He reached Capt. Raun's command near mouth of Lo Lo on the Bitter Root river on the 6th day from here. The Indians had passed his command a few days before in plain sight. Capt. Raun had some talk with Whitebird and Looking-Glass, who stated they were going to the Buffalo country and would not molest any of the settlers if let alone. Capt. Raun was in a fortified position and had 25 regular troops and about 175 volunteers, but no effort was made to stop them. They have been trading at the stores in the valley and were offering a dollar apiece for cartriges, quite a number of horses taken from settlers here had been sold or traded off by the Indians for others in good condition. Mr. Little informed me that they sold Baker's large young horse for $40 and his gold watch for $50 to people of Stevensville, and stated that the title was good for they had killed the man and taken the property. He remonstrated against the traders purchasing anything from them, and Capt. Cearley states that many of the settlers are opposed to the course pursued by the traders and went so far as to tak: what ammunition and whisky they had at Stevensville on hand.

He further says that Gov. Potts of Montana is hurrying volunteers down towards Big Hole with a view of heading them off in that direction and that Gen. Gibbon was coming in from Deer Lodge with a force to join Raun's command. Cearley left Bitter Root valley Thursday Aug. 2d and came up the Lo Lo trail. He met Gen. Howard's force within three days march from Bitter Root valley and brought dispatches from Capt. Raun. The Gen. started with all speed with his cavalry leaving the Infantry to come on. Sergeant Baker remained with them as guide. Cearley and Little came on with dispatches from Howard to Col. Green, and arrived as before stated. No Indians were seen by them on either side of the trails going or coming and he thinks they are nearly all to-gether in the Bitter Root valley, moving along slowly as their stock is getting pretty well used up. Col. Green has sent Col. Sumner with a detachment of Cavalry to Elk City to prevent any retreat in that direction, the balance of his force remain at Kamia and on the Prairie. It appears almost impossible for the hostiles to escape with the present disposition of the forces. L. P. BROWN.

In addition to the matter of the above letter we have received some other items connected with the escape of the hostiles. Before the Indians passed Raun's entrenchments, Whitebird and Looking-Glass had an interview with some of the volunteers who were with Raun, and told them that if the volunteers would not assist Raun in preventing their escape they would go through the settlements and not molest the lives of any of the settlers, but if they assisted Raun then they would kill and destroy wherever they went through the valley. This statement influenced the volunteers to withdraw from Raun. Raun with his few men was unable to to go out of his entrenchments to attack the hostiles, but he opened fire upon them and the Indians passed around him firing as they passed. Traders at Stevensville did sell to these hostiles ammunition till outside settlers took the matter in hand and divested them of all the ammunition and whisky they had. The halter is too good for that class of traders. It seems that want of ammunition is the principal embarassment that the hostiles suffer, and if they succeed in obtaining a supply of that we may expect the Indians will again make a bold stand.

EASTERN WAR.

CHICAGO, Aug. 4.—The *Tribune's* London special says: To retrieve the great disaster at Loftcha and Plevna has now become an imperative necessity for the Russian commanderin-chief, for reasons political as well as strategical. Gloom and forebodings fill the Russian press, and the people are haunted with dread of coming evil. It may be taken for granted that the Russian government will place their last regiment in the field. There is a prospect for one of the most fiercely contested wars Europe has ever seen.

Aug. 5.—The *Times'* London special says it is asserted that Russia is trying to secure intervention by some third power, and that Austria, instigated by Germany, will lend her influence in aiding Russia to secure peace.

A Pera correspondent asserts that Suliman Pasha is pushing the Russians, and will annihilate them. It is thought both the Turkish armies in the north are closing in on the Russian line, with every prospect of success. Only intervention or a miraculous victory will save the Russions from destruction. German sentiment is growing hostile to England, and high authority at Berlin says her policy as to occupation of the Dardanelles will not be permitted.

HD. QRS., IDAHO VOLUNTEERS,
Lewiston I. T. Aug. 7th, 1877.

Regimental Orders
No. 3.

It is with feelings of extreme regret that the Regimental Commander parts with the Columbia County volunteers and takes at this late date, this opportunity of conveying to them his appreciation of their brave and gallant conduct whilst under his command and for the cheerful manner in which they performed all of the duties imposed on them, and I trust that they will have all the happiness and honor that can be conferred on them. My sincere thanks is due to Lieut Waters & Ford, and to 1st Sergt. Crawford, for the assistance given me by them in all of our campaigns. Wishing them success in all of their undertakings.

By order of
ED. McCONVILLE,
Col. commanding volunteers.