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MARCUS WHITMAN

AND

THE EARLY DAYS OF OREGON

BY

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ILLUSTRATED



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market and the main settlement will be secured. A good school there would not want for support even now. And this might be the embryo for the intended College. Men and means might at once be found either united or separate, as the case shall demand. If this subject be laid before the several societies who meet next May in the several cities of the East, I do not believe that either the men or the means will be wanting at once. Persons might be found there, I have no doubt, who would either come themselves or who would go home and interest themselves that others should come. Those who intend to come should start so early next fall that they may be in time for putting in a crop if possible in the spring—'49. Should a part prefer to come by land they may start with pack horses as late as July or even August, when there will be far less annoyance on the road than earlier. They will avoid all mud, rains and high water. Most of the heat will be passed and by not being confined to the wagon road they will escape the dust. Pack horses also can find grass aside from when the wagons can feed. It is never too late to pass down the Columbia to the lower country. Besides there can be no want of provisions at the Dalles as long as there are any in the Willamette. So that they can winter there if they like. I prefer to call on you for the presentation of these matters to the Christian public in any way you prefer. If you do not do it in your own name please look out the man who will act and whose name will appear before the public, not forgetting the calls upon the Home Mission Society, Tract Society, etc. Mr. Glenday will be a good man to write to for any information about packing across the mountains. I hope the want of a man for Dalles station will not escape your notice.

With esteem,

Yours truly,

(Signed) MARCUS WHITMAN.

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MEMORIAL FROM DR. WHITMAN TO THE SECRETARY
OF WAR, PREPARED SIX WEEKS BEFORE HIS DEATH

To the Honorable the Secretary of War.

To the Committees on Indian Affairs and Oregon in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States the following suggestions are respectfully submitted:

First. That all stations of the United States for troops be kept upon the border of some State or Territory, when designed for the protection and regulation of the Indian Territory.

Second. That a line of posts be established along the traveled route to Oregon at a distance, so far as practicable, of not more than fifty miles. That these posts be so located as to afford the best opportunity for agriculture and grazing, to facilitate the production of provisions and the care of horses and cattle for the use and support of said posts, and to furnish supplies to all passers through the Indian Territory, especially to mail carriers and troops.

These posts should be placed wherever a bridge or ferry would be required to facilitate the transport of the mail, and travel of troops or immigrants through the country. In all fertile places these posts would support themselves and give facilities for the several objects just named in transit. The other posts situated where the soil would not admit of cultivation, would still be useful, as they would afford the means of taking care and other facilities for transporting the mail.

These posts could be supplied with provisions from others in the vicinity. A few large posts in the more fertile regions could supply those more in the mountains. On the other hand military posts can only be well supplied when near the settlement. In this way all transports for the supply of the interior military posts would be superseded. The number of men at these posts might vary from five to twenty-five.

In the interior they might be built with *adobies* (that is, large unburnt bricks), and in form and size should much resemble the common Indian trading post with outer walls and bastions. They would thus afford the same protection, in any part of the Territory, as the common trading post. If provided with a small amount of goods to trade supplies from the Indians and to reward the chiefs for punishing those who disturb or offend against the peace of the Territory, the Indians would become the protectors of these stations. At the same time, by being under one general superintendent under the Government, the Indians may be concentrated under one general influence.

By such a superintendence the Indians will be prevented from fleeing from one place to another to secrete themselves

from justice. By this simple arrangement all the need of troops in the interior will be obviated, until in some instance the Indians fail to co-operate with the superintendent of the post or posts for the promotion of peace.

When troops shall be called for to visit the interior, the farming posts will be able to furnish them with supplies in passing so as to make their movements speedy and efficient. A code of laws for the Indian Territory might constitute the principal or second in charge at these posts, civil magistrates. The same arrangements would be equally well adapted to the respective routes to California and New Mexico.

Many reasons may be urged for the establishment of these posts among which are the following:

1. By means of such posts all acts of the Indians will be under a full and complete inspection. All cases of murder, theft, or other outrage would be brought to light and the proper punishment inflicted.

