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**Fort Colvile
Correspondence of Archibald McDonald,
relating to Fort Colvile, 1838 - 1842.**

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of
British Columbia

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Correspondence of Archibald McDonald,
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Fort Colvile 20th April 1838

To

The Governor & Council
Northern Department

Gentlemen,

Although I had not had the honor of hearing from you personally last fall; yet, as I know a document expressing of your entire approbation of my measures so far, in the management of Fort Colvile & the affairs connected with it, had reach the Columbia, I beg leave to acknowledge the satisfaction it affords me. — It being perfectly possible however that by this indirect way of communicating with me, & the circumstances of my being now placed more immediately under the eye of a Senior Colleague, it is not expected I should in future trouble you with anything in the shape of a Report, what I state the liberty of laying before you may well be very short.

Since I last had the honor of addressing you it affords me pleasure to be able to say that in everything over which we had any control we succeeded much to our satisfaction. The only reverse we experienced was in the plains at the hands of the recently returned when three of our very best men perished at one blow & one on another occasion fell a sacrifice to their atrocious practices. — These unhappy events, together with the disappearance of several others from our cause & another produced unavoidable derangement & loss of trade in that quarter to the extent of 300 Beavers. — It is some consolation however to find that the value of the general Returns in furs does not fall far short of that of the preceding year above £60 & that our economy & industry notwithstanding this serious drawback in the plain trade have enabled us to show on the District Balance Sheet a gain of £2800 instead of £2400 as last year. — Independently of these losses however it must be admitted the Beaver itself.

is rapidly disappearing: and as you very justly observed in the
Encl. letter of last season, requires the strict attendance to every
thing pressing in the way of his duty to be able to make anything
at all of it very good. — Mr. Cunningham, I always considered a
most efficient hand for that district of the Country; but is regret
to say now about being withdrawn from us for some other Station,
& it rests with yourselves Gentlemen to say how the duties he
performed are hereafter to be prosecuted. —

Last fall Mr. Charles Ross arrived here, at my option
to be sent to the Nootanay. — In this duty he was five days too
late, and the young men there the year before, in order to secure
a free passage by water, had been despatched thither a few
days after the ordinary time: And without disparagement
to anyone, I believe brought out all that it was possible for
the most experienced trader to collect there then. — The plan is not
susceptible of great improvement, & will not afford a Clear of
a hundred a year. — Thomas Flett with an Establishment of three
men, exclusive of Peuland, who always accompanies the Indians,
& with the most vigorous economy in everything, cleared on his
outfit but £300. — He is now engaged for three years at a
wages of twenty five pounds per annum.

At Colvile itself, everything went on most satisfactorily.
The trade is so far better than the year before, & the farm produce
is abundant that that individual post alone has cleared a
profit of upwards of £1000. — The Indians throughout, of most
valuable hunters uniformly conduct themselves greatly & generously.
With further reference to Mr. Chief Jacob Wroughton

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

your ob. & very faithful Servant

Arch^d. McDonald

Chief Trader

Extract from 22^d paragraph of Commanded Letter of 15th February 1837
Exchange Bills yielding 2 1/2 per Ann or £3. 16 - per Cent per Ann:
interest, now Commanded 2 7/8 per Cent premium, i.e. - An Exchange
Bills for £100 yielding 76/ per annum interest, with new Cost £101.7
which will give you a pretty correct idea of the present money market.

Fort Colville 28th May 1838

Peter Allen Captain Esq

Dear Sir,

Mr. Black on arrival here yesterday with 18 men,
brought me yours of 25th touching the delicate situation in which
you say you are placed by Mr. McLaughlin's total silence with
you on matters connected with general Bregada this summer
As regards the strength of the force to be employed, all I
distinctly know of the arrangement is, that my own presence
was not required, & that six Boats & nine middlemen is the
complement of hands I am directed to furnish - In other
respects we have made more than ordinary effort to provide
Boats - Food - Lodges - provisions &c &c for the trip; & I have
no doubt Mr. Black is prepared to furnish you with every
particular as to what was proposed finally settled upon
between himself & Mr. McLaughlin.

Mr. B. left us this afternoon with 5 Boats - 37 men &
220 fowls, which we thought loading enough in the present high
state of the water, & I trust all will be safely delivered you
at Manhattan as per Statement enclosed. (mentioned)

I am

Dear Sir - yours very truly

Arch^d McDonald

N. B.

Several letters herewith touched on many other points arising
from the prospect of sending up to us three Boats inclusive of the one
Mr. B. would return with in summer - very especially pressed. -

Fort Colvile 22nd September 1838

The Gentlemen in Charge
of the York Factory Express }

Dear Sir,

Our Mountain Boat starts to day with 8 men -
Two to remain building at the upper end of second Lake - Three
of the others, namely, Canote, Dubois & Danguette return immediately
to join them with the Canoe sent to the Portage in the Spring - Joe,
Paul & the fool await your arrival, & in meantime work at
road. - After Canote leaves them, there will still be four Bags of
grain at the Portage, with 30^{lb} Grease & some little things for yourselves
say a piece of Bacon - 1/2 doz: Tongues - some Butter & a Bag Beans
- Should you be in want of more at Mr. Hays, he has ordered to
supply you. - On the other side, there is a Bag of Flour for
Fraser - a Gun & a small parcel to the address of Mr. Charles - a
Bottle from ourselves for the Spring Express. -

We will here, & trusting to have the pleasure of seeing you with
us soon - I am

Dear Sir

Yours

Arch^d: McDonald

On 19th Oct: Mr. Chief Tada ^{accompanied by Mrs. Tada & Family} arrived here with one Boat - 16 men & 12 skins
of St. C. property - the same forenoon the Boat with 6 men was returned to Mr. Hays,
where he had left young Mr. M. L. - two priests - Mr. Thos & 12 men, while Chalifoux
with 6 men & the other Boat returned to the portage for his own family consisting of
wife & 3 Children - Mr. Libbun wife & 3 Children - Mr. Walker & wife - Mr. Baults - young
Montrose McGillivray & 6 hands with all their private baggage & 22 pieces of
the Company's - Mr. Tod, accompanied by French only, left us on 21st with
another Boat for this place & 20 pieces for Mr. & Wallawalla -

On 27th two Indians brought us a note addressed to Mr. Tod from two men
conveying the melancholy intelligence that Chalifoux's Boat was upset in a
Rapid below the Dalles on the evening of 22nd where perished 12 souls -

W. Sillman & 3 Children - 2 of Chalfonts - W. Wallace & wife - W. Southy and
3 men - though of minor importance Officers of the Company were also lost -
The Note, which was immediately forwarded to Vancouver, also stated that
the Boat was not likely to be of further use - The Boat Spruce was sent off
on 19th was not yet arrived at Colville - Works as follows to W. McLaughlin

Colville 27th October 1838

W. John McLaughlin Esq.

Dear Sir,

The two Indians arrived here this forenoon with the
melancholy intelligence of what will prove at the Dalles an misfortune, &
I have no time in despatching you all the assistance possible - The
moment W. Ford got here on 19th his Boat with six men was sent back -
he himself with the only other Boat here started the following day
for Vancouver. - The only Craft of any kind now at the place is a
Canoë de Cleche, & with it Lacourse our Boatbuilder & three other
hands are sent you with all possible despatch - Should the Boat
at the Dalles prove irreparable, & that the Canoë with Paul's Boat
will be insufficient, Lacourse has with him the wherewith to make
another Cedar Canoë. - We in like manner send you all the provisions
you are likely to require, namely: -

3 Bags fine flour

20^{lb} Grease

1 " Coarse "

50^{lb} Pork

1 " Lard "

a Tinnet Butter

1 " Peas "

a quarter of veal

1 " Potatoes "

6 Buffalo Tongues

Tea - Sugar. & a 2 Gallon Keg Spirits -

You ought to endeavour to get the broken boat down
here at all events, as without it you can scarcely get on to O.K. -
as I have already said there is no other Boat here - beside, if Lacourse
is able to put it on a construction to drift down even this far perhaps
by that means you could convey here as many of the bodies as are found,
but as this you can use your own discretion - With further reference to Lacourse
I am Dear Sir your truly
Arch^d. McDonald

Fort Colville 27th Oct. 1838

James Douglas Esq^r

Dear Sir

Another melancholy event on the Columbia river!
No fewer than 12 souls perished below the falls in one hour on the 24th
as you will see by Mr. John McLaughlin's letter of 27th hereunto enclosed.
Without a moment's delay we got off Lacourse, Percum, Brown &
Langue with the canoe up the River for the Post in order to
send all the assistance possible; & I enclose you copies of what I
have written to Mr. McL on this deplorable occasion - From the
letter I would infer that Chaloupe alone got to Mr. Hay's, but on
enquiry of the Indians I find the wreck & all the survivors
had arrived there - Paul's Boat they met some found in
the first Lake on 25th - from what they say I think Lacourse
will be able to make the Post efficient. -

As the delay which this lamentable event will
unavoidably occasion to Mr. McL - must create uneasiness
behind, I would have note without delay by a canoe to Wallawalla
the alas! the tidings it will convey are anything but cheering.

I am

Dear Sir

Very truly yours

P.S. Please send us per first opportunity
12 doz. Whiskey Flg

Arch^d McDonald

Fort Colville 3rd Nov. 1838

Samuel Black Esq^r

Dear Sir

You will of course in common with us all
lament the deplorable occurrence with which I was made
acquainted by a note from Mr. John McLaughlin ^{from} Mr. Hay's
House of the 24th ultimo. - Copy of which I enclose for your
information. - As I understood from you, that you would
yourself be visiting the Express at Ok. you doubtless learned
from Mr. C. Tucker Tod the arrangement he had made for

getting on that part of the Express people he had left behind;
& it is unnecessary for me to advert to that arrangement here -
In the month of Sept: three Boats from Vancouver got here in
due time for the Mountain Boat: with these we sent four of
ours as far as the site of the new Establishment, & thence three
of them - Canote, Dubois & Duquette continued on to the ^{portage} ~~mountain~~
that plain our men left on 6th of Oct: with the extra Canoe given
Mr. C. Taylor Mr. Goodwin in the Spring, & arrived here with Charles
from ~~Wollays~~ for the Kootanai on 13th -

So far from our having received that assistance
so confidently expected & promised when Mr. Emswonger was with-
drawn from us, that it would appear we were not even thought
of at York Factory - I have however for the present claimed
the services of a new Apprentice Clerk for Vancouver, when
I could not get a more experienced trader also said to have
come in expressly for that place too, as, without something
in the Character of a Gentleman that could at least read &
write the business at the Flatheads this fall would be very lame
indeed. - Besides, I am informed by Mr. Emswonger himself
that we are likely to have opposition in the plains this
winter - So you see how we are situated. -

Canote & Dubois left us on the 27th to arrange the Boats in
the Bay - Mr. McDonald with the supplies & the rest of the people
followed on 28th - The Kootanai outfit with Peirce & Duquette,
we got off on 18th, Consigned to the Charge of King Charles; the
trade however, if he is alive & back to the place, must I
suppose be conducted by Rowland. - Altogether, nothing could
be more pitiful than the manner in which we are compelled to make
instead of exercising that mighty control & influence ^{over} ~~among~~ our Indian
the American Congress gives us the credit of possessing - I suppose
Peirce & I others are now at the work rendering all the assistance
possible to that unhappy party - Peirce with the other two men
was at the time of the Catastrophe up the river preparing our Boat
wood in order to have it to the water side before the ground became
impassable for the Canote, but in consequence of this depressing event is that their

As regards the additional supply of grain you required for yourself, I hope existing circumstances will account for your not receiving it. In Conformance with Mr. Douglas's desire we did ship in Mr. Todd's Boat 23 Bags Flour for the South Depot at W. W. & the leather & Appurtenances required for Thompson's Boat, & more I am certain cannot go down anywhere before Spring, unless Boats & People are sent for the purpose - I am

Dear Sir

Yours very truly,

Alb. McDonald

Fort Colville 5th Nov. 1835

James Douglas Esq^r

Dear Sir,

However unwilling to draw your attention to what is passing in this quarter, & more especially at a time I am certain you will have quite enough to attend to in other respects, I must advert to the exceedingly lame Condition in which we are at length placed here - Even when Mr. Comptroller was with us, the propriety of having a rising young man of promise introduced into the business of this District, was repeatedly pointed out. - He is now gone, without a provision being made at York Factory either to replace him or provide the young Gentleman in question. - I have so far got through with the matter pretty but most assuredly they will not answer long - a clever active young Gentleman, with the mark of soon making himself master of sufficient French & Indian, is absolutely required for the success if we mean to secure strength & influence in that quarter, for Mr. Angus McDonald, whom I look upon myself to detain here, is now up at the Flatheads, & Mr. Sam. Cusumano do all that can be expected from a perfect novice, but that will fall far short of what is required - Mr. Forest indeed, from his knowledge of the French language & some experience as a trader would I thought have answered much better, but he is understood

was specifically appointed for Fort Vancouver. - I should say out
in the Spring, & I am not very clear that James Hill can be
relied upon. - There is not a word from either of them this fall yet

As regards the Cash upon us for the small depot I am
satisfied you will consider the 23 Bags flour sent per Mr. Ford's
Boat, besides indispensable supplies for Thompson's River, to be
all that could be done under existing circumstances. -

Owing to the late melancholy affair, our Boat work
up the river is stopped. - Wood for 5 is squared, but I think
we must endeavour to have for a Fifth that an extra one
may go to the Mountain next Spring in order to lay by there
to be brought down as occasion may require: But I have to
say that the Nails, Hoop & wire Iron, Calculated for the purpose
& so often explained & applied for without scarcely ever getting
the things ordered for, to sent up by the Express Boats; which
I believe is all we will require by that arrangement -

I trust the Whipsaw File mentioned in my last will be on
their way up on this week yet - I am

Dear Sir -

Very truly yours

Archibald McDonald

Peter Allen Ogden Esq^r

Dear Sir - You will I am certain in common with us all
deplore the melancholy event which took place below the falls on
Nov. 22^d Wm. in the loss of 12 individuals out of 26 in the Boat -
Of the whole number the bodies of but 3 children have as yet been found -
The unperforated boat at the time contained 21 pieces of the N.C. property,
of which 2 Pails leather & 5 of pack Cord, are lost - The rest of the
leather has been dried here, & perforated and sent down with
which to make Bags for the purpose to replace the rotten
skins now about it - Had we known of the loss of the Cord
sooner we might have made an effort to collect some above; as
it is hoped that by next season we will have a good supply of
perforated for that purpose - With further reference to Mr. Hill

I am Dear Sir yours

Fort Colville 8th Nov. 1838

Archibald McDonald

Fort Colvile 21st January 1839-

To the Gentleman coming
up with the Express, to
meet him at Wakulla

Dear Sir - This I presume it scarcely necessary to in-
form you that there is no spare Boat here; yet, it may not be un-
-perplexing to add that none of the new ones will be ready
by the time the Express is likely to pass, in order that you may be
provided with them from below should two be intended for the
Mountain - Instead of five, we have six under way this season,
& I trust there will be no disappointments as regards the horses
required from below in the usual way - It is indeed, I believe
the only demand I have made from below for the Spring Boats
except it be a few pieces of Salt. - Some of the Agents at
Kunakhan ought to be taken on this fair also

I am Dear Sir

Yours Archibald McDonald

Colvile 22nd August 1839

Summit Black Coyt

Dear Sir - As it was not finally settled upon when
we parted whether or not you would let us have 10 or 12 young
Horses for the Flathead trade out of the band you are about sending
off to the low Country, I could wish that point was settled
before we go to the trouble & expense of getting them from elsewhere -

I also avail myself of this opportunity to inform you that we
will not have a single potato here for next year's seed, & of course
must look to O.K. for that indispensable article - In case you may
think I was wrong in approving of your proposal to send us 20
Hens for the Kootenais, I must remove that impression by giving it
as my opinion that he will never answer our purpose - Mr. Angus
McDonald is here now - in the plain he did as well as could be
expected for a port-catcher; but the objection, or rather the demand
made for him from below renders it quite impossible for him to

take any active part in the duties we could otherwise have shouldered
out for him to the close of the season. - Beland made the
Kootenay summer trade consisting of 27 Chests of Wool only of that
article - With further reference to my private letter

I am Dear Sir - yours - Archibald McDonald

Fort Colville 23rd Sept. 1839 -

To the Gentleman in Charge of
the Great Northern Express -

Dear Sir,

Our Mountain Boat with 6 men is this moment
about starting, accompanied by Mr. Fisher & family - The loading is as
follows, viz. 3 Bags fine flax - 3 Bags Coarse - 2 of Corn & 1 of Peas:
and a Bag of Beans - a Bush of Apples & 1 Bush of Potatoes (40^{lb}) 6 Buffalo Tongues
& 20^{lb} dried meat for the Miss coming down - The people have
for their own use to go up with 3 Bags Grain & 50^{lb} of Lard and
a Bag of Gum for the Boat - Mr. Fisher is supposed apart
from all this. - That Gentleman will also hand you the as
per enclosed List. And with every good wish for your
safe & speedy arrival I am

Dear Sir

Yours

Archibald McDonald

Fort Colville 10th January 1841

John McLaughlin Esq.

