

Dec. 11th 1877

Jno B. Montieth, Esq.

U.S. Ind. Agt. Lapwai I.T.

On the 28th day of last month I wrote first, in regard to the accounts you enclosed & second as to the whereabouts of Capt. John & George asking you to give their families information that they were safe &c. hope you received this letter if not let me know & I will send you a copy. Now I haste to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 3rd inst. Here are General Howards words to you this morning: - "I know of no instances in which Mr. Montieth or Col. Watkins gave me any information that was not strictly true. Certainly I recollect no such case. The disposition of the Indians

at the time of the council was undoubtedly for peace according to the testimony of the Indians; the majority of the White men in the country & the evidence of comparing one thing with another. Father [Cataldo ?] was certainly of this impression. A minority of the Non-treaty Indians, I knew, meant mischief. Tul-chul-hul-suil was an example. but the field of anticipated trouble was Wallowa country & not the Salmon River Country. The first intimations of trouble in Salmon River direction was attended to; they were bro't on by the murderous minority who fired the heart of the rest, easily inflammable."

This much the General gave me to give you. As I came to the General's office this morning he was reading an article prepared by himself for publication in which he speaks of your fidelity & singularly

hard service.

Satan is the father of lies
& there is no information at these
Head Quarters that he has given up
his special field on the frontier.

With kindest remembrances to all
of the people at the Agency.

I am

Truly yours

(sgd) M. C. Wilkinson

Aide de Camp

January 5 [1878]

General Sherman:

Your kind letter

is received. I fear, as the white people are so restless & over-anxious and the renegade Columbia Indians so disturbed by it the fear of and by a forcible removal that it will be impossible for me to leave my Department in the Spring; that it will be consequently impossible for me to be present in Washington in March for the trial of my cases.

Do not trouble yourself three minutes concerning them - but (copy) please read the enclosed letter to the solicitor. Would it not be better, now that there is no longer one dollar of loss to the government (Balloch having paid his due) - would it not be better to withdraw the suits? The Solicitor of the Treasury can do it. I am perfectly willing they should

be tried, but my bondsmen will not consent to my personal absence.

We all join in wishing you a "happy New Year" and, I am indeed grateful for your excellent & just report of the non-treaty Nez Perce Campaign. Col. Dyer is much absorbed in his own work and I have not the means to secure much of his time; hence delays.

With great personal esteem

I am respectfully Yrs.

(sgd) O.O. Howard

January 21st 187₁8

To the President of the United States

Sir:

Dr. J.A. Fitzgerald, Asst-Surgeon U.S.

Army, is an applicant in behalf of a younger brother for an appointment to the Military Academy. He asks only that he may be appointed a substitute (sic) in case any of the original appointees fail in their examination for admission. The family to which the young man belongs is one entitled to some consideration at the hands of the government, four of the brothers having been in service during the War of the Rebellion, two of whom died from fatalities incident thereto. Dr. Fitzgerald is one of our finest medical officers.

The young mans name is W.^m T. Fitzgerald. Other papers in the case will undoubtedly give his residence and other particulars.

I am, Sir, Very respy, Your obt. servt.

(sgd) O.O. Howard

Brig. Gen. U.S. Army

Feb. 5 [187]8

Mr. John B. Monteith

Sir:

I have pleasure in
acknowledging your letter of Jan. 24.

No good cause of complaint
exists against James Lawyer. He
was loyal, faithful and did his
duty to the best of his ability and
to my satisfaction.

The Government has
ordered that the prisoners now at Van-
couver be returned to the Lapwai
Reservation. My only fear in regard
to them is that white men may
molest them. I think it very
important that places should
be [located ?] for them near Fort

Lapwai and be definitely marked
so that there will be no shadow of
excuse for a dispute of boundaries.

I will send these prisoners
back as soon as possible, under
charge of a trustworthy officer and
I hope that place will be ready for
them and the way made as smooth
as possible. With thanks for
your letter and the information
contained.

I am

yours very Respectfully

O.O.Howard

Brig. General

Commanding Department

(Personal)

Feb. 9th [1878]

General I. McDowell U.S.A.

Dear General -

For fear I
should not see you on my
way through San Fransisco,
I wish to tell you the probable
[occasion ?] of my orders to
Washington. I have, on account
of my want of means & as I
think in justice to myself on
public accounts, been writing to
the Solicitor of the Treasury &
others to try & affect a final
settlement of all those old Bureau
matters without necessitating a
journey thither, or if not that I
might go at the ublic expense..
latter
This ^ is now granted me. I will
hasten my return as much as I can.

Very truly yours

(sgd) O.O. Howard

Feb. 18 [187]8

Col. E. C. Watkins

Sir,

General Howard left this place for Washington, D.C. on the 13.th instant. His address will be Lock Box 100. He expects to return about the middle of April.

I was present at Joseph's surrender and can inform you that Joseph surrendered under a promise of good treatment but in the after arrangements Colonel Miles was instructed by General Howard to forward the prisoners in the Spring to the Department of the Columbia, unless he in the meantime received other instructions from higher authority.

General Howard had always thought it best that the rebellious Indians should not be returned to their former homes; but in regard to those

who surrendered at [Kamiah ?], he was and is
instructed to retain them in his Department.

