

June 1st [1880]

Sarah Winnemucca

Dear Sarah

Your letter of May 26th

is just received. There is so much restlessness among all classes, whites and Indians; and matters are so unsettled at this time that I would not advise any attempt at a general removal of the Pi-Utes to malheur. It would bring on trouble in spite of all I could do to prevent it. What the Government means is for each individual Indian man to take up land like a white man; pay the fees, taxes and commissions as the

white man is obliged to do.
Mr. Wilbur, who is wise, will
explain the circumstances to
you. It would be useless
for me to ask permission
to build a new fort at
Malheur, for I could not
receive it. Again the desire is
to have the Indian become
independent and not to be too
near the soldiers. Congress
is talking about passing a
new law friendly to the
Indians' settlement on land
as individuals; so that I
would not if I were you,
press for any removals at
this time.

Let the people work industri-
ously and raise all they can
where they are and try to

get money get money and clothing
by so doing: and let
the children learn to read
and to work.

Give my kind regards
to Mr. Wilbur and ask
his advice, which must
be in your matters better
than mine.

Yours truly

O. O. Howard

Brigadier Genl. U.S.A.

June 25 [1880]

Gen. W. S. Hancock

Head Quarters Div.

Governor's Island, N.Y.

Dear General:

Yesterdays dispatches
confirmed by the morning paper,
brought us the news of your
nomination. As, of course, you well know, I have already
well know, I have always been
in sympathy with what are
called republican sentiments, still
I answer the feeling of my
heart when I say: this does not
prevent me from congratulating
you on the magnificent
compliment that you have
just received from your

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
countrymen. I am gratified at
the selection as an honor to our
profession; and further from
my own radical standpoint
because I perceive that the
old & trying issues which
have so bitterly been fought,
heretofore
and _ divided our people are
substantially over.

May our common Father
bless you and direct you in
wisdom, and should you be
elected to the Presidency make
you indeed by His help a
president of the whole people.

Yours sincerely

O.O.Howard

Brig. Gen. U.S.A.

July 20 1880

Chief Joseph. Nez Perce.

Oakland Agency, Indian Territory.

Dear friend:

Your kind letter, written by James Reuben, June 30th, has just come to me. I am really glad that you are trying to become a real Christian. I will tell Dr. Lindsly and other of your Christian friends. It will make their hearts glad, and they will pray for you and for your people. I will myself try to do the same.

You still think that I promised to send you back to this Department. I did not promise but I wrote an order to General Miles to take all the prisoners to My Department in the spring, which followed [your ?] surrender. I wrote this order because my Division General, at San Fransisco, had told me to dispose of all the prisoners somewhere within my Deaprtment. I read this order to you, or I had the Interpreter tell it to you.

But the authorities at Washington said, [no] and you know the rest.
at any time

Personally, I was not in favor of the Indians, who had been at war, returning to Camas Praries or to that neighborhood.

This was not because I was an enemy to you or to your Indians, but because the outrages, committed at the outbreak of hostilities, were so terrible that I knew that the whites and your Indians would have new troubles, and nothing could prevent them. In fact many have been pointed out ^{by name} as murderers, and they had to stand trial in the courts. If your people had come back, in accordance with that order, I should have tried to have put you all at some place far removed from Mount Idaha (sic) and Lewiston.

I am your friend, and no longer your enemy. I have much compassion for you. I feel sorry that so many have sickened and died. I know how like children the living ones desire to see the hills and mountains where they were born. But now the soil contains the remains of those who have died, the soil where you are. Can you not make good farms and have good schools there in the Indian Territory?

If you can get your people well to work, and make a garden of the land, which the Government has assigned you, and [if you can get] the children to go to school, and grow up contented and happy and industrious, you Joseph, will show yourself a truly great man, and your people can never be blotted out.

James Reuben has returned but I have not yet had a talk with him.

May our Heavenly father direct you in all your thoughts and bless you, and make you a blessing to all your people.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) O. O. Howard

Brigadier General, U. S. Army

Commanding Dept. of the Columbia