Dear Sir

The mild state of the weather being sufficiently
tempting to induce me to forward a packet the length of Wallula
I do so with great pleasure, trusting Mr. Pemberton may find an
opportunity of seeing it conveyed to Vancouver before the Express
starts - Of the few things we require by that conveyance a List
is herewith enclosed. -

Mr. McLean & party safely arrived here as late as Xmas eve
with a fair supply of everything - The cause of his keeping out

and so long was the great distance to which the poor natives
were obliged to travel in search of Cattle before they could load
their horses. The Collection of furs for the year from that quarter
Considering everything is not quite so much amiss - It will exceed
either of the two last years by about 25% Beaver, & might perhaps
after all be made to keep up to something then about 50 years
to come yet; but I fear this we cannot do if Indians & Furmen are
not allowed something of the same inducement for exertion that is
given elsewhere - The Furmen in particular are disposed to avail
themselves of the Fort Hall prices in both Goods & Furs, & we can scarcely
by maintain that in so doing they are unreasonable. It is certain
however that the Company (at least this district) gains nothing by
seeing undisciplined Furmen move off to other sections of the Country,
where they will, as they have done heretofore, begin a new season
& thus not only evade the payment of a just, but relinquish hunting
grounds that might both be made available to the district they are
in with suitable encouragement.

I give itself I am in hopes we will not fall much short of the ordinary
amount of Returns, & by the last accounts from Thomas Hill the Westland's
we will do something - Last fall, in order to relieve the upper Indians from the
unnecessary trouble & loss of time in coming down to trade at the present
House, it was made with them at the Tobacco Plain to days much higher
up on the River, which extension of distance required a start from home
of 10 days earlier than usual.

The Contracts of a good few of our men being about expiring, & most of
them determined on renewing their term under no other conditions than
that of being free at the expiration of one Engagement more, it was
with considerable difficulty I got four or six of them to renew it for two &
three years, without, of course, pledging myself to any condition of the
kind - There are several of them yet, not finally settled with.

About the Boats, you have already taken a memorandum; we are
now having the wood for four new ones, which is all that can be depended
on here for the ensuing season - Our most pressing work at present
is in the Boats - Felix is at the Big Plain with most of our beaver
Cattle, when I think they will thrive well with all the hay made for them -

The account of Joseph Barnaby, fur hunter, now at Vancouver, is
herewith transmitted; & with the exception of renewing my petition
that neither the salary of Mr. Conger etc. Donaldson etc. or the wages of
the two post-boys be not changed to us. This is all I think it is worth
while troubling you with. — I am

Dear Sir — yours &c &c

Arch^d. McDonald

(To Mr. Douglas)

My Dear Sir

Fort Colvile 11th January 1841

I believe I addressed you a few weeks since on the subject, more-
by to say that we were well. To have attempted troubling you with
anything beyond that — at a time too I know you would be overwhelmed
with the news of the war world, would have been a very idle tale; & even
now I must confess my inability to make out anything like an interesting
scenario. — In the fall I understood Fort was to come up for N. Caledonia
in the winter — if he did, I have neither seen or heard anything of him
The only document came my way from the doctor went down (which
I believe was thro' Dr. Gray) was an envelope into which James Work
had thrust a Fort Simpson letter of his, just about as laconic as
Cassars; saying he had come thru himself, saw you all, & was about
returning — Now are the affairs of the New Company coming on? Bless
me this £200,000 item is a most astounding sum even to think of! Still
more so to devise ways & means for its profitable investment. — The moment
the freehold grant is obtained, I move that the Clatsop district in a line
from Astor's Canal to the Pacific be barred up & appropriated to the preser-
vation of the peninsular Beaver race, & also leaving country enough
for the ostensible objects of the Agricultural Company — increasing alluvion
Ship, mooring catch & all the rest of it

I have lately read a good deal on the recent troubles in the British
Government; to be seen there was something of a transient lull by the
last accounts, but from the widely opposite pretensions of parties both
N. & S. of the line, the probability of its continuing so, long, is very doubtful
The 'red sharks' and 'blue noses' of the West coast seem as much disposed
to 'cry havoc & let slip the dogs of war' as even the Canadians & Cornishmen

sympathies themselves. Should such an appalling event as a general war spring out of these minor commitments depend upon it the Columbia will not be overlooked in the struggle by Jonathan.

(rest of the letter on family Chat-Chat)

Fort Colvile 25th April 1842

John McLaughlin Esq.

Dear Sir,

I was duly favoured with yours of 19th ^{per Mr. M. J. Smith} ultimo, & made endeavour to attend to all its contents. By a memorandum I saw with Mr. Hanson with respect to the second Boat brought up, it appeared the first arrangement was changed, & that the duties assigned that Boat was merely to go to Ok: & thence the people to whom here by land to help down the Brigade. Had there been the full complement of effective hands in this position I would have employed it immediately, but there being but four in all & one of them (James to name) still unable to stir with a very bad hand, the thing for the present is impracticable. This however will cause no disappointment, as the seven Boats can nevertheless be taken down in stages, namely, the one in question, two coming up from Ok & four coming here; to man them from Colvile I think there will be no difficulty; but to judge of any means in that way for the Boats from Ok: I beg to submit in your consideration the following statement

Colvile	15 men exclusive of Guide
Vancouver	5 men including Ammunition & gun & postage
New Caledonia	22 for the two doubtful are not gone out
Thompsons River	$\frac{9}{37}$

11 Men Boats at 6 men each — 54 — for the former we seem to be difficult with the Messmen we can manage yet, but appearances are much against our being long in a condition to do so. — A most extraordinary Cruise has to quit the bay had driven our fate of our people this Spring — four of them are still un- settled with, to wit, J. Martineau — Dubois — Mason & Jaquart, but all will go down to see what Conditions they can obtain below.

Mr. McLean left us on 20th of last month for the plains accompanied by 14 hands, & as well equipped in other respects as we could wish, except indeed in Tobacco. — To obtain this essential article I wrote to Mr. Pemberton

on purpose to see that I should be brought on for us for the Express Boats,
but much to my disappointment not an ounce came, under the plea that my note
was informal, not being addressed to the Intendant in Charge of the Express. Next
morning the man left by Mr. M. L. for the sole purpose of following him with
with a note, was despatched with the letter we had in reserve for Portland's
Spring trip to the Hootanais, which trip must of course be deferred until we
can get some of Mr. Ogden's stock at Ch... I conveyed to Mr. M. L. again distinctly
about our former prices. - He wrote me from the Flatheads of S. in good spirits
but complains much of the quality of the V.P.B.s. from below last summer.

Mr. Angus McDonald agreeably to your desired proceeds to W. W. to join Mr.
Crombidge - All the Budgets from below, came safely to hand, up to the 14th
others; allanson & Mr. Jarvis started on 21st the paper Box with the acct's
with accounts ^{to you down} to be taken down in the Brigade. - Should Joe Annanarian
return before 20th May the East side packet will be forwarded without delay
by land, but if otherwise, I suppose it will be worth the while
sending that way. - Herewith I forward letters from Messrs. Ogden
& Stuart; also our own Requisition & a List of the Distribution of our
men for the season. - You will I am certain be happy to see the result
of our last year's Campaign - The amount of Returns not only is equal
to what it was five years ago, but shows a profit of 7 or 8 hundred pounds
more. - It would be satisfactory could we hear from you by 25th May -
I am dear Sir - yours &c

(A. McDonald)

Fort Colville 18th May 1840

To the same

In Conformance with the directions sent in Spring
I push on by land what appears to me the most material of the papers
come to hand from East side, tho' I do not expect their arrival below will
be many days sooner than that of the Brigade. - It was late last night
before Joe made his appearance & of course an earlier start from here was
impossible. - There being no news whatever by way of Canada, the
wellfare of our own Establishments all over you will find constituted the
main interest in the Official despatches; together indeed with the very
Satisfactory news from our friends on the Arctic Expedition - It would

Appear by Mr. Deasie's letter to me that early in the season they discovered the
difficulties of Point Fenimore, & as was anticipated found an open
strait beyond, which led them triumphantly to Sa Ganga & Buel's Encampment
on Alaskan Island in '34 about the parallel of 68.° + Long. 92.° - Arriving
at about this point or rather beyond it by 20th Aug. They returned by nearly
the same route they went & safely reached Fort Simpson on 20th Nov. being
as you will see by their letter of October

Since I last had this pleasure, there is no further news from our friends
to the north of me - Indeed I would indeed say that they are likely to be
called to a new expedition on the old business on the pass the Forts, of
which rumors I have apprised them tho' I do not apprehend anything
very serious. - Tomorrow I shall be sending to Ok. in order that imme-
diately on arrival they may be aware of the state of affairs here, and
of the assistance expected from themselves. - We have now close upon
300 bushels grain of one kind or another in the ground whichever way it
is to be reaped - Yours again - Archibald McDonald

Walla Walla 5th June 1840

Samuel Black Esq.

Dear Sir - On safely landing here this morning we were
handed a packet from Mr. de Loughlin of 13th Ult. containing with other papers the
enclosed letter, by which you will see we all have anticipated him as to the
summer arrangement: further remarks on his head are unnecessary. - We
thought it advisable to send back William Piau, who from our previous
understanding with you that you would start for Colville shortly after
our departure, proceeds ^{direct} to that place - As it is likely you will be sending
him to Ok. soon after his arrival, have the goodness to order Thomas Hill to
make up to Ed. Hines to take down for Mr. Ogden - If there is no gun at Okanogan
Gorquas ought to get a little ready for the Colville Boats by the time they return,
as we find Mr. McL. puts in requisition all I brought down this summer -
It would be satisfactory could we hear from you at Ok. by 20th July -

In the afternoon another packet cast up from the S. announcing that Mr. Lee
& the Wallamette ship came in on 23rd. - There is about 240 pounds of other subjects
for that Mission - We sent no other news either home or foreign - Tomorrow morning,
God willing, we make a start. - The water is remarkably high & not yet at its height - Yours

Archibald McDonald

Fort Colville 12th Aug: 1841

To Mr. Haugland &

My dear Sir,

Mr. Munk's high tone to take the pen & score off the heavy arrears I am ashamed to own is at present my case with respect to you in the way of letter writing: a failing however I do not often acknowledge myself guilty of, be the merits or demerits of my performances good bad or indifferent. Your esteemed favour of July, March & April came to hand - the two last duly but the first, after making the round of Whetahpo, Clear Water & Spokan, not before the middle of May. The Em of 5th April with the enclosed document for east side & the parcel of Newspapers, reached us just in time for all good purposes. By the Cannon which left us end of that month after the departure of Express, I would have done myself the pleasure of addressing you, had I not been informed you would be absent before its arrival - 30th of May, I had occasion to dispatch another, with the east side Budget & of course a long yarn then would have been equally useful, & to resume the same ground now, the story is too stale to claim any lively interest. By the way however, I can scarcely resist congratulating ourselves & the fair Trade on the memorable success which has attended the exertions of our friends on the polar sea last season: the existence of a Northwest passage is no longer problematic - it is proved by the clearest of all demonstrations: its actual survey, (making Boothia an Island & King William's magnetic pole not on the Continent of the New world). This is an achievement that will not only entitle our names on the names of the explorers, but will add another leaf to the laurel wreath of the British name in the Catalogue of Discoveries. To be sure, the King is not yet brought to the utmost limits it is actually capable of; but tis certain our friends are power will now never relinquish the coast they have so creditably & successfully explored, until one of their Boats is made to gain open sea from Banks's Mountain Head to somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean. We have said this much in admiration of the praiseworthy exertions of one Corporation body in England - no doubt a little tainted with Conservatorial feelings, - yet I fear it will hardly go down with the advocates for Torch light meetings & the dissemination of O'Connor & Stephens' gratuitous advice to the Queen's large subjects. But after all, one can discern that in matters immediately connected with our own dear selves, we can view

popular

popular Army, universal suffrage & the like, when they come to work
west side the R. Mountains, quite a different thing to what it is fashionable
to recommend as a good principle in the British Constitution.

As to the new Speculative in Farming & Colonizing the Country, I wish it
every where its most dangerous propensities could disband, tho' I do not expect
to see its good fruits realized in my time. - But I have given the project the
sanction of my name, for reasons best known to myself, is true enough;
and after all, with proper management, perhaps something of the kind is
the best self defence the Am.^l Company could set up in these peopling hot days
for new Colonies & foreign plantations. - You took a grand sight in
the exhibitions we made below this morning - Our friend Wm. Pitt displayed
despite himself shamed off by some more sanctity & elegance of manners
than is the Gentleman went at times. - Brother Sam says he very much
regrets not being there, as he thinks his dancing school lessons at Aberdeen
will still carry him thro' very well in promiscuous & close contact with the Ladies,
especially if they be bodies that understand anything about Geology.

On affairs in the interior I have scarcely anything out of the common
course to communicate. - Such as the ordinary accounts are you will find
them set forth in my letter to the D. that I mean to address him before the
return of Mr. Demos. - I got here myself by land from Ch. 25th & 26th with
with the Boat a few days after. - I shall of course expect the pleasure of
hearing from you at some length on the state of affairs to the northward -
I must untoward event it would appear engaged your attention in the off-
set - For you Sam certain gets all the pangs of a man of honor & responsibility
on that unhappy occasion. - - - - - With best wishes -

Archibald McDonald

Fort Colville 24th Aug 1840

John McLaughlin Esq.