I think this precedent is what influenced the
General in the provisory disposition of Joseph and
his followers.

I am very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

(sgd) C.E.S. Wood

Actg. Aide-de-camp

Feb 21 [187]8

Colonel Nelson A. Miles

5th Infantry

Colonel.

Before his departure for Washington General Howard directed me to have copies made for you of all the correspondence between you and him during the Nez-Percé campaign. He afterward instructed me to forward these letters to you and say for him that he had never authorized the publication nor countenanced the expression of anything that did you aught but honor nor had he claimed for himself or his command anything but what he deemed clearly warranted by the facts and dictated by justice.

These claims are fully set forth in

his official report of the campaign; to
which he begs leave to refer you [as ?]
being the public and official expression
of opinions he feels bound to maintain.

These instructions were given
to me verbally by the General, on the
morning of his departure; while he was in
the hurry of preparation for his journey;
but I am quite sure I have conveyed
his meaning. General Howard's ad-
dress in Washington is Lock box 100. -

Allow me Colonel to send
to you my regards and to subscribe myself

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Svnt.

(sgd) C.E.S. Wood

Acting Aide-de-Camp

Feb 22^d 187₃8

Mr. A.J. Chapman

Sir -

General Howard directs me
to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of
the 26th Jan. with newspaper slips enclosed,
and to inform you that the matter of the
horse referred to, as being furnished by Mr.
Crook, has been referred to Lt. Ebstein
whom will take proper action in the matter.

These claims are now all in the hands
of Major Geo. H. Weeks, Quartermaster U.S.A.
Portland Oregon, To whom all communications
should be addressed. Major Weeks is settling them
as rapidly as possible

In regard to your own

claim the proper way is to make out your account in the regular form and General Howard will then approve it, unless of course it should present some erroe or unfounded claim.

General Howard further directs me to refer to you a matter which has come to this office viz: A claim has been presented by the Indian from whom you procured the claybank horse, brand of anchor P, which horse you sold to the U.S. on the evening of Aug. 9, 1877, near Corvallis Montana. You were furnished a voucher for this horse; whereas the the (sic) Indian claims that he was never paid. His claim is oresented through a priest of good standing and the matter must be satisfactorily explained, of course, before

settlement for either party can be had.

The General requests that
you say to Joseph that he has al-
-ways remembered him and tried to do
for him that which was best, but
that now he (Joseph) has been entirely
removed from his (General Howards)
authority or influence.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully Yours

(sgd) C.E.S. Wood

Acting Aide-de-Camp

Personal

March 29th 1878

Gen. Nelson A. Miles

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Jan'y. 31 is just received. Of course I am astonished at your accusations. My own report has, I think, done you and your officers no injustice. I claim nothing but simple truth, and would, as you know, rather have honored you than myself. You fought the battle and succeeded and if there is any language in which I can state it to the credit of yourself, your officers and your men I was willing, and remain willing to do so. I do not think it necessary for an old friend to use such language as you have to me in the letter just received.

Yours truly

(sgd) O.O.Howard

Brigadier General

U.S. Army

Apr. 29 [187]8

Mr. A. J. Chapman

Sir

General Howard directs me to inform you that your letter received in Washington and duly attended to. General Howard visited the Indian Commissioner and presented Joseph's request to come to Washington. Recommended it and strongly urged that the "Interpreter," at least be ordered to report to the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs. What has been done in the matter the General does not know. In regard to your

accounts the General desires
me to state that your letter
of March 19 to this office
has been forwarded through
every office of the Department
and both Col. Weeks and
Lt. Ebstein endorse on it that
they have no record in their
offices of any vouchers or
accounts belonging to you.

In that case you had better
make out a duplicate set
forwarding them to Col. Weeks
and having all correspondence
with him.

If there is anything touched
on in your last letter that has
been omitted in this reply please

write and state it for your letter
has been lost.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Sevt.

(sgd) C.E.S. Wood

Aide-de-Camp

May 7 1878

General W.T. Sherman

Commanding Army of the United States

Washington D.C.

General.

If proper; and I think it is so; will you send for me, through Mr. Evarts, the Hon. Secretary of State, the enclosed letters to be sent to several of our ministers, as directed. If either of them can with any trouble, find and send me an Ordnance book, such as the letters name, it will help me to information that I much desire to obtain.

Respectfully yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard

Brigadier General

U.S. Army

May 11, 1878

Col. E.C. Watkins

My Dear Sir:

Your letter came in just the nick of time. I was writing for the "Atlantic Monthly," on the subject of the Apaches and was glad to make a quotation from your letter.

The Indian Chief who expected relief from a Bible in this pocket is of a piece with our worthy civilized people who hang a crucifix about the neck for protection and blessing.

It reminds me of a young schoolmate of mine who failed after trial to get his arithmetic lesson into his brain. He then put his arithmetic under him and sat on it.

Even Col. H. Clay Wood puts a horseshoe
over his door - You mention Jefferds.

How was he when you saw him?

Moses seems to be gathering his
clans, probably for defensive war:
we shall see. I have just sent Capt.
Wilkinson to communicate with him through
Father Wilbur. I gave your messages
and hope we may see you here again
in time. Remember me to all
my friends, white Indians not ex-
cluded.

Yours Truly

(sgd) O.O.Howard