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Port Orford November 19th, 1854.

Sir

i Received my Appointment Dated  
September 19th also yours of the 14th  
of October and would have written  
before this But i have been absent  
on the arrival of the Steamer going  
up and have neglected until now on  
that account since i Received your first  
i have been busily engaged in investigating  
matters in this District which has  
consumed all my time but have at last  
succeeded and every thing goes on well  
at present the Indians have been  
having some difficulty among themselves  
in Relation to their women first the  
Quartoes and Yanshutes which resulted in  
wounding one Indian slightly this happened  
before i Received my Appointment some  
two weeks since they tried to have another  
meeting of the same nature But i  
interfered and it resulted in an  
amicable Settlement about the same  
time a difficulty arose between the  
Yankey and Tututerey Bands which  
commenced thus

two Indians of the You key Band<sup>ment</sup> at  
 night and fired in to a lodge in the  
 Tu-tu-teney village killing one ~~Woman~~  
 belonging to that Band the next day  
 the Tu-tu-teney Band went in search  
 of the Party found them and killed them  
 which was likely to bring the two  
 Bands together in war but I arised in  
 time to prevent it and made them  
 settle the affair amicably according to  
 their own Custom which is now satisfactory  
 to all Parties when I visited Chotocoe I  
 found things in a bad state the Indians  
 here scatered and living in Great fear  
 and drove from their fisheries I talked  
 with the whites Concerning it one of  
 which was Mr Miller he said that they  
 were all willing that the Indians should  
 come Back which I induced them to  
 do I also told them to Rebuild their  
 Houses and Prepare for winter which they  
 set about doing Mr Miller is quite a  
 different man he offers to assist them  
 in Building or any thing else they may  
 desire and defend them to the last  
 he says they have been Shamefully  
 treated but it is not his fault and I  
 find every one Speaks well of him except

Those who were against before which in  
 my opinion was for private Reasons to  
 injure him his enemies was all who did  
 speak <sup>at that time</sup> which there is only one left  
 Mr Tuttle who is certainly the meanest  
 man in Existence he being the Person  
 to have Miller Arrested and then  
 committed a worse deed than ever has  
 been done in the <sup>Country</sup> before or since  
 I give you the Case as Related by  
 Mr Miller and others there was an  
 Indian from Clinch valley belonging to  
 Mr Culvers District came on a visit  
 being Related to the Chetoe Indians  
 and was stoping with them for a time  
 Stole a Tander horn belonging to Mr  
 Tuttle they caught the Indian and  
 whiped him shortly after a friend  
 of the Indian who was whiped from  
 Clinch valley went to the House of  
 Mr Tuttle in company with 2 Chetoe  
 Indians one which was a Chief when  
 they arrived at the House Mr Tuttle said  
 that the Clinch valley Indian had  
 Threatened to kill him and he intended  
 to kill him and closed the door and  
 Camenced Disarming them Mr James  
 Haggart being present told Mr Tuttle

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not to ~~kill~~ the Chetoe Indians when  
Mr Tuttle Replied that he intended to kill  
them all the Chetoe Chief started to follow  
Mr Haggart out and Mr Tuttle pushed  
him back and remarked you D a old Kascal  
you have got to Die to and did kill them  
all after Disarming them the Indians did  
not offer to Resent But fled to the hills  
and came to see me to know what to  
do at the time i had no authority  
to do anything and the matter Rests  
in that way the Indians Say they are  
Content if i say so But i intend visiting  
them again Shortly with authority to do  
Some thing for them if possible it is my  
Opinion that the most of the Indians  
in this District will be shot of provision  
if it should be a hard winter as the  
rain fele early in the midst of their  
fishing season Destroying all their Dams  
or fisheries on the Rivers they also have not the  
Same number of Canoes and not the Same  
Perseverence which they formerly had they  
Devote to much of their time among the  
whites working for Clothing and articles  
of not So much value as provision to them  
which you cannot get them to look farward  
only for the present every Day provide for ists  
self which is their Doctrine

i shall endeavor to Do the Best i Can  
and obey your Instructions and Exercise  
my own Judgement when Required  
i have employed my whole time in  
Seeing to the Indians Since my Return  
from the Valley or your place when  
i Received my appointment by the  
Instruction of G. M. Smith i Came to  
Fort Orford Rented a House and took  
all the Government Stores and property  
Belonging to the Department that i  
Could find and am living in the  
house and attending to my Duty as  
well as i Can i am always Ready  
in a few minutes starting to make a  
trip to any part of the District when  
Required such is the Course i have  
Pursued up to this time which Remains  
for you to say whether i have Done  
Right or not i find an Indian Agent  
has no Credit in this Town with what  
few persons there is left though the  
place is nearly Deserted at present  
i am frequently asked the question  
when the Department intends Paying  
their Old Depts Contracted By Parrish

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you must tell me when I am Required  
~~when~~ to make out my Report and all  
Concerning Such matters as that which  
I am not Pasted up in the Rough  
work I am Best Capable Doing  
But am willing to try my hand  
at any thing But as far as peace  
Between the Whites and Indians is  
Concerned that Shall Be that is what  
I consider of most Importance  
though a little funds to Distribute  
among the Citizens of this District  
on Old accounts is needed But that  
is your own Business not mine

My Regards to all my Acquaintances  
tell Cris not to write  
To Gen Joel Palmer  
Superintendent

Yours Truly

Ben Wright  
Sub Indian agent

Fort Orford  
District

P.S. I shall write every mail though  
the Steamers land ~~be~~ very Irregular  
in the winter season at this place

Ben Wright



The page contains faint, illegible handwriting in blue ink, which appears to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The text is scattered across the page and is mostly obscured by the horizontal ruling lines. There are also some faint, illegible markings in the left margin.

Letter of Henry's tonight's Loge  
Celtic non-losing receive of  
The's Appointments so sub. and why  
in the first of the first and  
A.P. of Sunday's British Clippants

1854  
December 25. P. 72-74.

Copy preserved at  
Washington - March 16-1855