Dear Sir

I avail myself of Mr. Demos' return to give you about as
of an account in this part of the Country since my return from headquarters. -
The trip up. even in the Dalry was sufficiently smooth and prosperous
At Ch. we found Mr. Black, after passing part of the summer here, who im-
mediately embarked in the Boat coming here, while I proceeded by land myself

with as little delay as possible, & I am happy to say found all well here.
The very evening of my arrival, (25th) Mr. Ch. Linn too Cart up - Early in the morn
he dispatched from the Racine a man Braumlet & Charles Lafantasia with the
best share of the property under the name of a Camp going in one direction,
himself joining another, that took a more easterly course, accompanied by Seclair
& young Lafantasia - Some few had, soon after fell indisposed and continued
getting worse until he died on his hands middle of July, before he & the
Camp could regain the house - His load on this interrupted trip was, about
150 Beavers - When he started for him Braumlet was not yet in, nor did
he I scarcely expect he could see him till he got back to the plain; however
by his letter to me for return of Canote of 13th he says Braumlet had just joined
him, but brought in nothing, having left the 4 packs he traded in the hands
of Charles on the 10th at a place called Stinking river, kept Company with
by a Mr. Smith, a R. C. priest of the Order of Jesuits sent out from S. Louis
& then arranging the return of Mr. McLean to see on what terms he could be
supplied by the A.B.C. for establishing himself & others of his order in the upper
Country by the time they can be up next season. - The object of this mission
Mr. S. I believe had more at length explained upon explained in his letter to
Mr. Blanchett just delivered to Mr. Demers. - Mr. M. L. with Braumlet, Pierre &
Seclair pushed off immediately to see what could be done yet in the plains between
the falls; regretting however that he was obliged to wend his way on alone,
all the Indians having previously ^{started} in a great hurry for the Camp at Stinking
River. - Edouard Beaubien, whom I spelled out here ^{in the morning} the morning
I embarked for below, is also back, with something rather better than the ordinary
summer returns from that quarter; arising in some measure from the attempt
we have made to visit the nation at the neck of time up at the Tobacco plains,
but even this first attempt at managing them & our business there cannot
I fear amount to any thing the extensive individual collecting of an obscure
Cameron de Paris, however willing & laborious. - To be convinced of this I need
only mention two circumstances: - Middle of July when our men got to the
plain of rendezvous, a small band of his Indians was just returned from
cut side the Mountains carrying with them from an American Trader three
days' march off - a note in these words -
To this the Indians add that he (Monsieur J. V. M. Maneravie) is to cross to the
Hortanais in the fall with the view of putting up all the furs & to be can
camp

Lay his hands on. — The other Circumstance I am going to notice is also to show the covetousness with which the trade of that poor Country is now assailed from all quarters. As Beilane arrived at the old trading place on his way down the other day, he then found a very large assemblage of Indians from the different tribes to the Southward, that preceded Chabo, whom I sent them in case of any unforeseen mishaps to Beilane himself, with some Blankets, Kanguas & no fewer than 34 horses for the express purpose of trade in which however they were completely foiled this time in their expectation of success, but had nearly succeeded in securing 22 Beavers from an Indian on the spot by previous appointment with Beilane, to whom in their rage for the disappointment, they offered the three best horses in the band for the lot. — This is a sort of traffic that has more or less been carried on for some time, but is become an object of peculiar temptation for the sake of the leather, & the few Beavers they can pick up there to send to the Southward for horses, where the intermediate traders can get them very cheap indeed for that article. — I really I have dwelt longer on this subject than the Case may seem to merit, but it is clear to me that unless some little respectability is added to our business in that quarter, little as it is certainly it will soon be entirely gone. Beilane, I am ~~now~~ about returning immediately to find his way back to the Tobacco Plains, to watch what is going on there with a minute ascertainment of trading goods; the rest with the canoe as usual will be sent in the charge of 3 common hands. — Will it not be possible to let us have a young Gentleman this fall to attend to them & other out door duties? In every respect our is much required. At a place like this where we have so many traps to make from one end of the year to the other, the necessity which compels us to trust everything without control to common men tends by our means to improve their own Character & moral worth no more than it does that of the natives with whom they necessarily intermix. But should one be assigned as I hope it will be for a considerable time, as the mere stay for a winter with us is of no use whatever. Indeed, I am particularly anxious that we should have almost active young Gentlemen about the place now, since of late I find a change falling off in the disposition of most of our people to do even the most ordinary work with cheerfulness & alacrity. — Brown you will hear is not going down

& I am very sorry for it. - To Mr. Demers I must beg leave to refer you
for further particulars respecting him. -

When Mr. Black left us, he promised to have three men here ² 15th Sept
for the Mountain - Even the Conduct of that party I am certain would
be the better of another leader besides Conote; to him however it must
be entrusted. - The State of the business here itself is not much to
be Complained of - The trade so far is pretty fair, & the harvest, Con-
sidering that the season was another excessively dry one, will yield
us nearly a year's Consumption - it is now about $\frac{2}{3}$ in. -

As we have not heard of the arrival of the ship, to have sent
to W.W. for the pieces deficient on our outfit, would of course have
been useless, but I trust when that is happily the case & a convenient
opportunity offer up, the thing will not be overlooked -

On our way up we could obtain no certain information as to the
practicability of a passage for Cutts from the interior to Puget's
Sound, which I am nevertheless inclined to think could be accom-
plished; and when the thing is fairly ascertained the sooner the
stock here is reduced the better. - This autumn, say Sept & Octob:
I think the best season for removing them - We could part with
about 70 head including Calves & Steer have enough for the place
should their removal be deferred to next fall 100 might be calculated
upon with I suppose some from O.K. - Cows are not always sure
of a sufficiently mild winter at the Big Prairie, when all but the
milch cows are at present. -

I heard from Mr. Ogden on his route in from Okanogan after
passing the Forks - all well there. He shortly before received a
note from Mr. Ford, but no other information from the district.
At Skanawine the means of living were very scarce indeed
& the appearance of the crops did not hold out a very flatter-
ing prospect. - This being all that occurs to me worth your
notice

I am

Dear Sir

your most ob^t. Serv^tant
Arch^d. McDonald

Fort Colvile 18th Sept: 1840

To the gentleman in Charge of the
York Factory Express —

Dear Sir —

Canoe the guide leaves this tomorrow morning
with Sam Banto & 18 men including himself — To avoid the disappoint-
ment of last year I would have ^{sent} him off even earlier than this, had
all the people been on the ground; but the respective parties from
Vancouver & T. River not having) cut up before last night & the
night before an earlier move was impossible; as it is however they are
a few days in advance of the usual time, & being) nowise encumbered
with loadings, it is to be hoped they will be up by the 1st of Oct:
The provisions entrusted to them is as per enclosed List — The six
Bags marked S will be forwarded to Colin Fraser & as much more
of the remaining) 15 Bags as you think you can dispense with. —
On the other hand should you find yourself deficient, make good
with any part of the assurance to Bags — The clauses for
yourselves I hope you will find untouched. —

Ceri & Dagniew are on east side. — Joseph Anawaran
& Mabit are directed to proceed with the packet to meet you, and
on receipt of this it would be very well could you send on to the
Camp a couple of trusty hands to watch the movements of some of the
Indians, namely Peg & Labile Ignored, tho they in reality have no
bad design. — Yours — Archibald McDonald

Fort Colvile 21st Sept: 1840

Peter Skion Ogden Esq:

Dear Sir — Your favor of 22nd August with enclosed Re-
quisition came duly to hand, but I regret to say cannot be complied
with to the full extent: & the crushed flour we have is 15 bushels & that
Fregon has got with 1 1/2 of Corn — 3 Bags Flour & 4 small quantities — There
is no Buckwheat & our Stock of Fat is yet at a very low rate
but of Peas Mr. Tod can have enough when he chooses — your port
cutted, we shall endeavour to cross over from here with horses left by Fregon
for that purpose & others belonging to you here from W.W. — Yours —

Archibald McDonald

Fort Colville 22nd Sept 1840

John M. Laughlin Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your various Communications of 2⁵ & 24th inst. I had the pleasure to receive on 17th. Mr. Blum's (man being) arrived the day previous we were enabled to start the Heron Boat on the 19th, with provisions enough for all purposes, & the 6 Bags grain ordered for east side. - I should the Genl. in Charge of the Express find himself with more Flour & Corn than is required for the down-coming, the surplus will be forwarded that way too. - Of the two men come up, two - Square & the Blunder - are laid up with the fever and Ague; the former however undertook the trip, being supplied here with a quantity of Quinine. - I have also to regret the loss of one of my own men, Service, tho' certainly the absence of such a Character himself is no loss to any Community; I mean that unprincipled Villain Alexis Martineau, who formed a league with the equally despicable wretch Louis Brown, & moved off together to the plains. Brown gave his sister-in-law to Martineau, & in their consciences both are dated their conduct in every respect is ^{completely} ~~completely~~ that the red man marriage must be null & void. What atrocious conduct! I have heard it says their first object will be to find Mr. Domet - - -

Gugan arrived here the other day from Alexander for Gunter & field seed, & returned yesterday with the mesquit. - I should I forward Communications addressed you from that quarter, which of course superseded the necessity of my adventing to anything going on with them there; nor is there ought to trouble you with from here itself beyond what I have already reported of 24th Aug. for Mr. Domet -

The documentary paper you give me with respect to the portulacas is a great accommodation, & I will be disposed to avail myself of it, as at this moment we have scarcely a Ruinsman at the place, & not a grain of crushed wheat will be on hand by the time the White Stops this fall. - As regards a gentleman, I know you will do for us all that is possible. - The objections about the Buller will be attended to, also those concerning the deficiency of the draft requisition for outfit 41 of the Boats can carry it - part is already advanced to OK for them -

Yours & c

A. McDonald

The two following paragraphs were part of it about I sent him under a private cover of the same date as the last. —

"It would appear that in the South Country all went on smoothly enough without the liquor thing (may it continue to do so; instead could our business be equally & advantageously conducted without it all over, it would be a great blessing. — Our friends however in that quarter, I am sorry to find seems not to conduct things according to the strict letter of his instructions, or perhaps himself with an over stock of discretion; but in consideration of his zealous exertions of days gone by, I think I would calmly & liberally judge of his motives. — I have not heard a word from either himself or (young) Mr. Donald since they left Wallawallen — (Mr. Waller it would appear came out before the Returns were collected)"

"I notice what you say about Mr. Black's letter of April — That such a letter was here end of May is perfectly correct; for the morning I started I laid it on a side table in order to have it put into my carrier, however, it was overlooked — When my wife returned from the end of the portage, she found it, & sent an Indian with it after us to the foot of the rapids, but came too late — a few days after, she gave it to Mr. B. himself when he arrived at Colvile

When he met us at Ok. he showed it to Mr. Ogden & myself & regretted the omission as he saw it was a letter on business of some consequence; he it of consequence or not, I too, of course, regretted the omission, but to this moment cannot conceive when or by whom it found its way to Colvile — This is the whole story of that letter. — Now I must advert to another — yours addressed to us all then 13th of May, — as that one too is become the subject of remark

It ^{sealed up a new &} apparently was forwarded to Mr. Black from W. W. with the following note from me — (see this letter Book 5th June) Still he persists in saying he did not receive it, yet, Mr. Waller, who happens to be here with me now is very positive that such a letter left his house in charge of Row, as they are both special notes of the peculiar & suspicious. — I am sorry to trouble you with so much about these unfortunate letters, & regret that our worthy friends should not be a little more candid in both cases — It relieves me however to hear from you that the "official letter of consequence" was of no consequence whatever, & I am certain not the smallest inconvenience has arisen from the miscarriage of the other, even the facts of the case even as Mr. B. says"

Fort Colvile 20th Oct. 1840

(To Mr. McLaughlin)

My dear Sir,

Having addressed you so very fully, both private & public not many weeks back, I shall trouble you with but little on this occasion & that under a private cover. — So far all is safe from east side. — ^{even} there boats for it, we find it unnecessary to send down the 4th Boat, which of course will be forthcoming for a full cargo when circumstances require it: in meantime the Butler & the remainder of the small fleet go down. I keep two of the proventures for the present, & I have also taken upon myself to detain a young postmaster of the party, conscious that in so doing I only anticipate your cordial assent to the measure. Mr. McPherson will soon I think become a very eminent hand with the nature of his district wherever we may have occasion to employ him, & cannot be too soon introduced amongst them. — The men for Messrs. Black & Ogden Cross depart from here in charge of Mr. Maxwell, but I fear our friend Mr. Ogden will scarcely be pleased at seeing him arrive without the long-talked of Pittsmithe — Still I agree, tho' you did not direct me to do so, I have also sent that way.

Since my last, there is no word of McPherson — The Hootanians people were off on 10th, & I trust the tide from Portland at the Johnson place in good time —

As to the east side news, you will have such a superabundance of it, that on this occasion I will not obtrude with any additional comments of my own. Sufficiently the 2^d vessel sailed, about the appointed time, & ought to be in ere now; if not, there is our consolation, the uninterrupted peace of the great world lessen the danger of the Northwest —

So poor unhappy Simon is at length gone to his long home, after struggling out his miserable existence long enough to make his interest available to his friends for another year — Yours &c. Archibald McDonald

Fort Colvile 2^d Nov. 1840

Mr. Donald McDonald

Dear Sir

With the very best wishes I am in hopes of hearing from you in the usual way before the supplies are sent off that we might as far as possible have the benefit of your own opinion on what is likely to be most in demand above. In the absence of such a guide

goods however we have made up an assortment that will supply most
all demands - There is neither Rum or Sugar; because of these articles there
had been already quite as much as the few freemen we have & the State
of their finances will authorize: and should Stragglers from the South
want to tempted to come our way, it is not desirable that white liquor
in the South is entirely suppressed, we should display much of it on
our side. - Of Tobacco you will find I hold - One of them however I should
suppose ought to be forthcoming for the Spring - The Ammunition is 20 lbs
of powder with the proportion of Balls, & I think you will find the Balls,
Shots & Guns enough even for a pretty decent Trade - Although it is
not my wish that anything fair & reasonable be withheld from either
Freemen or Indians I must impress upon you the propriety of keeping &
keeping everything together as much as possible, as we will have just enough
to do to fit you out adequately next Spring with what remains here

This fall we send up but one Boat, which you will load with the
furs, the Tongues (as they wont sleep without salting) two or three Loads
of Meat & as much of the Furs as you can - The surplus can remain
till Spring, when we shall send up two Boats if necessary - It would
be well to collect as much of the usual train as possible, such as Apples,
Saddles, Sledge - parkies & in case we may soon be called upon
to furnish more of these things than is customary - Had you will be
able to procure us for our trade here a few Buffalo Hides - an article really
in demand - As for the men you will dispose of them as may seem
to you fit - One or two at the House & one with the House, as I suppose all
you will think advisable to leave up; unless, indeed, you be aware
of troublesome visitors being in the vicinity.

Accompanying the Boat is a young Postmaster that came in this
fall, whom I have upon my own responsibility detained here for the
Winter in consequence of a threatening message sent us by a man
(Callery) himself "J. B. Manoeuvre" that he would be in upon
us to that Country this fall. It is the same note you heard of in
Summer, brought from west side by some of Beuland's own Indians;
but after^{all} as I think but a mere bravado. However, get all the infor-
mation you can on the subject, & converse with & direct Mr. McPherson
accordingly - Should you be arrived by the time he gets up, if not he is

decided to proceed forthwith guided by one of the men if he cannot
get an Indian, he will return to you with information & an account
of the furs & goods now there. In his case he need not return in the
winter if everything is quiet as usual with the Indians, but if it is not you
will send him back. On the other hand should you be there by the
time the boat gets up, & no positive information from the West coming that
there is no opposition there, you must so arrange the business with Mr.
McShannon that he shall go there, & come back to you before you leave,
giving you still time enough to be down early in Dec.

