

Umpqua County. Oregon Territory, Nov. 18th 1855

Mr. Bush, Sir. I notice in the Statesman of Nov. 10th 1855, a letter from an Umpqua correspondent dated Winchester October 31st, 1855. And signed J. Who the author of the letter is I am not able to say; but be he who he may, I consider it the duty of some one, who is somewhat acquainted with affairs out here, to correct his mistakes alay his fears and remodel his statements.

A different and true version of things is also due to Louis who he charges with base treachery tor'ds the whites, and emphatically marks down as an "infamous wretch" deserving of death, which he says Louis will undoubtedly receive. These charges are as erroneous as they are enormous; as the following statement of facts will clearly show.

Louis is a half breed and I think was born on the Columbia River. His mother a Klicitat and his father a Frenchman. A considerable portion of his life was spent about the missionary stations above the falls and among the Hesperas, serving as an interpreter between the whites and Indians. He was among the Hesperas at the time of the Wylatpool massacre; and gave Mr. Spaulding timely warning of his danger by which that gentleman was enabled to make his escape. In like manner he has ever shown himself to be a true and faithful friend of the whites, as his conduct subsequent to that time will also portray. When the war broke out with the Rogue River Indians in fifty three, Louis was living in Umpqua valley. When he heard of the difficulty with these Indians, so great was his antipathy for them that he equiped himself, mounted his horse and joined the Umpqua volunteers. While a volunteer in defense of the lives of American citizens, and their property he conducted himself as true to the cause as any other man in the company. This I know to be the truth for I was with him throughout the expedition.

Before the Klicitats went to war with the whites, they considering him as belonging to their tribe from the fact of him having married among them, sent emissaries warning him of their hostile intentions; and commanding him to leave his home and join them in the war. He endeavored to reason the case with them and told them it was folly to go to war with such a powerful and numerous people as the whites and concluded his intercourse with them by utterly refusing to go and declaring his allegiance to the whites; for which they threatened his life and property. This interview he told to the whites and informed them of the hostile intentions of the Indians. In a like commendable manner he still conducts himself; lives on his own farm; considers himself an American citizen and is acknowledged as such by all true and honest Americans. He is not a prisoner never was nor is he like to be, and will probably live longer than Mr. J.; for a man who would spread such reports as he; is not sound, and it is evident that there is something wrong inwardly.

"Every preparation" says the wise looker on "is being made for active pursuit of every hostile vagabond in the country." Now this

sounds warlike and where active men have such an efficient adviser, the "vagabonds" if they know what is good for themselves; will vanos, and take their old squaws with them too. We should pity men who have suffered so much from hostile Indians; they know that they are afflicted; They feel that they are; and they seek to convict something on which to take revenge. As did fanatics in the days of Salem witchcraft, they now something afflicted them and old and helpless women fell victims to their fury. This was pretty much the same as shooting an old squaw in the abdomen.

But if these afflicted men in their active pursuit arrest the cause of their misery they will bring to the tribunal of justice, cowardly timidity, and if duly tried convict it of cruel tyranny and midnight sobbery. But not of desertion. He told us of the probability of the Indians descending from the summit of the Cascade Mountains with fire and devastation upon our devoted heads, but he forgot in his alarm to tell us of the probability of the Chinese in their junks imaging an invasion upon our coast, nor did he tell us of his dreams; these might have been saving presentiment in them. But take the latter blame off his shoulders for it is likely these hostile vagabonds won't let the man sleep therefore he couldn't dream.

The Indians of this valley voluntarily gave up their arms and as to the burning of Mr. Cannons mill it is believed by all that he had no hand in it. The owner of the mill doesnot suspect them; but attributes it to his own thoughtless or to accident.

J. A. A.

Mr Editor, please publish the foregoing article. And correct glaring mistakes. You may depend it is no idle story but faithful and true. And justice demands it should go abroad.

I prefer the initials annexed as you see above, but if you wish you may sign my full name. And I'll risk the consequences.

Yours respectfully

Jesse A. Applegate