

Fort Lane Oreg

Dec 17, 1833.

My Dear Sir.

I take pen this evening to write a few words that relate to myself. When I returned from Illinois creek the last time, which was on the 8th I halted a few moments in Jacksonville & while there a friend came to me & said that he understood there was a secret petition in circulation for its object my removal & Bob Merteaf<sup>d</sup> (the person who acted as Interpreter for Gen Lane) appointed in my place. From all that he could learn he thought that the thing had been directed by some person in the Willamette probably Dwyer. I has come to a fine pap if Whigs can get Democrats that dont please them removed & others appointed that do. Certainly in no other part would they think of such a thing. Since then I have rec<sup>d</sup> several letters from persons residing in the Valley, all of which were written to inform me that such a petition was in existence. From all I can learn this is about what they are doing.

The Petition asks that Bob Merteaf be appointed Special Indian Agent &c. When they find a person that they can get to sign a petition for my removal they say that such is the object of this petition. but to those who would not sign one for my removal they say that such is not its object. that they only want Merteaf appointed Special Agent. that I am the regular Agent &c. All sorts of reports have been started by them in order to bias the minds of persons & get signers to it. Among the number Bob Merteaf himself reports that "I had told him" that I did not want to get or take

the Indian who killed Mr Edwards. (This was the first person  
killed just before the late war) of course I said no such thing.  
Probably that will not be insisted upon any longer in as much  
as I have taken the <sup>said</sup> Indian & he is now in the Guard House  
when he will probably be kept until taken out for his trial.  
I did it all through the Indians. They delivered him up to  
me <sup>4 days ago.</sup> I felt hurt when I first heard of this petition. Knowing  
this that since I have been out here I have been absent from  
home not less than six days out of seven on business con-  
nected with the Indian Department. That I have allowed my-  
self no rest. But when the least thing has occurred between  
Ind & whites I have in all cases gone in person to see to  
its adjustment. And even when this petition was gotten  
up I was climbing over the mountains on Illinois creek  
in the rain for 10 days together. Keeping my horses for  
three days in succession without any food. As I said when  
I first heard it I felt grieved, but my mind has changed  
persons not above circulating secret petitions are not worth  
worrying.

Now our word about these murders. The one that  
killed Mr Edwards, as you already know, belonged to  
Tipeens band. Gen Lane tried to get him but could not  
at that time, but he learned his name & left it with me.  
Some persons were clamorous because the Gen made peace  
with them without their first giving up this murderer  
but the Gen knew that it was impossible for him to do  
so at that time. In other words if the Gen had given  
Tipeens the alternative to give up this murderer or fight, war  
would have been inevitable. For Tipeens could not do it.  
The same has been the case since. If I had told him  
that this man must be given up in a given time or ever

would be the consequence, of course if he was not given  
up as required, no matter for what reason, my word must  
be kept & it would be so. And this you know, it is im-  
possible to fight T'pene & his band for any length of time  
without also including Do & Sans but for they would be bound  
into it. This Mottcah has seemed to take quite an interest in  
Indian Affairs & on several occasions has asked me questions  
that I did not see fit to answer direct, but just turn off with  
an indirect reply. And for this reason; if I should tell every  
person that I expected to get this or that & any plans for doing  
it probably the Indian, through some of his friends, would  
hear of it & be on his guard. I have seen fit to keep my  
own councils, which I propose to continue to do, leaving  
nothing random, & doing all that ought, my own judgment  
must be the guide, except when directed by those who  
have the authority to do so. My object has been first  
to preserve peace making other things collateral to  
it. And I now have the gratification of knowing that I  
have been successful. When the two Ind<sup>s</sup> that killed Ryle  
made their escape I understand that those persons who  
have been engaged in circulating this petition said that  
they believed I let them go & all such stuff. As I have since  
retaken them perhaps they will stop that. But enough.  
You saw <sup>sufficient</sup> ~~enough~~ while here to know who are laying about  
town. This is confined to them. The only reason why I  
have been so full at this time is that I fear they may write  
to you or Gen Lane. I don't know what; but something  
that would lead you to think that I had perhaps omitted  
some duty. Another reason why Whigs would like to have  
me removed is that they at first thought the treaty un-  
popular & they know that I have done much to correct

very insipidous concerning it.

There has been & is now more talk in circulation about  
Gen Lane (what he did at the treaty &c.) than about me.

But with all of them Gen Lane can tomorrow command  
a larger vote in this County than he did in June last.

I have happened to be at nearly every house in the Valley  
& Know. I have just succeeded in getting Tippecanoe  
& his people. & Do & his Rogue River Indians together & have made  
an arrangement with them by which they all agree that  
Tippecanoe will come upon the river in the Spring. I find  
it impossible for him to go over to Cottonwood, for whites  
will shoot at them every day. The Rogue River Indians  
are anxious for him to come. I will write fully upon  
the subject in a few days.

In haste Yours

Very Truly

S A Culver

Gen Joel Palmer

Dayton Year Hill Co

Oregon 7-9

Private Letter

Samuel H Palmer

Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1853

Received of Amos 3/54

Calvin