Long ere this reach you you will have seen the two Blackguards,
Brown & Robertson, that left this in Sept. - Not the smallest Com-
mission must be given to either - To add to the infamy of Robertson's
conduct his lawful wife is now here upon our hands in a situation
deplorable enough; it would therefore in his case be multiplying bad
news due in that the door of forgiveness on the Scoundrel, if he
is inclined to come back & look after his family; but otherwise let
him be regarded as the greatest vagabond in the face of the earth.

I trust you have all so arranged that we need have no un-
easiness about you in the pendant of Ouellet Mountain - including
your own I you will find 22 horses in the Bay -
yours Archibald McDonald

Fort Colville 5th January 1841

John McLaughlin Esq.

Dear Sir,

In the usual way after the holidays, I undertook to forward
a packet the length of W. W. - It will have the additional merit of conveying
you some late information from east side, tho' our friends in that quarter seem
not over commensurate. - Mr. Rowland himself to be sure says all that could
well be expected from him at the date he wrote; and agreeably to his suggestion
I have the pleasure to enclose you his sheet to me.

As regards the main object of his Express - the Governor's route from Edmonton
- I suppose the one he proposes must be adopted, at least, so far as depends
upon us, I see no insurmountable obstacle in the way. Were there a passably
good road, from the Lakes he speaks of, to the Traverse above the Flat River
in a direct line

Yours

Sally & them across the portage to the Coast d'Alou Sath, his quick journey of 15 or 20 days might possibly be accomplished; but as I have no great faith in such a route, I think, especially as he seems averse to bogs & embarras, they had better come by the Tolaw plan, which is somewhere situated near the Kootanay No. you see marked on the map; and come there, my opinion is, that they should come by the Flathead No. Then the could be accommodated with two small Boats, even if so arranged; but the horses, & I fancy some of the people would require to come by land all the way to Colvile. Enough of provisions to answer all purposes was left up this side in case they come that way. — With respect to the required number of horses, neither Mr. R. or Mr. A. seem sufficiently definite. The Com says 'abundance of good horses' & the other 'a few fresh horses'; but whatever the number you decide on may be, I would suggest that they be in time procured at W. W. & marched on slowly in this direction so soon as they are got together. — As for the Flatheads, I don't think they would be in quite so early, & moreover, they would be too much fatigued for the trip in question, & I do not see for their ordinary tramp back to the plains commencing after. Bertram, for return of Duquette, I have directed to be here middle of April in the Coast with the proper assistance, could take charge of the W. W. horses at once, & proceed with them the Flathead to whatever place you may fix on, and afterwards continue on his route accompanied by an Indian or otherwise as you may conceive most expedient, to the old Bow river No. referred to, & then await the arrival of the party. On their way coming to Thompsons No., that is, should you direct the horses to go so far, Mr. R. with the guidance of his Cree & the Council of Bertram may, if they think it best, strike off thro' the Kootanay Country to the Province already alluded to & them across the regular portage without deranging the primary plan except in so ^{far} ~~far~~ as it would be necessary to advertise the Boats to come down light, to meet them at the south end of the last mentioned portage to bring them on to the Point d'Orville Bay — Mr. McHenry reached the Kootanay No. 22^d Nov. & Duquette this place the 1st of last month. —

One Number of the 'Times' is all I see in the Budget, in the shape of English news — that itself, contains the history of a performance that is sufficiently creditable to the Hudson's Bay Company & to the Champions of the memorable achievement

Mr. de Lamoignon returned from the plains about the usual time, with a
Collection made for the season of about 1000 Beavers: this is short of last
year, but rather above the trade of '38. — The different outfits he has had were
fully adequate to that amount of returns, but I believe decidedly proper for
of the Spring one, owing to his having fallen in with the Westward. He is short
of the demand, that is, for Blankets & other warm goods, on which they entirely
rely when they have anything to dispose of, and even with that temptation
before their eyes are but very shy traders, especially when the American ven-
derous is their object, as was the case on this occasion. — However — though it
is far from certain that a large supply of such goods can always be disposed
of, & is necessarily carried about at much risk & deterioration of property
in the charge of two men only — I am willing, so far as respects me, that
you should be no plen on that head hereafter. But the worst of it is, we
are not likely to derive much benefit from the execution of the two Beaver
hunted home forward. Last season their whole attention was taken up with
the Missions already amongst them, & with the thoughts of those who are
in great numbers to come. — Certainly partly of the young men started off with
Mr. Brock to escort him to Fuller's Fort on the Yellow Stone before Mr. de Lamoignon
could reach the main Camp with his Equipment. This last proceeded afterwards
in the same direction in order to discover the safe returns of their friends, and
to them Mr. de Lamoignon attached himself & a little party. Near the head of the Missouri
Shale river, he had the good luck to fall in with (Big Horn & 7 or 8 of his
associates, of whom he obtained a good few Beavers; also Flour, Sugar & Coffee
could have got more. — Upon the Yellow Stone itself, they picked up the scout
who brought the enclosed note from the Rev. G. G. G. — During this perambulation
while he was occasionally in the vicinity of Buffalo, he lost two or three of his
Indians in skirmishes with the P. M. But are an every day occurrence
in that dangerous & hostile Country. — The few Trappers we have in the Plains
are about giving in too — to save they are men downwards in the way of
the Wallamath next Spring. —

On affairs about the Westward I am happy to say that so far we are
exempt of the annoyance expected from the presence of "Maneraviet": but I
regret to add that from Redland himself with the property he had in hand,
but with adroit desertion in the month of April by the report of his
skin canoe coming down from the Tobacco plain — of the property, he actually

lost hair, or few Bales of leather & 7 Beaver skins, & very narrowly escaped
with life himself. — He got to the appointed place in due time, & very effectually
secured everything; but at being uncertain when he left me whether the Canoe
men would be obliged to go to the Mountain before he started with the outfit,
he, in such a dangerous situation & all alone, immediately constructed one
of those frail Crafts, & on the descent experienced the accident alluded to. —
Had he remained, Chabo would have joined him with the Canoe at the
same date as the year before; but I know the poor man excused himself to
do all for the best. — The Beaver skin I think to more than last year
When Dequise left, their stock of provisions would not admit of their
passing the winter at the house. — Mr. Stephens did not proceed to that
place, having learned at the F. H. that no opposition came in, and my
order to him not being positive, otherwise

With respect to the men, they leave to refer you to the accompanying
List, & in adjacent manner to call your attention to the remarkable services
annexed. — By it you will see that, exclusive of P. Martineau & Jacques,
both, their hands will leave us far below early in Spring, & the Guide, for
the same reason, with the Brigade; leaving but two Bonté for the West,
when at least 5 or 6 are required. — In my last I informed that Alexis
Martineau had joined Wren, and some, that other hopeful youth
William Fran recommended his old practice & set off to the Indian Camp
with his relations over some 5th November without any intention of resuming
his duty with the Company. To have to do with so many of these idle and
unprompted vagrants is truly provoking. —

In all I have said on the subject of the Governor's route, I would by no
means have it understood that, however obstructive to horses & so forth the
old R. Mountain pass, it ought to be abandoned & the proposed one adopt-
ed in its stead for all enterprises with east side; but for the purpose in ques-
tion & with all the means to be taken for its accomplishment, I think upon
the whole it is over the best. — You will do all in your power, but should the
Cooperation of the Columbians, apart from the affair of the horses, be required
before the ascent of the Brigade, it will put us all to much inconvenience.
In either case I hope you will relieve this station of much of the duty that
will unavoidably be required in that behalf, & at a time too when our
own labours are likely to be particularly pressing. — For all the grain supposed

to be accumulating at Colvile as we now, in consequence of the partial
failure of the two last crops, reduced to a round year's consumption - This
fall we had a considerable extent of new ground tinned up, besides the sow-
ing of about 50 bushels of fall wheat, without calculating on a relocation
of the ordinary labours of the spring. - The railing required for all this work is
another very heavy drawback upon us here, when the materials are so very
difficult to be had - add to this the blank that will be occasioned by the
the withdrawal of so many of our men in the spring. - Mr. McLean too will
want another hand in the room of the Surgeon Sargent, if they are
at all to be in a condition to carry about much property in our fort. -
Our dwelling house, you are aware is going to pieces - we have now on the
ground & in perfect readiness for a new one all the wood that is required,
but cannot think of pulling down the old one, till we are sure of being
in a condition without interruption to get up the one on the site of the other -
MacKenzie, I should like much to remain with us for the summer for that
purpose, which I think he would - This is the third year for a house at Colvile
put together since 1827. -

Herewith is enclosed a list of the few things we require for Express
Boats, which I must not mention any more, as well as room allowed
from Wall Walla for the four pieces of the outfit left there last summer;
in the manner ^{the} two Pates of iron, of sent up in Nov. of which we heard
nothing when the other pieces were sent for - I am

Dear Sir yours &c A. McDonald

Fort Colvile 7th January 1841

To the Genl. in Charge of Spring Express

Sir - Through I have already suggested to Mr. McLaughlin the propriety
of directing you to bring on here for us four pieces of an outfit left at W. W.
last summer a Case Iron. a Roll Iron. a Keg Gunpowder & 2 Bags Balls get as
further precautions this note will be handed you by Mr. Pemberton the property
is particularly required for Equipping Mr. McLean. - There are in like manner
two Pates of iron, of sent up in Nov. of which we heard nothing when the
other pieces came up then ~~were~~ sent for to that place. - They too are absolutely
required for the Boats in addition to the Nails &c sent for now to come
by the same Conveyance from ^{headquarters} yours

A. McDonald

Fort Colville 17th February 1838

John McLaughlin Esq.

Dear Sir

Very respectfully & under the most painful
Circumstances I am this day again called upon to address you - from
Mr. Black is no word! - He was most barbarously cut off from this world
in his own hands on the evening of the 8th Inst. by a single Indian belonging
to the place. - The melancholy news reached me here tonight thro' George's
who had it from Latham. In the lamentable affair no direct Cause
can be assigned, unless it could be traced to the sudden death of
one of their usually Chiefs, Tranquilla. This Indian on Cause of the
Summer applied to the deceased for a gun in the Fort, which he said
the owner, a North River Indian, had made over to him; a request that
could not be complied with without a more convincing proof of the fact.
In January he again applied, prior to his setting out for the Pavilion
on Tropic River with the same success, when I believe some angry words
ensued. At the Pavilion, he soon fell ill & died few days after.
Pending his illness it was rumoured among the Indians & insidiously
propagated by their vile Conjurors that, if he did not recover, his
death must be ascribed to the bad Medicine of the whites, & revenged.
After the death of the vagabond, more came that much of the good
feeling of the Indians would depend on the good offices of the whites
to see him buried. Immediately on rec^d. of the news from the Pavilion
of this message from Mr. Black lost no time in sending two men,
Edmond & Fullardene to assist at the burying of him; & it
would appear that the same morning after passing the family Encamp^t.
of Tranquilla a few miles lower down, the Murderer (his nephew) left
it, & arrived at the Fort about noon without any visible arms
about him. - He remained smoking in the Hall the whole afternoon
in Company with two other young men from a different quarter -
Lafayette was that day occupied in a Cellar under the hall flooring
overhauling some potatoes, & Mr. B. frequently passed & repassed
conversing with him from above. At length the two young men
left the assembly, he telling them that it being too cold for him
to go home, he proposed sleeping in the Fort. About that time the

The deceased made another turn out, Came in by a back door, walked thro the Stair to get into his sun room & while in the act of stooping was shot by the villain from alongside the Chimney not two yards off, behind which must have been secreted the fatal instrument. Saprade, still below, on hearing the report called "any arms", but before any effectual assistance could appear the fellow was off. The Boat with a quantity of Beaver shot entered the Smack of the back & came out below the Chest - poor unhappy man never spoke again! Saprade tho much excited and under great alarm put everything in the best posture he could & on the morning of the 10th sent off Saprade.

It now remains for me to say what measures I am about taking myself in so calamitous a case. Messrs. McLean & M^c. Pherson start immediately with 7 men by way of Okanahan & will I trust be with Saprade in about 10 days. Unfortunately there is a great deal of low stock & of one thing or another far too much at the mercy of the Indians should they be disposed to give further annoyance. My directions to Mr. McLean are in the first place to endeavour to pacify the natives & smooth over any present difficulties that may be in the way, without pledging himself to a compromise of the post. And then in the customary way to set about removing everything to Okanahan except the horses & provisions that may be required for the Coldonias; after that I think Mr. McPherson with the ten men belonging to the plan can stand his ground till Mr. Ogden is out. The moment Edward would be back, he was to be sent to Alexandria and as the gentleman attached to the Chillnotin is I think wintering with Mr. Fod, it is likely he will himself come to Kaguloops: in that case our people will be directed by him, & I will take the liberty of suggesting to him, if need be, to remain there himself until further orders from you or Mr. Ogden. Mr. McLean with his people I direct to be back here if possible by the 20th March the usual time for starting on the plan Expedition -

The Body of our lamented friend will not be interred before our people or Mr. Fod gets them. - Nicholas & a few good staunch

Spanish Indians had already rallied around Sapeade, & I am
in hopes, that the case already is sufficiently distressing, nothing more
of a serious nature will overtake us - I am

Dear Sir - yours very faithfully -

A. McDonald

18th The news has spread about here now among the natives, and
is productive of considerable excitement, but I do not apprehend
it will lead to anything serious in this quarter - A.M.D

10 - A.M. -

Colville 17th February

J. C. Pemberton Esq^r

Dear Sir

The melancholy news which has just reached me
from Thompsons river requiring the utmost expedition to have it conveyed to
Vancouver, I have open for your perusal my letter to Mr. Chief Justice Wroughton
instead of addressing you individually, on this distressing affair. You will
of course see no time in forwarding that communication with the necessary
despatch. - To enable me to give an additional note to Mr. McLeod it is to be
sent home by one of our Fort Colville men as far as the Mission, & then Messrs. Eddy
& Walker will consign it to the care of one of theirs - yours

A. McDonald

To the same 18th February -

yesterday evening I briefly addressed you with the letter sent to Mr. Mc
Laughlin by way of the plains; but fearing there is more snow than way
than I was then ~~knowing~~ aware of, I now transmit a duplicate of that
letter by Mr. McLeod to O.K. in order to go along the Columbia without delay.
Andrew Ferguson tells me he left an Indian of his *bleu de piece* in his house
house that will carry it down at once. - Of course it will be unnecessary to
forward to Vancouver the ^{last} that will come to hand - A. McDonald

Fort Colville 18th February 1841

Mr. Donald de la Tour

Dear Sir

After the various consultations we have already had on the
melancholy catastrophe at Thompsons River, & the probable cause which led to it
I shall merely suggest for your future guidance that, one arrived there with

with Mr. McPherson & the 7 men now accompanying you here, your first care will be to lay down the existing difficulties, & ease the minds of the natives as much as you can, which on an occasion like the present must unavoidably be much excited; but let this be done in a manner so as not to pledge ourselves to any great sacrifice or a compromise of the post. Then you will in the usual way set about removing the furs & live stock to Olanakau, in a manner too so as not to excite any great alarm, as, on account of New Caledonia it is necessary that the post should be kept up until Mr. Ogden is sent safely. And for this purpose, after you are satisfied that no serious danger is to be apprehended, Mr. McPherson & the ten men attached to the Establishment will occupy it till then. The provisions & goods can be left with them in case Mr. O. may conceive it advisable to send them on to Alexander.

