

Confidential  
as far as your  
State paper

Office Dept Ind Affairs

Dayton O., Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 1855.

Dear Sir

I reached home last evening <sup>After</sup> ~~from~~ an absence of several days, during which time your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> ultimo came to <sup>my hands</sup> this office. I had begun to think that you had abandoned the service altogether or were indifferent as to its interest, but it seems the fault has been in the mode of conveyance. I am unacquainted with the means used on route your mail matter takes in reaching this office. These packages were brought to Dayton by some unknown person, and as you see, weeks after the proper time, the contents of a portion of which were published in the papers nearly one month before they reached me. (I refer to Olney's & Raymond's letter)

I am some what surprised that Olney should have assumed the responsibility of appointing agents in the Cayuse country, and particularly such persons as have during a period of fifteen years been in the service of a company, antagonistical to the interests and policy of our government.

I saw this man <sup>person</sup> ~~person~~ while at the Dalles, and if I had desired his appointment

to such a position would have caused it upon him,  
I had at first, upon learning that he intended to return  
designed sending a message by him to the Cayuses &  
Mallemalles, but upon reflection found it might be  
presented so as to make bad, worse, and finally  
left without doing so, expecting that you, as  
the agent of those Tribes would convey such messages  
as the circumstances seemed to require.

Mr. Olney was selected to visit those Tribes early  
in the season, with his return his mission ceased; he  
was ordered to <sup>special</sup> duty among the Deshutes bands  
congregated near his premises - but ever in that service  
was subordinate to you and subject to your orders  
as he is not acting in the district assigned as his  
~~district~~ to which he had been assigned.

These assurances with Tribes treated with ought  
not to be tolerated. The promises made the Cayuses  
on his former trip, if sanctioned would render treaty  
negotiations a nullity, and defeat the very objects  
sought to be attained. And if they abstain from  
war, predicating their action upon his promises in <sup>modifying</sup>  
the treaties - it may again involve us in difficulties with  
them. I learn by his letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult. that he intended  
going with the troops to unatilla. His intentions may  
all be right. But I fear the results may not be as

advantageous to the Government as we might desire.

Can it be possible that he is plotting with the members and servants of the Hudson Bay Company! His orders to them to enter the territories in such haste, if sanctioned would lay the Government liable for the payment of real and imaginary claims amounting in all probability to hundreds of thousands of dollars. This course was unexpected and uncalled for. But his functions as agent in Washington Territory can have no vitality and I have so verbally stated to the chief Justice when interrogated upon this subject whilst at Vancouver a few days since. The whole thing looks suspicious but I hope I am deceived.

That McBean and Whitford factions needs also to be watched. If these Indian Tribes have been led into this man by false representations of such vast abundance, or from motives of interest among these in the Company's service, it should be permitted out and the guilty brought to punishment. This ought to be your care; if we fail to foster it upon any one, 'tis well, we will only have done our duty, and leave the consequences to follow. I cannot so fully approve my choice at the appointment of Raymond in manner as stated by you and yet at this late period, it may not be wise to make a row

about it; but it places us all in an  
awkward position and one, the result of which  
I am unable to see the end. N. O. went up  
with Hudson Bay men remained with them, some  
back with them, gave them a written order to  
leave the country - thereby implicating the government  
and enabling them to bring in a heavy bill for  
worthless trash - to us - to them and to every body  
else valuable - then appointing a man to be  
an agent and one having the opposition that  
he has among those people. It would be

improper to express my apprehensions to anyone  
else - as it can now be of no benefit to any  
one - And I desire you will not mention  
the matter, at least until we have better  
evidence of some thing has been intentionally wrong

This letter is not written for an official  
use, but hope you will, nevertheless, throw  
an eye to the matter and advise me if any  
facts are elicited justifying official action  
I cannot however confine the appointment  
and the responsibility must rest with the man  
made it - and shall look to you, to carry out  
the instructions, rules & regulations as you  
understand them.  
Respectfully,  
J. Palmer

about it; but it places us all in an  
 awkward position and one, the result of which  
 I am unable to see the end. No. 10, went up  
 with Indrani Bay men neuronal with them, some  
 books with them, gone there a matter order to  
 leave the country - thereby implicating the government  
 and enabling them to bring in a heavy bill for  
 months of trash - to us - to them and to every body  
 else valuable - thus appointing a man to be  
 an agent and one having the opposition that  
 he has among those people. It would be

improper to express my apprehensions to any one  
 else - as it can now be of no benefit to any  
 one - And I desire you will not mention  
 the matter, at least until we have better  
 evidence of something has been intentionally done.

This letter is not written for an official  
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 an eye to the matter and advise me if any  
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 and the responsibility must rest with the man  
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 the instructions, rules & regulations as you  
 understand them.

Respectfully,  
 Earl Palmer

in Stamps