2. In most cases this may be done by giving the chiefs a small fee, that they may either punish the offenders themselves, or deliver them up to the commander of the posts. In such cases it should be held that their peers have adjudged them guilty.

3. By means of these posts it will become safe and easy for the smallest number to pass and repass from Oregon to the States. And with a civil magistrate in charge, all idle, wandering white men, without passports, can be sent out of the Territory.

4. In this way all banditti for robbing the mail or travelers will be prevented as well as all vagabonds removed from among the Indians.

5. Immigrants now lose horses and other stock by the Indians, commencing from the border of the States to the Wallamette. It is much to the praise of our countrymen that they bear so long with the Indians when our Government has done so little to enable them to pass in safety.

For one man to lose five or six horses is not a rare occurrence, which loss is felt heavily when most of the family are compelled to walk on foot to favor a reduced and failing team.

6. The Indians along the line take courage from the forbearance of the immigrants. The timid Indians on the Columbia have this year in open day attacked several parties

of wagons from two to seven, and robbed them, being armed with guns, bows and arrows, knives and axes. Mr. Glenday from St. Charles, Mo., the bearer of this communication to the States, with Mr. Bear, his companion, rescued seven wagons from being plundered and the people from gross insult, rescuing one woman when the Indians were in the act of taking all the clothes from her person. The men were mostly stripped of their shirts and pantaloons at the time.

7. The occasional supplies to passing immigrants as well as the aid which may be afforded to the sick and needy are not the least of the important results to follow from these establishments. A profitable exchange to the posts and immigrants, as also to other passers through the country, can be made by exchanging worn-out horses and cattle for fresh ones.

8. It scarcely need be mentioned what advantage the Government will derive from a similar exchange, for the transport of the mail as also for the use of troops in passing.

9. To suppress the use of ardent spirits among the Indians it will be requisite to regard the giving or furnishing of it in any manner as a breach of the laws and peace of the Territory. All superintendents of posts, traders and responsible persons should be charged on oath that they will not sell, give, or furnish in any manner, ardent spirits to the Indians.

10. Traders should be regarded, by reason of the license they have to trade in the Territory, as receiving a privilege, and therefore should be required to give and maintain good credentials of character. For this reason they may be required to send in the testimony of their clerks and assistants of all ranks to show under the solemnity of an oath that the laws have not been violated or evaded. If at any time it became apparent to the superintendent of any post that the laws were violated, he might be required to make full inquiry of all in any way connected with, or assisting in the trade, to ascertain whether the laws were broken or evaded.

11. For illicit traders and smugglers it will suffice to instruct the commanders of posts to offer a reward to the Indians for the safe delivery of any and all such persons as bring liquors among them, together with the liquors thus brought.

12. It is only on the borders of the respective States and Territories that any interruption will be found in the operation of these principles. Here also a modification of the same principle enacted by the several States and Territories along the Indian borders might produce equally happy results.

13. The mail may, with a change of horses at every fifty miles, be carried at the rate of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles in twenty-four hours.

14. The leading reason in favor of the aforesaid regulations should be that by these means the Indians become our faithful allies. In fact they will be the best possible police for such a Territory. This police can be safely relied upon when under a good supervision. Troops will only be required to correct their faults in cases of extreme misconduct.

15. In closing I would remark that I have conversed with many of the principal Fur Traders of the American and Hudson Bay Companies, all of whom agree that the several regulations suggested in this communication would accomplish the objects proposed, were suitable men appointed for its management and execution.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

MARCUS WHITMAN.

WAILATPU, October 16, 1847.

Rev. DAVID GREENE,

Secretary of A. B. C. F. M.

MY DEAR SIR:

Please send copies of the above to such members of Congress and other influential men as you think will favor the object proposed.

Yours truly,

(Signed)

MARCUS WHITMAN.

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LETTER FROM REV. CUSHING EELLS

TSHIMAKAIN, NEAR FORT COLVILLE,

OREGON MISSION, December 10, 1847.

Rev. DAVID GREENE,

Secretary A. B. C. F. M.

DEAR SIR:

Last eve most painful intelligence reached us, and which I cannot better communicate than in the same form in which it came to us.