It being in contemplation when Saffeur left Kamloops, to send for Mr. Ford, you will in all probability find that gentleman there; if so, you will of course be guided by his directions, always bearing in mind the necessity for your being here with your people if possible by the 20th March.

As many of our most efficient horses being now put in requisition, you will on return from Ok ^{bring} along ten or 12 good ones. An inventory of course will be taken at Thompson on your arrival, & could it conveniently be done, an Indian ought to be sent to us express with an account of the state of affairs there. — The New Caledonia packet will I think be out by the time you reach Kamloops; it & the accounts of the District itself so far as you can find them above, might be sent us across from the Ok. fork, & the gentleman coming up with the Boob will bring on what will be necessary from Olanakau.

The following is a list of the Thompson's River men viz

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1 Saffeur | 8 Ignace |
| 2 Marinneau | 9 Baptiste - the postmaster |
| 3 Fillemont | 10 Marteau do |
| 4 L'Esuyer | 11 Loyalle - Saffeur's son |
| 5 Fallerdeau | 12 Saffeur - to return with you from Ok. |
| 6 Edanard | William Pion - one of the 7 from here |
| 7 Robind | Baptiste his brother |

The 7 men go up to Kamloops

Besides these, Edwin will go up with you from Ok - Mr. Saffeur, Marinneau and L'Esuyer will come back with you, with the furs, horses &c. Still leaving above including the two Pions, ten men. — Fillemont can always be settled with after

after Mr. Ogden comes out, & so can Robin should it be found absolutely ^{necessary} to detain
him above. - Marmineau & L'Ecuyer will go out if they come down unsettled
the family & property of the deceased will come down in charge of L'Ecuyer.
The pigs & goats depend of as you may think proper, that the people on the Fort
may have nothing to broil after but themselves & the defence of the place
The New Caledonia News and any other that it may be necessary to keep at
hand, will be sent in charge of Nicholas at the Big Prairie.

Wishing you all every safety & success - I am

Dear Sir yours - A.M. McDonald

"Mr. Walker the Messenger wrote me on 15th to the following effect.

If I could take a trip with Dr. McLean to the Flatlands it would be the best
thing I could do, as it would give me an opportunity for acquiring the
languages, & I could have an opportunity to talk to the Indians. -
Please to inform me in what way you would like me to go. If it should be
agreeable to you I should prefer to be supplied & Miss with the Gentleman in charge."

My reply to him on the subject was thus.

"As regards your contemplated trip to the plains, I confess to a subject
on which I am unwilling to offer an opinion. You Gentleman, are come to the
Country to judge for yourselves & to promote the laudable objects of the Mission
you are upon but may you can, in what you are some of making with no im-
pediments on our part; On the contrary I am certain you may always rely
on our good wishes; but in extending direct support, we are most anxious to
save appearances & to avoid everything like a participation in what may be
termed party opinions; which, in the present state of the Country, & in the plains
are long likely to become a source of difficulties in particular, I fear would
scarcely be consistent with my conscience in the mode of travelling if you
proposed. I am certain situated as I am, your own experience & good sense would
not readily admit this argument. - However, by your having your own Sledge,
Horses, attendants &c. & to see nothing to prevent your going to the plains to talk with
the Indians, & to be within reach of our people to as much as may suit your own
convenience. - There is but one Boat going up this Spring, that will be probably well
loaded, besides Dr. McLean & family & three men exclusive of the Crew to come down;
but I don't say for all that you could be accommodated. a Bag of Powder
and a little Bacon in Can send on for you to the Bay should you decide on going

And at the Flatheads Mr. Shaw will be able to supply you with all you may require in the rough & tumble way of the Country until you get to Buffalo. That Gentleman himself however is not yet back: nor can I finally determine on at all the measures I should like to pursue with respect to the plains, until he is, & some news received from headquarters - At all events I think the mountain will be favorable for home about the middle of next week.

Instructions to Mr. McPherson

Sir, As you are now to take upon you the Charge of our business in the plains, when you are likely to continue for some time, let me above all things impress upon you the necessity for making yourself acquainted with the Indian language as speedily as possible, as, on that depends much of the influence, & success of the Trade.

Beaulieu, who accompanies you this year, is well acquainted with the trade & the train of the Country; and from him you ought considerably to pick up every little particular about almost every Freeman & Indian you are likely to fall in with throughout the season.

The Trade with the Freeman & Indians you will follow as heretofore allowed you present outfit consists of 20 pieces leading Goods of the most essential articles usually sent to that Country.

All the old N.B. freemen, (savey Jacques Ostisurakka), being it is said on their way down to the low Country, you will use no persecutions to keep them. For the last few years the hunts comparatively were nothing, yet, their adventures continued the same: what is more, we know the bulk of the few furs they give, is Indian trade, procured with the very supplies they draw from us, & thereby do us more harm than good.

As to the American freeman, I am not aware of any of that class in connexion with us, that is entitled to special consideration. They come to us, naked, & plain for supplies, & promise wonders, without any security whatever beyond their own bare word; therefore all rest incurred & indulgence to them in this way ought to be extremely limited, at least, until they show by their industry their claim to something better.

To the two vagabonds that left us last fall, give not the least countenance. Should they have a desire to trade, let it be done with them on the footing of Indians.

Your great effort is to be made with the Nezperce Indians (procuring
 Beavers from the Southward); & for them you ought to reserve your principal
 supplies till you return. On the mode of procuring that way I cannot give
 you specific directions; but with 25 or 30 horses & the whole party together, namely,
 yourself, Brewster, Martin, Barber & the Horsekeeper, I think you will
 be able to accomplish all that is expected of you in that quarter. The best
 way is to accompany the Flathead Camp, & according to any information
 you may receive en route, to send a couple of hands to any Beaver holding
 that may be within reach. The end of their journey is usually Pierre's
 Ath. In that vicinity American trappers generally catch, & with them you
 will make the best trade you can, according to the Farrer worth handed

Should the season be too far advanced to admit of your all being
 in to the Flatheads (i.e. middle of August), two of you at least ought
 to make it a point to come on light in order to meet the summer outfit
 & carry it on to the rendezvous you may fix on with those left behind;
 for that purpose you ought to see that horses enough be left with Pierre
 who remains in charge of the House -

If I can get them for you, 10 or 12 good horses will be sent you up
 early in the summer for Beaver Trade

Were it possible, I should like to hear thro' Indians what you are
 doing & your idea of what may be required from here for summer
 trade by the 1st August -

At the Flatheads, Pierre must be instructed to make it necessary
 to remain in his hands till Collier got

To make your transactions in the plains clear & satisfactory, a Ledger
 ought to be kept with entries in it of everything; it will not be necessary
 to note every little piece of Tobacco or load of Am. as they are given out,
 but of an evening might be given out entered in the trump, in order the
 more readily to arrive at what goes under the head of accidental Expense
 The account of the Trade will be kept under four distinct heads, thus -

H. Day		Summer	
1 st Class	2 ^d Class	Amusement	Provisions
		for Prov. Agents	Incidental

The amount of credit in each Column can afterwards be extended
 & balanced with the trade as the case may be

A Journal too may as well be kept, & when occasions require it, the
annals & any other ^{happy} pertinent idea of your own at the time ought to
be recorded at some length for our information.

Having been already in Opposition you know the propriety of every
motion to catch at what you can in the shape of favor: the smallest Beaver
is an object, & that we are on the ground with our men & goods in oppor-
tunity should be lost in negotiating for staying up at even all that
will come within your reach in that way. — Wishing you every success

I am Dear Sir — yours
Archibald McDonald

As I do not suppose after what I wrote him that Mr. Walker the
Miner will be going to the plain this Spring, & especially as
Mr. McLean is not to be of the party, I give you no doubts about
him; should he however determine on going entirely on his own
bottom, the verbal conversation we have had together in reference to
him will be a sufficient guide for you

Armed

Fort Colvile 22nd March 1841

Fort Colvile 27th March 1841

John McLaughlin Esq;

Dear Sir

In hearty expectation of seeing the Exp: and of
hearing from you ever since the 20th I am unwilling to come to the
resolution of forwarding the present Budget: but as it is not now
likely that we shall see anyone before the usual time, I conceive it
advisable you should have the last news from Thompson's River with-
out further delay. — The particulars attending that unhappy
event are essentially as I wrote you already, & to Mr. Todd's letter to yourself
now, I must refer for the state of affairs since at the plain since. He sent
nothing down, & contrary to my expectation kept McLean there instead
of the other, however, he was on the spot, & best able to judge what
should be done. — Enclosed I enclose you Copy of my Instructions to
Mr. McLean as I formerly promised — Mr. Chapman left
J. R. on the 14th and arrived here via Ok on 19th accompanied by the

family of the deceased, few of our own men & Alaskan - On the
14th the day after their arrival above - Mr. Porteus with 3 men joined them
with Mr. Gordon's party from Fort George. In a day or two Mr. Tod & he were
to return to Alexandria. - I do not know the number of men to be left
with Mr. Swan - Sinclair & the 2 Pioneers remain of those sent for him
& several Alaskans, Gilbeault is the only other man of the depot
Army down - In Mr. Pherson, we made the best arrangement
we could have, and got him off for the plains 22nd - An Indian sent
to Redoubt on 20th of last month for an account of his Returns, can't
last night with everything required, correct & satisfactory. (Being)
so ice, I cannot expect himself before middle of next month -
Indians lately come in from the plains report nothing unfavorable
from that quarter - Here itself, we get on best way we
can: On Monday, God willing, we shall be prepared to start three
ploughs, & as soon as the state of the water will admit of it the Mills will
be under way - With some difficulty we have collected materials
for 5 new Boats that will be for the coming at the usual time. -
Our Aggregate Returns will be about 1500 Beavers - here itself the trade
has been a very poor one in Beavers & Rabbits, & no otters -

I am Dear Sir yours &c &c Archibald

Fort Colville 29th March 1841

John McLaughlin Esq - Dear Sir - My Indian, unwilling to start
yesterday - being Sunday, was this morning on the act of mounting) had
happened when Antoinette Auger sent up with a packet from Fort St. James
Containing a despatch to your address from London, recommended to the
particular attention of the Gentleman on the communication by Mr C. Taylor
Traveller. I detain him for a few hours, but this afternoon again resumes
his usual station) with the south express - The tragical end of poor Mr. Thomas
Simpson & the drowning of two men on the McHenry river is the most sad news
I see. - Mr Taylor does not exactly say what the object of the present Exp.
to you is, but if connected with a migration of soldiers from Redoubt to this
side I suppose we will soon hear of it. Did the Express start as early
as they seem to anticipate, then Bridges would have reached you too late
to reply to by that conveyance. Auger, after six days wandering on the

plans without a guide, again returned to Mr. Hamilton; before he could
the second time start. Accompanied by young McHenry, 12 days were lost.
They took 14 days to Redlands & another 10 more to here - Mr. Hamilton's notes
to me are dated, the first, 20th February, & the last 3rd March.

Yours again

Archibald McDonald

Report on the Circumstances attending the death of Mr. C. F. Black

To the Governor & Council
Northern Department

Gentlemen

As it is probable Mr. Chief Factor McLaughlin
will be forwarding for your information my letter to him of 17th ultimo, I
think it my duty to say that, though all in that letter is essentially correct,
yet, the present Report more completely connects all the circumstances attend-
ing the tragical & much to be lamented event announced to him on that
occasion. It may not be irrelevant here to premise that the Indians
of the Thompsons River District generally, have for some time back, com-
ed a degree of daring & insolence not often met with, even in more recently
occupied sections of the Country: though to this sweeping charge, I am
aware many instances of good conduct & sincere attachment to the whites
might be produced. That no apparent cause can be assigned for the
perpetration of this horrid deed may be true; but from the following
Narrative I think enough can be collected to show the feelings of the
Shewshaps, & the Convivance of at least more than one of them, ^{around} in the
murder of our worthy friend Mr. Black -

In course of the summer a North River Indian traded a gun from the
deceased, which he left in his hands for the purpose of being made over
to Franquille, one of the two Shewshap Chiefs, on delivering a horse in re-
turn. Soon after, the gun was applied for, but no horse being proffered
or any distant promise made of one, it remained in the store. About 24th
January, prior to his setting out for the pavillion on Teuseis River - say 3
days ride off - Franquille again applied for it, with no better success. On
leaving the Fort on that occasion, he entered Solowis's lodge, & in his hearing
told an Indian about starting that very day with one of Mr. B's men on a

a Deer to North River, to tell the Indians of that place from him, that his heart was very bad; that they must no longer trade with the Whites, or forget the tribute they owe the Sheshaps - - - - - Immediately on his arrival at the Favillien, the Scoundrel felt sick, & died in three days. His news, without any previous knowledge of his illness, reached the deceased, not however by any express messenger, but a casual passer bye, about Wednesday 3^d February, & seemed to have given him much uneasiness. On the same Indian he prevailed to carry some Tobacco & a piece of Flannel a Red Bird next morning to the lodge of Franquille's Sister & Nephew (the murderer) about six miles down down. On the Friday night, the Grand Fiddle, another member of the same Vill family, brought back the things to his own lodge, about 300 yds. from the Fort; and carried them to the house next morning, without manifesting any particular concern or occasion in the matter, though he must have well known what was hatching. By this time young Montague, one of the Interpreters, with another man, was off to assist at the burning of the fellow at the Favillien; but on learning at the sister's lodge that, instead of sending on the offering as was intended, it was indignantly returned, he also came back for further instructions. It being extremely cold on the Sunday he did not again start till Monday, and the only alteration made in the first arrangement was the changing of the first man for Fallen-dean, he being the son in law of Franquille's Sister likely to be interested at the meeting at Fossil River. As they went, they did not call at the sister's, but seemingly were scarcely out of sight when the murderer left his family in hand for the Fort, in almost a state of nudity, & arrived without being particularly noticed by anyone. Mr B. hearing a cough in the late adjoining his room, when Indians occasionally entered, told his woman to who it was; on her saying so & suspecting that it was the Wagon, he got up, & passed out thro' the kitchen by a back door to tell Saprade to give him to to to in a little fire, the weather still being exceedingly cold. He was soon joined by two young Indians hanging on about the place; the deceased's woman repeatedly had occasion to go out to converse with the villain for causing to in the house by his keeping the fire on the hearth instead rather than in the chimney, & to supposed to be with the view of drawing out his innocent victim; but the poor man never did pass out that way throughout the whole day

and always kept his room door shut. At length the two young men left
the assassin, he telling them that it being too cold for him to go home, he
proposed sleeping in the Fort for the night. Soon after their departure, the
deceased got up from his sitting table, and again made a turn out by
the same back door & round the kitchen to the men's houses: On returning,
he unfortunately entered by the pale front door, turned to the left, into a
small apartment under the flooring of which Saprada was overhauling
potatoes most of the day, conversed with him for a few minutes,
& passing across the hall was in the act of stooping to get into his own
room when shot dead on the spot by the fire from behind. The ball
with I believe a quantity of shot, entered the small of the back & came
out below the chest, and afterwards lodged in a corner of the inner room
alongside his wife & three infant children!! —

With the proper vigilance on the part of the men in the Fort, there is
no question the murderer could have been secured before he was outside
the main gate. He instantly flew to the Grand Guille's lodge, told what
he had done, invited them all to follow, & in a few minutes was off him-
self to his father, mother & three wives; but finally slept with the Grand
Guille that night; and ever since, continues hovering about from lodge
to lodge without much open countenance from anyone, except it be
from his friend, that other worthless white witch of a Chief Court a patte

An Indian attached to the Fort says, that he told the deceased last
time he passed thro' the kitchen, to be on his guard; as he saw when making
the fire in the hall, that Deacon's gun was primed & cocked & concealed
behind the chimney. Of this too his son, soon warned him of his danger
& thus concealed the secret, but for the truth of these assertions I cannot
answer. The unhappy man I know was always very incredulous in reports
of that kind when they referred to himself, tho' at all times exceedingly sus-
picious of Indians. One thing very certain, he was most uneasy from
the moment of the news of Tranquillie's death reached him. My journal,
Mr. de Grouse informed me, was brought up to the day of his death, written
apparently with the great rapidity & sudden feeling of some excitement

Nicolas, the Okanogan Chief, being sent for by the Interpreter the morn-
ing; immediately on the occurrence of the disaster, happily joined them at the Fort
two days after, and on all hands is allowed the credit of having rendered

most eminent Service at so serious a Crisis: The second day after his arrival word came to the Establishment that the murderers have three of the Company's horses tied to his lodge & seen others feeding close by it ready for the knife. Nicolas's peremptory Command however soon brought them all to the Fort by the way messaged, and nothing further of the kind was attempted on the part of any one.

At the Fort, during Montaignis absence at the Pavilion, they were, justly enough, most uneasy, as, the Common belief this was, that the whole affair was got up at Tenzis River before the Chiefs death, & the execution of it spurred on by those about him after his demise; but that idea is no longer entertained as, both Montaignis & Fallerdean say, they were well revised & asserted that the fellow himself before his death spoke well of the whites & counselled all present to shun them notwithstanding his disappearance; which may or may not be true. At present we are to conclude the diabolical plot had its beginning and ending in the lodge with those who inhabited & frequented old Bominis lodge, Court apath too, tho' certainly not at home on the day of the murder, is, in my opinion, guilty of a least a Concurrence in violent threats & menaces with the view of extorting property, & even some the deplorable event, has kept very shy & distant.

This is all that I think it necessary to trouble you with. The notions at present tis said are peculiarly disposed: even the notoriously bad ones I verily believe wish to make a merit of appearing at this critical moment better than they really are. And I wish I could speak of the Okanagans in favor to do with along the Communication (not exactly under the immediate control & influence of Nicolas) in more favorable terms than some part of their late conduct can authorize. The extreme poverty of their Country, which is yearly going from bad to worse, always compelled them to steal Horses for the support of life; but the rupture with them on one occasion of that kind four years ago, which was attended with the death of one Indian & the killing & wounding of two whites, did not at all tend to smooth the way or obviate difficulties in that quarter, & is still the subject of soreness on both sides. Our people on the

last trip both going and coming, had horses stolen from them for the Ketov. And what is to be done with the miserable wretches in such cases? Yet, to consider such acts as no crime would be, soon to put an end to every horse on the Establishment; and I am certain the deceased in those matters regulated himself with becoming humanity and the necessary firmness. Here itself, I had the first horse since I came to the plain, shot this last winter - a very trifling loss to be sure to the Mackenzie Bay Company, but I thought it good policy to matter the sittings of the Court of inquiry in the case, last two whole days. -

By Mr. Chief Jod's Report from Thompson's River, you see the prompt assistance rendered by the people of Colvile. Two men of the J. R. men to Okanogan & another thence to this place I received the distressing news on 17th & next morning despatched the best account I could make out of the case to Mr. C. F. de Loughlin, & on 19th, when a party could be made up & horses collected, got off Messrs. de Sean & McPherson with 10 men including 2 they were to pick up at Ok. for the relief of the plain, furnished with instructions how to act did they not, contrary to expectations, found Mr. Jod there from Alexandria. - Mr. Ch. J. with the family of the deceased, five of our own people & one of the J. R. men on his way out arrived here on 19th inst. & on 22nd was off to the plains, Mr. de Sean, whose special duty that service was having been detained for the temporary charge of J. R. instead of the other as I intended.

I may yet have occasion to address you on matters connected with this part of the country. - 20th of last month I sent off an Indian to the Neotannig to Edouard Bertrand, for the most intelligible amount he could make out for me of his Returns & c. so as to be here for the Express by 25th March. He accordingly returned 26th with a satisfactory execution of the Commission, having found my man at Riviere la Piche between the Tobacco plain & Thompson's Lake, where he was obliged to move out with his people for the want of living. Yesterday morning, as I was in the act of handing the same Indian a packet for Mr. C. F. de Loughlin, which form day to day ever since the return of Mr. McPherson, I deferred sending, being in hourly expectation of seeing the Exp: or at least of hearing from them below.

Antoine Auger, by the same River La Piche, cast up with the despatches
from London, recommended to our Special attention by W.C.F. Fenwick's
Circular of 4th January. The object of this packet it is clear, would
have been entirely defeated, did the Exp: as anticipated leave this
4th April, as it always the case when going by Red River. After two
hours' delay the Courier resumed his task with the double Budget;
but of the useful end or otherwise of the London despatch you can only
know by the final Communication from Columbia. At present I am
very uneasy & utterly at a loss what to think of so long a detention
of some sort of news for as far below. Thus the Messengers the other
day, I heard it came to their knowledge by letters from some of their
own friends below in the low Country, that an English Ship was in
end of February, & that numerous men afloat an Exp: would not
start before the usual time. It was also the current report below
that three other Ships were seen outside the Bar

I have the honor to be

Gentleman

Your Obedt. & very faithful Servant

Arch^d McDonald C.S.

Fort Colville 30th March 1841

Fort Colville 8th April 1841

John Rowan Esq.

Dear Sir

This will not be a long letter, but with the little
time I have will endeavour to make it as interesting as possible. If you
are really bent on starting for Red River 1st of May it will be quite advise to
you; that is should it come to hand before that date, of which I am not over-
sanguine, as it will be confined entirely to Indians. Poor Auger scalded
me here 29th & next day he betook himself to bed with sore legs, arms and
mouth from head to foot, & scarcely able to move out of the house since -
the problem that came with him from Portlands, therefore will be the bearer
of this, as far as he will be good natured enough to carry it himself before
making it over to O'Key. The only paper besides this sheet that I mean to
extract him with will be my private letter addressed you some days ago, one
which I believe touches on almost everything worth knowing in this part of

the world from I last hour that pleasure. Now I do not like to send in
Case all might fall into the hands of the Yankees prowling about outside
the Mountains. - Last night about 1/2 past 9, Mr. Allan & two men arrived
here by land. There will be no early Express. The Boats will be here for a
week yet, nor can they leave at the very earliest before 22nd. Judge for yourself
now what to do. Mr. D. does not say a single word to me in reference to
this unexpected delay. The London despatch must have reached here yester-
day or today, as it left on the very same day it arrived. The English ships
came in middle of February, & the Columbia with Mr. Douglas from California
middle of last month. The Cadboro to, lately, from Puget's Sound & Gulf of
Georgia; but no other adv. from N.W. Coast: - ^{The three Boats} One however was hourly expected,
was for some days before Mr. Allan started (21st) previous to his leaving California
Mr. D. got under way Mr. Kay, Steele, & Saffronbore & a strong party with some
horned cattle & about 2700 head of sheep by land, & will be expected some-
time in course of the summer - 250 of gun sheep broke their necks over a
pumpkin than 1st or 2nd days march. - For Mr. St. Simpson went down by the
Vancouver from the Islands on hearing of the lamentable death of his Brother
John near Mexico; he took it for granted the whole affair was known
in the Columbia, & merely alluded to in a letter to Mr. Douglas sent across
to California. This is all worth absorbing to that came to my knowledge
last night. -

Mr. Tolmie is coming up with 2 Boats, accompanied
by Messrs. Eremberg & Mr. Menlay as far as Ok: on their way to Thompson's River;
the latter to remain there, & the former, after seeing the state of affairs at the place,
to return to assume his charge in the Flat Country. I apprehend no new
breathing out in that quarter for the present: had there been any threatening
appearance Mr. Lean would have written me. The last adv. was by Mr. Johnson to Mr. Mack-

As to the Governor's order of March this summer the D. writes me thus:
"In regard to the Governor's route I write him, & recommend his coming by the plain
& send it to you, and as you have more correct sources of information
about the Country - which the Governor is to come, you will better the necessary message
& write to the Governor what you intend to do." Now my most correct source
of information is not yet here, Portland; but will be before the Express starts,
& then my suggestions on the subject to his Excellency & yourself will I trust be
plain & satisfactory. On things you may rely on making horses, either at the
Tobacco Plains, Riverview, or Thompson's Falls. It would be better to out

an future route of Communication with east side is in my opinion a hopeless
business. Two Pack go up to the Mountain this Spring in case they may possibly
be required in August. I have also directed some provisions to be made at the
Hothouse House for the use of the party, should you come that way. — I am

Dear Sir yours — Very truly — Arch. McDonald

P. S. from Antonio Lopez expressing a great desire to return to you himself.
This may, even in his present infirm condition, I have consented to his under-
taking the trip; & in order to get him horses & the other requisite assistance this
Budget will not leave me before tomorrow morning. An concluding the trip
himself emboldens me to send you a duplicate of my Report to the Governor
& Council, as I do not see the possibility of their having any other news at R.R.
from the Columbia before the middle of June, even should Mr. Allan follow
you, and on this account my worthy Brother-in-law is exceedingly anxious to
be of service to us both. —

A. M. D.

Fort Colville 24th April 1841

Private — Gov. Simpson

My dear Sir —

Eduard Berland is now here, & has furnished
me with all the necessary information on the subject of the land route to
this place, which upon the whole is more satisfactory than I looked for.
The route by the Tobacco plain & Flatheads however is condemned in toto,
as you will see by the enclosed sketch of the country, and proposed to leave
the Hootanais river at McDonalds Stream, & cut straight through the country
until you again fall upon that river at the Traverse. There is a regular
Indian track, thro' which the natives themselves frequently pass in two
days; but in case you may not be disposed to ride too hard in such ground,
I have allowed for that point of land five days. The cost of the travelling
on this side beyond, is what may be called pretty fair going. He will him-
self be at the aforesaid Hotele Stream end of June with 25 horses, and at Thomp-
son's Horse on the Columbia Lakes 10th July, where he will leave them on 20th
and meet you at the Bow River traverse a days ride above the old Fort, on
or before 25th. The Horses will be quite unencumbered with baggage. At the
Flatheads I ordered 40 provisions to be made for the use of the party, at that
time under the belief that the pass would be that way; but will now be invalid

able. I ^{will} ~~will~~ however have grain to meet you south end of Coeur d'Alene
portage just north in August, with a Boat or two with which to come down
to the pond of d'Orville's encampment, there being two or three deep lake ways
in that space. From Bow river old Fort (14 days from Edmonton) to Colville I have
marked out 14 Encampments, & I have no doubt in the 15 days the distance
can be performed without strictly adhering to my decision of it. Berland
himself you will find very useful & intelligent on all points connected
with the route &c. -

I do not know what may be Mr. C. F. McLaughlin's plans with respect to
movements in the interior this summer, as he says nothing particular in
reference to them in the communication received from below to day; but it
may not be improper to notice that the people of this place are never back
from the Depot before the last days of July. Here follows what he says
in reference to you, Sir. "I hope the horses will be forwarded to meet the
Governor and also the two Boats to be left at the Mountain as he wishes.
But I think it is scarcely possible to cross the Mountains in July or beginning
of August, & extremely dangerous to descend the Columbia at that season.
Please write him about the measures you have taken &c."

Now, Sir, I hope all the measures I have taken on this subject will prove
judicious & successful. The Columbia, after consulting the most experienced
watermen in this country, I entirely disapprove of. This being the case,
only one Boat is taken up by the 6 Outposts themselves in addition to two
Boats that return from the Mountain with Indians but way they can - the
second Boat could have been sent too; but a great risk would have attended
the return of so many hands, without a third Boat to come down with
to avoid a start on the Sunday, the Boat made a short men this evening, &
by setting up all night to close the Riv. Missy. Alan & the other Indians
will be under way to morrow - I am

Very Dear Sir

Truly & Respectfully

Yours

Arch. McDonald

25th

P.S. On second consideration, after the arrival here during the night of two
additional Outposts, the 2^d Boat is sent, & the Vancouver men to return from the Boat
Encampment with an Ojibwa Canoe & two burth ones that will accompany the party
up from the Lakes with four Indians -

Fort Colville 26th April 1841

John McLaughlin Esquire

Dear Sir

On arrival here of Mr. Allan, I was much gratified by receipt of yours of 20th ultimo in answer to my Communications of January & February, & pleased to hear that all my doings in this quarter had met your approbation. Your favor of 12 Inst. is also come duly to hand, by which I was exceedingly glad to find that my second report of 27th March on the unhappy affair at Thompsons River reached you before the departure of the final Communication with east side, as will I suppose, as mine of 29th ~~accompanying~~ sent by the same Convoys, accompanying the London despatches. -

Mr. Allan left us about noon yesterday, with 2 Boats & 15 men. The six Vancouver hands return from the Mountains as soon as they can - Sylvester leaves for Walla Walla tomorrow, & by him that far I send the papers Frank, in case a safe Convoys there for Vancouver may offer before the Brigade goes down. - I know nothing of Mr. Esmond's movements beyond what you write, as I have not heard from himself either from W. W. or O.K. Mr. de Gifford's people to the Flatheads come in to day, about 15th he would himself be starting for the plains. All the Finlays, Plants, Foville & Brown are on their way down here to proceed to the low Country. Edouard Bertrand too, will be leaving me in a day or two, & the best explanation I can give of his mission is the copy herewith sent of my Communication with Governor Simpson, Copy of my letter too to Mr. Rowland of 8th Inst. will show all I have done in that way in like manner; and I hear to day that Auger commenced the trip in a manner that justified the hopes of his reaching Edmonton by 1st May

With regard to your Communication of 12th Inst. in reference to the R. C. Mission to the plains, I think the best thing I can do is to forward Mr. Armet your letter entire, as it wholly respects himself. These men are quite reconciled to the answer I gave in their case, & are disposed to construe it into an act of unkindness. Mr. Walker being more desirous of a change of air & scenery than anything else, I have offered him a passage in our Boats to Okanogan and Walla Walla if he chon to avail himself of it - an accommodation which he seems to appreciate much

Not a man here possessing the requisite qualifications or sufficiently
attached to the service can be relied on as a future Boat builder
By next opportunity, please to instruct Mr Conole and Son. - Mr Montague,
I have settled with on the understanding already suggested, & remain
inland to put up the House on the side of the old one now lumbering over
an ear; and I hope he will not be included in the 4 drummer men, indeed,
even with that number exclusively, we have far more to do than they can
well get thro. Hubert has now a Couple of Issues inserted into his hip
& is otherwise much worn down. McKay in like manner had an oper-
ation performed on him, for the removal of an ugly excrescent from the
abdomen; & of course both are indisposed for the present. - Felix must re-
main at the Big plain with the dry Catete; the removal of such of them as
you would like to have down, I cannot decide on until those at Thompson
River are out; even then their march thro' the Can only be undertaken with
suitable means. - Our fields work, I am happy to say, is as far advanced
as usual at this season of the year. The Mole is at work, but the Bolt is
next thing to useless; & the quantity of stuff sent up for a new one is pro-
voked insufficient. Porran & Charles are at the Boats - I'm sure, I
think it will be a difficult thing to find 9 efficient ones to go down with.
Those left at Ok. in room of the 2 new ones of last year gone to the Mountain,
two said are unfit for anything. By the enclosed statement of inland
men for the Brigade you see the deficiency - There is few good Freemen
ought to be here by 25th May - There will be six Boats leaving this
including the old one of last fall

I am sorry to say Onawanawa & Vesna's Boat suffered a misfortune
on the Ok. falls; with everything on it, it went down the stream, broke & filled -
a day was spent in drying the property & repairing the Boat - next morning
embarking it again they went down a second time, but luckily without sustaining
any damage. The Steersman then gave up his place to young Andre -

I am sure Sir James - - - - - Arch. McDonald
P. S. I have settled with Conole & Son for another year. The old man you
see will be much required this season, & the son also in order to accompany
Berland with the horses, who, poor man himself, at best is a Cripple, & a fall he
had last night from his horse does not seem to mend the matter -

Am. D

private /

Colville 26th May 1841 -

My dear Sir

It is now about a month full since I last had the pleasure, but I fancy my story is yet several hundred miles from that River. The last news from the Gents goes out as of the 10th, dated Campment d'Orceval, & came safe to hand six days ago, together with the party sent to the Mountain with the 2^d Boat. Five days previous to their return, Monique & 4 other Boats joined me from Vancouver for assisting down our Craft. On 22^d also cast up Mr. M. Sean from Thompson's, & yesterday was followed by Messrs. McHenry & Maxwell with 26th men from Ok., detached thence by Mr. Ogden - all for the purpose of lending a hand down with our six Boats. This is far more men than we require; but at that miserable place Ok. the living is an object to get rid of superfluous hands, for ever so short a period. To complete the assemblage here within the week from ^{the four Cardinal points} ~~various~~ quarters, ^{to come for their own annual meeting at D. Williams's Station;} person Walker came in to night, & tomorrow, God willing, we make a move.

Mr. Sean remains here in charge during my absence, & will dispatch the heavy Wagon unphreville about the middle of next month to come up with Bulawa, who left me with 28 horses at the appointed time, and is in every respect, so far as depends upon him, to follow up the suggestions & arrangements. It was already had the honor of submitting for your consideration in reference to the time of march, so shall we have an return of the Brigade.

You will think it rather strange that our Chief, under all the new & ^{surrounding} ~~surrounding~~ circumstances in an at present placed in, did not favor me with a single line either public or private by the last man sent up. Emsaterger whom he sent on a sort of a Mission to Thompson's River, kept there five nights & then returned to Vancouver; but as he neither wrote or came my way himself either going or coming I know but little of his errand. After Mr. God left Kamloops (8th March) and before Emsaterger & McHenry arrived (about 18th April,) Mr. Sean's people had two bloodless shots at the Murderer. Not many days ^{after} he himself with 5 hands came up with the villain again, & had four more shots at him equally unsuccessful. Since then no further attempt had been made ^{on the life of the friend} upon his life. One of his associates, however fell - the young Grand Guille, shortly before McHenry & Mr. Sean ^{left} came away. The plan at present is, in the usual way for the summer, in charge of Solow; but what the Doctor's future views on affairs in the

affair of the plan. I thought none could prove more satisfactory to all parties than those that might result from a personal interview with yourself & the other Gentlemen meeting below. Such however as those arrangements may be, I am ready to lend a cheerful & helping hand; trusting that in the distribution of men, the number and usefulness of such of them as go to Colvile, will not be lost sight of.

The Cubile, I shall endeavour to get under way, but fear the Calcut will be far too weak to undertake the trip before the month of Sept. as I formerly told you liberally of suggesting.

The Six Boats left Colvile this Spring with 250 pieces, of which there came here 175, viz. 80 for Vancouver including 12 Days Gun

24 Wapum -

38 Snake Country &

175 33 Skin Consumption.

Mr. Ogden kindly undertakes to look after the Cubit, & I shall endeavour to meet him at Okanogan & leave the Establishment in the hands of a common man as I see not other provision made for that charge.

I am Dear Sir

Yours very truly

Arch^d McDonald

June
Fort Colvile 6th Aug 1841

John W. Linschtein Esq^r.

Dear Sir

I safely arrived here this forenoon & will have no time in despatching Mr. T. Lewis. His return to this district will I suppose altogether depend on the arrangements you can afford to make for fitting up the melancholy blankets so unexpectedly to be provided for; & under such trying circumstances it would be unreasonable to expect all the facilities the business here may require; but I hope you will bear in mind the earnestness with which I always pressed the propriety of having our young Gentlemen attached to this district. On the Character of the men we ought to have, will not trouble you with a repetition of what I have already so often enlarge upon.

Antoine Duquet's Conduct however, I must beg leave to bring under

your notice. If he comes up here, he will not remain five days. He
never was good for anything, & a silly marriage of his which he
entered into here last January much against my wife's, completed
his uselessness. His wife left him long since. The last time she did so
middle of May he went off after her a second time to Spokane in the
heat of the night without leave asked or obtained; & the wonder is
that he came back at all as he came with ^{only} her; but this is accounted
for by his finding himself perfectly destitute, & threatening of making
a better spec of it by going to the depot first, & providing himself with a
good supply before he went. My own suspicions of him are confirmed
by his telling his secret designs to his Cousin Jeremiah Hubert, who re-
lated ^{it} on the other day as we came along. The woman is related to the Finlay,
& is now I believe off on that gang. William Foss's character & habits
you know already. Of the single men, I understand it is in contemplation
to withdraw from here, I hope Theodore Seclair will not be one of them.
He is the only efficient hand we have for the plains, tho' very unaccount-
ably detained from that duty this Spring in preference to others who
might just as well have filled the place he did at Thompson's River.

I am Dear Sir

Yours very truly

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 19th June 1841

Mr. Donald M. Swan

Dear Sir

This will be handed you by Lieut Johnson, of the U. States
Exploring Expedition, who with his party is travelling in this part of the Country
entirely on Scientific pursuits. You will see his letters of Credit & introduction
from the Company's Office at Puget Sound; & I have only to add my own
Special desire that the party meet with every accommodation & attention
which is your quarter. I have heard by them from of the Herod I have
with me from Walla Walla. Lieut Johnson is still uncertain whether he
returns to the Ships by land or across the Columbia

I am Dear Sir Yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 14th June 1841

John M. Loughlin Esq.

Dear Sir

Enclosed is a duplicate of the account handed
Lieutenant Johnson of the U. S. Exploring Expedition, of the supplies
furnished the party here and at Okanagon. Should the Secy:
find it necessary to make any alteration or extension in said
account after leaving this, in as far as regards the dealings with
the Reg Head for horses, I do not think you will of course be adverted
of it by himself. They leave here few worn down & very much
jaded horses, which I told Lt. Johnson might probably be
worth \$30 each. They have from us the loan of some good ones
to Walla Walla, & Hobom in every other respect we have met
their views to their satisfaction. I am Dear Sir

Yours very truly

Arch. M. Donald

Secy. Robt. C. Johnson, Army Depot at
Sales & Sater's Editors National Intelligencer } Washington
Thomas Walden at E & W's Mount corner of Parking St & Water St. New York

Okanagon 19th July 1841

John M. Loughlin Esq.

Dear Sir

On meeting with Mr. Ogden here the night before last,
I had the pleasure of receiving your communications by that gentleman.
The measures recommended to my attention with respect to the Governor
in whole of course as far as practicable attend; but the dilemma in which
the uncertainty of his movements & the inadequate means furnished for meeting
them ^{me} ^{to} ^{at the time of} ^{been itself} ^{will be very great}
includ; & this could scarcely escape the notice of you all below when the dis-
tribution of hands took place. In short, to follow up all the arrangements
proposed the duties of the plan must be entirely neglected. Instead of
being in a condition to reinforce Mr. McPherson with two active hands in

addition to the two Boys now with him, he cannot get even one of any descrip-
tion. My intention was, to throw ample supplies into the plains this summer;
but without adequate means to do so & the necessary protection to the property
the execution of the project must be very lame. Surely it is not intend-
ed that the Colvile men that go to the Mountain this fall. Felix
will start with the Cattle beginning of September & pass this way. We have
arranged with the Belts Chinese of the Pischahoes to accompany him to the
Yakama, when it is expected Mr. McHarlay will relieve us of further charge
of them. Warren Humphreys left on 25th June for Poso River & will come
up with Bealand & the horses somewhere about Thompson's house. We are
now about leaving this with three Boats very poorly manned from one
Cannoe or another, but the most serious case of all is from old Charles, by a
most awkward fall across the stem of his Boat, which will keep him an
invalid for weeks to come. The water is very high, & from the reduced con-
dition of almost all the men, 40 pieces for Boat will be as much as we
can well get on with in few terms, the 10 pieces for the Mission must remain
here. — Very unfortunately the 4 or 5 uncut pieces for Colvile left at W. W.
last summer are still there. —

I am Dear Sir
yours

Arch. McDonald

St. Agden

June 25th

Dear Sir — I met your people this morning on their way home after safely
depositing here my 80 pieces, for which accommodation I thank you much —
The Boats, with the 15th crew, had great difficulties in the Deltas; instead the guides
was every man going for it, being forced out into the stream by the action of a
abundant whirlpool, the lion was unable to hold it, & down it went: but
miraculously without dashing on any of the rocks or boulders below — They got
her a couple of hours after me with the other prowling men that they are and
man left by the desertion of W. W. from the night before last. — Here is the cruel
man you had ahead in passing upon me last year — ~~Charles~~ Antaine who
I wish I was sorry to say had you given back in rather a worse condition
than I got it, from our own Carlens in allowing the horse tread on it after we
got her — God bless you believe me yours — Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 1st August 1841

Geo. Simpson Esq.

Dear Sir

Undoubtedly it will occur to yourself Sir that we must be in great perplexity here about your movements in, occasioned by our having entered without your own approbation or previous knowledge, on what I call a double arrangement. Mr. McLaughlin, though he ^{indubitably} highly approves the plan of coming by the plains, will not depart from the first idea given to him of your intention to enter by the old route; & with this view sent two Boats to the Mountain in the Spring, & another now here with six men for the same destination to await your arrival there till 3rd September. The water, true, is falling very fast, & I think by the 15th will be in a sufficiently good state to permit their getting up in 12 or 14 days.

It was the 28th before we had everything from below secured here. The three remaining days of the week ^{being} were occupied in overhauling & examining the property, & in making up the supplies for the outbreak; it will be Monday 2nd before any of the people can leave me; and never before, alone as I am, was it my lot to be surrounded with so many doubts & difficulties. Yesterday forenoon I thought the best arrangements I could make ^{were} made, but before the day was over, entered the Indian that accompanied Wagon with word that, on joining Ireland at the Salked this tenth day from the Bay, they found him seriously disabled in one of his legs, & totally incapable of continuing the route with the other had to the Paw River traverse as contemplated in the Spring. At this intelligence I am much distressed. To make the best ^{provision} ~~provision~~ I could for this ^{an incident to} ~~unlucky event~~ I now dispatch William Iron with an ^{other} Indian to go on without ^{putting} ~~shaking~~ ^{bride} ~~bride~~ till he meets you, or at all events not to return before the beginning of Sept. Wherever that meeting may take place it would ease my mind much, could the Indian be returned immediately with any fresh orders you may find it necessary to give in so complicated an affair.

By Mr. McLaughlin's communications you see the dilemma I am placed in by leaving everything to my own discussion without furnishing the requisite means of making the case effectually on all points. The trip to the

Mountain I look upon as next to useless, & on that account debar Monique
till the morning of 14th. ~~Good~~ ^{not} will ~~not~~ ^{he} leave the mouth of the Hootanaw River
before ^{morning} the 18th. So that should the time admit of it, & that you think it advisable
to arrest his further progress up, Berland could send down ^{two} ~~two~~ ^{trusty} Indians
from the Crossing place to direct the return of the party

The outfit & horses for the plain trade I send off tomorrow in charge
of Indians & few Common hands, quite uncertain whether McPherson, from
the great distance he was to go this Spring, will be in in time or not to meet
them at the Horse Head the Boat. Canote will be accompanied to the end
of the Hootanaw portage by old Charlo and am 2^d. Boat intended for
^{the outside} ~~your~~ party, when I do not expect they will be able to arrive before the 7th or 8th.
Should the old man's delay above be but short he will on passing down
drop another boat with Charlo & the wife bound to the Harbor to
meet you, carrying with them for Berland the supplies intended for
the summer trade at that place

Here itself, we are now in the midst of our work. Before the people ar-
rived from below a good deal of our grain was ^{quite} ready for the scythe, & almost
all is now approaching that condition. The gathering in of it will I much
fear be a tedious & losing process with so many sick, lame & blind as we
have to depend upon for that duty

Mr. Ogden. I left at Okanakan on 21st. The letters he forwarded to me
since, I suppose it is quite unnecessary to send on now, & more especially
as he did not direct me to do so. He was to have left in three or four days
accompanied by Mr. Lean, Cameron & Macquell & about 30 men. Word was
sent on ahead for Mr. Tod to meet him at Thompson River

Herewith I forward the correspondence of Mr. W. Laughlin, and for
your further information that Guttman's letter to myself on the arrange-
ments he suggests with reference to yourself &c

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

Your obedient & most faithful servant

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 2^d August 1841

Mr John Popplewell

Dear Sir

This forenoon the Flathead man left me, with Certainty one of the best assorted Outfits in the main articles that ever I sent to that quarter & of course a good trade is expected in return. Everything with the exceptions noticed in the Invoice are sent, & a few over & above - (Blankets, Shirts, Clothing), Cloth, Am: Tobacco, Rum, Sugar & Coffee to the full extent of your demand, 12 Superior Horses which I hope will prove a great Stimulus to your Creek Beaver hunting. Of Tobacco, however, I fear there is an absurd scarcity the Horse Robs you Commenced the Campaign with ought to have been guaranteed sufficient. Sam Aaron the A-d person made a most unreasonable hole in your Stock coming down here as they were. All of them that came down crossed their way to me here, where I do assure you they met with little Countenance. The Trappers & Moose presented themselves first, I told them by all means to continue their route downwards if so disposed; to hope for greater indulgence from us than they already had run out of the question; & that so far from this, if they did return, I should take special care that their ^{would be} supplies in future, a strict proportion to their wants - - - But however I thought they go, at least they allowed me to understand so much; but will not I fancy prove you before fall. They went by Salmon River with the desperado, had from me a little Ammunition to help them on to Buffalo. Should they cross up your way, no doubt you know how to receive them. Moorla Ambayer & associate too, told me along story as a matter of course in self justification, but even no more of them than their Neighbours; however, as they were to continue with us I saw no good end in going to extremities with them, and though they did not get much yet I think they returned to you well pleased - the Am hundred Chop in particular, he is a good hunter I believe, & promised me to do wonders this fall in consideration of a new hand I shall endeavour to send him by that time. From the whole I got I believe from 12 to 15 Beavers which I shall have no objection to throw into your heap for the Credit of the Flatheads if you do not mind yourself.

Thank, I am glad to mind, he need not bother you or himself about prices: he has the advantage of being placed on precisely the same terms with the regular Engage, that is 50 per Cent at Depot & 100 inland - a Chosen horse you know is at a fixed price

Pierre's very large Equipment goes up to him, & of course is not expected down. If he does, he cannot expect to be continued in the service - being him to the plains with you for the fall trip. - I should appoint to send you Seclain also that you & Brumley may make two parties if necessary. He is a smart, honest willing chap & the more I see of him the better I like him - try & attach him to yourself & the service. They made a bold push to have him from us for J. R. or St. C. Martin & Brumley return with you in like manner, & in good faith name endeavour to collect for us everything you can. It is incredible the sale upon us here for everything in the shape of Country produce as Seclain can tell you. Let the present Boat be full loaded if possible & another in the fall.

In short, make your arrangements so, that we may have 120 pieces within the year; namely 40 in the Spring, 40 in the ^{Summer} fall & as much in the fall, as at no one time can we send up more than one Boat. Brumley's Snuffbox will be coming down in the fall perhaps not to return. You will therefore be obliged to have to make yourself intimately acquainted with the language & the whole train of the business without him another year. Your predecessor would much rather that he had not cost in the plains instead of St. Caledonia, but then Snuffbox he is deemed to be gone now for a few years - Enquire about the bargain it is said he had with Atsayer for a (Mare) - if it was a bona fide transaction the man must be paid for the man is dead. -

Martinian the Damned I could not send down if you can, but advise him nothing on the strength of a promise out of the mouth of such a liar - As for Brown, deal with him as you choose: it would be best policy however to treat him with indulgence. With respect to Francois Novice, I confess I don't like to have any of them further recognized permanently on any pay or in any employ - I have had enough of such subjects in the person of Master Dumont -

Delain Canote on short a time as possible. One of his men, Michel, on the down coming goes on to the Neotanus to make the Govt. Should you hear from any Saum to rely upon that that despised personage is coming by the Flatheads instead of the other route, detain the Boat altogether, but not otherwise - My own belief is that he comes thro' the Neotanus Country. If you have any on hand send down a couple of persons for the use of that party.

The Equipments of Pierre & Plante are sent up last road, & such a part of your own, of Brumley's, Martin's & Brumley's as were wanted, by private hands. Enclosed you will also find the Order as follows up below & checked off them. -

If you see Mr. Smith the expected Priest, tell him I have some Cattle here at
his service by order of Mr. Chief Factor M. Loughlin

All your favors of the Spring came duly to hand. Yours of allays from
the Wacon are most particularly acceptable. In this Budget you will find several
several letters from your private friends in the Columbia on what is going on.
Some you left, we have experienced another severe blow in the sudden & unexpected
death of poor Mr. Pemberton at Walla Walla. — Trusting to hear more of you
and all that you have in hand. I am — Dear Sir yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 14th August 1841

Gen. Simpson Esq^r

Dear Sir

Should it so happen that this be delivered you at the
Boat Encampment by the man now starting here for that place a long stop
on the part involved in your own movements is quite unnecessary, and
equally so would it be if you are not to pass that way at all.

In the full confidence of seeing the party in by the plain, I have given
my whole attention to that route agreeably to the plan suggested in
the Spring; and a perusal of the annexed Copy of my last letter that way
by William Pion will give the necessary information in that behalf
We parted with the Horses left us end of April — Wacon followed 21st June
& Pion 2^d Aug^t. All converging with them warm expressions of my devotion
to the good Cause & a short account of the news of the day.

Monique talked up a Couple Bags flour & other Provisions
in case it may be required, but from the uncertainty of the case we send
no part of the contents of a allocation from Vancouver all however
will be forthcoming when we have the pleasure of seeing you whether
by Athabasca River or the Mouth of the Country — Mention

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

Very truly & faithfully yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 14th August 1841

To the Gentleman in Charge of
the York Factory Express }

Dear Sir,

Monique and five men leave me to day for
the Mountain to meet the Governor though no pledge to that effect was
made when the Express went out. Should he not call up there
by 3rd September they return with their Boat immediately. As yet it is
uncertain whether or not a Boat in the usual way goes up in the fall,
but if their will, it wont leave this latter than 23rd and in that case
ought to be at the Boat Encampment by 3rd October

The provisions now going up for the Government party, if not required,
you will find in the Cache below, together with 3 Bags grain exclusively
for yourself, as per catalogue.

Mr. de Loughlin's Official Report of the Season is sent up under cover
to Governor Simpson, which, in the event of his not having passed that
way himself, any Commissioned Gentleman coming in can of course
peruse & afterwards transmit for east side by the Horse party in the
usual way.

In the absence of any other news in the fall, you
can peruse my own letter to the Governor in like manner. I please bring
down it then private letter from Mr. de Loughlin if you have him to be
on west side.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours

Arch^d McDonald

Exp.	2 Bags fine flour	1 Bag Pease	1 Keg Raisins
F. Exp.	1 . do	1 . do	1 Bag Corn flour
Boat men	1 . do	1 . Gunner	1 . do
	+ 20 th Quone		

(A.M.D.)

N.B. These two last letters returned 17th, the party being recalled on consequence
of the Gov's approach by land, who happily reached us forenoon of 18th

Memo: 16th August - To day wrote a long letter to Mr. McHardy,
but it being principally in the Chit Chat Style on what is passing, an entry
of it here is thought unnecessary. -

copy
copy

A/B/20/C72M.1

Second signature binding

**BC Archives
A/B/20/C72M.1**

**Fort Colvile
Correspondence of Archibald McDonald,
relating to Fort Colvile, 1838 - 1842.**

A
B
20
C72M.1

Fort Colvile 19th August 1841



John M. Soughlin Esq.

Dear Sir

It is now 12 past 10, & Sir George Simpson having just returned, I avail myself of a moment's relaxation some we had the pleasure of seeing him here yesterday to address you a few lines, as he proposes to start with the pack of day tomorrow. By a very happy conjunction of good arrangements we were the night before last advertised of his approach; the plan suggested to him in my last communication, of sending the Hortanas via an Indian express, to assist Monique's progress up to the portage, who was to leave me on the 14th, succeeded to admiration; & the Boat accordingly was back to me on the evening of 17th with his Excellency's Note of 11th dated "Grand Lac Jucit Lac" in the heart of the Hortanas Country. The Boat, as promised, they found on Cocum d'Alone Lake, & crossed in abundance at the pendant d'Orville Bay. The Governor's operations almost among us starts up new operations with respect to the Boat Encampment: a Craft drawn of no less than Eight Boats will be required this fall, say 5 for the Red River detaches that they send themselves to build at the portage under the directions of Mr James Sinclair & to be guided down by Monique, & 3 Columbian Boats for the portage, including the one now going up, guided by Joseph Anawawan. The crew going up will consist of 5 Boats & a middie man

These arrangements cause a great drawback upon us here. Young Patrick McHornie is I believe to be left with, & I trust you will stretch a point to allow me a couple of good portagees for the winter. Robina, whom I got in the room of Manonau is now about 10m blind & will be going down to the Hospital by first good opportunity: at best we shall always be badly off for Ram men - From the Hortanas very little is expected this summer. About an hour ago one of our Flathead Men came in with Mr. McPherson's news - His trade is but very indifferent - say 300 Beavers - He saw Mr. Ermatorqu who was then about closing a bargain with Mr. J. Bridger for the turn of 1500 Beavers - With further reference to the gentlemen going down on this & other topics, I am, Dear Sir yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 20th August 1841

Peter Allen Ogden
Dear Sir -

Charter returns for you to day, with no letters from east side. When they come in the fall by the usual route we shall adopt means to send them on as far as Thompson's River. To Sir George Simpson's Commemorative, & my own private letter they leave to refer you for the names. - Meantime I am Dear Sir yours -

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 21st August 1841

John Hamstra Esq^r.
Dear Sir -

The man called Pichi is about leaving us to day for your quarters via the Kootanais & the R. Mountain House. The memorandum left me by Mr Howard, of the old man's wants, has been attended to in the letter; he would not however encumber himself with the goods he was offered as part payment for his trip. What he did take are as per enclosed note. He has had a very excellent house for himself & two others to be made over to the Establishment. - Referring you to Mr Howard's letter, & my own private Commemorative herewith sent for your names I am - Dear Sir yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 22nd Aug^r 1841

John W. Laughton Esq^r.
Dear Sir -

I have the pleasure to acknowledge yours of 14th Inst. Accompanying a short despatch for Governor Simpson, which I am sorry to say was here a few hours too late to be handed to him in person; & now that I see no better use that can be made of it, I take the liberty of enclosing it & the duplicate of your despatch of 26th Idem, to Mr Finlayson, as I see no other general information in the usual way for east side. Herewith, I transmit a letter for

for Mr. McKinlay intimating to him that our Cattle will leave this
on Friday 27th. I allow them six days to Okanogan & three more
then for the double object of allowing them some time to repose and of
gaining time to cross the Ok. bet to the south side of the Columbia.
thence they start together for the vicinity of Les Isles des prairies, where
it is proposed to cross to west side. In order to subject the poor
Animals to as little unnecessary travelling as possible, I have suggested
to Mr. McK. the propriety of letting Felix know without loss of time
the precise spot at which the grand junction is to take place. I
ought I think to be on the head of the Yakama somewhere near
the place where Lieut Johnson forked off Mr. Paribon's track, about
12th September. The Cattle will I fear suffer most from the tender
state of their hooves -

Mr. Ogden's man left us on Friday. - Picket, for east side
yesterday, & tomorrow Monique will again be under way for the
Mountain with as much provision as he can take away without
greatly retarding his progress. This is sent to Walla Walla by the
returning Courier - I am Dear Sir Yours
Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 22nd August 1841

Mr. Arch. McDonald

Dear Sir

Yours of 15th reached me late the night before last -
twelve hours behind time, to catch the Governor here, but that disappoint-
ment with respect to him cannot be great, as he will learn from you
at Walla Walla the purport of the whole despatch. -

As regards the Cattle, I have decided on starting them a few
days earlier than I originally intended - say Friday 27th - To Ok.
I suppose they take six days - three more in that vicinity & eight more
to the place of rendezvous with yours; which I am of opinion ought
to be somewhere near the place where Lieut Johnson struck off the
track of the late Mr. Paribon on the Yakama river, bringing the date
then up to the 12th September. You will therefore have the goodness

to regulate yourself accordingly. It would be very desirable
 could your people be at the proposed place of junction by the 10th
 in order to send a good guide on in advance to meet our people, for
 the purpose of leading them on direct to the place of rendezvous where
 soever you may finally fix on it. I believe Felix will cross the Col
 umbia somewhere between his Isles des peres & peres Rapid, and
 the difficulty is, the direction to steer in after leaving the river. In
 short, to manage it, if you please, that the Cattle from here be not
 made to walk over much ground unnecessarily. I will write you
 again a few lines by Felix - The Deam of this is a Peleuse Indian
 who brought on your packet, & is bound here to bring a pack to his
 own lodge but no further - I am

Dear Sir yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 23rd August 1841 -

Mr. James Sinclair

Dear Sir

Accordingly to Governor's Simpson's orders
 I now start Joseph Monique for the Boat Encampment. In
 addition to Joseph Annawauw & Chulifany another boat, either
 or boat up for the party of Messrs. Mansau & Grant. The two boaters
 will proceed immediately in east side & return on side they meet
 the portentous - perhaps by so doing, one or both of them can be
 back to this end of the portage before you embark - If so they
 can bring word from the Express Gentlemen whether or not they
 will require the three Boats themselves; but you must not trust
 entirely to any of them as the probability is that they will.

As to the provisions, if you stand in need of it take all
 but - For Express leaving at your disposal

2 Bags fine flour
 1 " Coarse "
 1 " Cornmeal "
 1 " Pease "

5 pounds

5 Bags fine flour
 3 " Coarse "
 1 " Cornmeal "
 3 " Pease "

1 Bag Pease
 13 pounds

Chalifaux will go back with the Horses. Wishing you all safe
down. I am Dear Sir Yours

Arch^d M^d Donald

A. B. You will on no Account take any of the Boats without
Special permission to that effect from the Gentleman Commanding
behind — Am d

Fort Colville 23^d August 1841

To the Gentleman in Charge of
the York Factory Express —

Dear Sir

Before Governor Simpson left this 21th Instant
he made his arrangements with respect to the different parties
coming down from the portage this fall. Monique with 5 men
goes up with a third Boat, & returns with two of them, Piers &
Lafantaisie, the moment Mr. Simlain & party are ready to embark
in their own newly made Boats. The other three, Annawand,
Michel, & Chalifaux are at your disposal. The two brigades
are directed to continue their route eastwards without delay till
they meet you & Chalifaux to follow with the Horses when
they come to this end — When the Gov. started only I &
& Chalifaux were to join you, but Michel having since ^{cut} started
up, I send him also, making you three boats from him to
come down with. — If you don't require the 3^d Boat yourself
it might as well be made over to Mr. Simlain. — Here follows
Copy of what I write that Gentleman — (the latter on opposite page)

It is my wish to have the pleasure of seeing you all safe about
the usual time. I am

Dear Sir Yours — Arch^d M^d Donald

Postscript — I have no authority to say anything at all
about the Boat in question. It merely occurred to myself
that it would be better let the Soldiers have it than remain above for
want of boats, as Boats are much required here — Am d

Fort Colvile 23rd August 1841 -

Mr. Colin Fraser

Dear Sir - I am in all probability will be hindered you
by big Joe, who together with Michel is devoted to your plan,
& I have hinted to them that if you could conveniently send
them down the River to meet Mr. Manson it might lead to a small
accommodation to Mr. Sinclair who is to build all his boats at this
end - 17 pieces grain go up, exclusive of Crews provisions &
if not all required for the different parties crossing, Mr. Manson
will send you what is over & above. - I am

Dear Sir
Yours Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 27th August 1841 -

Mr. Arch. M. Menley

Dear Sir

In Conformance with the notice I gave you
in mine of 22nd Antonio Felix starts to day with the Cattle. They are
as follows, viz:

52 Cows, including 14 heifers of last season

28 Calves of this season

1 Bull

30 Oxen, including 8 of one year old

Total 111 head

Felix & his 2 brothers it is expected will return
here after the Cattle are delivered to you & the people for Vancouver

I am

Dear Sir - Yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 10th Sept. 1841 -

Mr. James Alexander Arch. McDonald

Dear Sir -

Very unexpectedly, (young) Joseph Klyne, one of Mr. Sinclair's party, came upon us late last night with a note from that Gentleman announcing his advance after all by land. The note is dated 30th Aug. from "Red Rock near Columbia river" which I understand to be the place where our horses met Governor Simpson. At Edmonton, the party set their face against coming by water, & accordingly left that place on the 14th. James Cook guiding them to Bow River, got to Red Rock 27th. - Then, one of the wives brought an increase to the party, already 120 souls - Farber & family remained at Fort des Prairies. Mr. S. says they had then but 10 days' provisions, which would scarcely take them to the Kootenais traverse. Their horses were still pretty vigorous, but fast falling off in flesh. To prevent any misunderstanding as to what I am about doing for these people & the assistance they will still require before they can arrive at Vancouver, I have transcribed the material part of my letter to Mr. Sinclair, and I think you ought to send it down to headquarters without delay - In the following letter -

Now my good Sir you know best what assistance in horses you can afford to give. One thing very certain 20 or 30 would be a great relief to them, I in no small degree tend to pass them this upon a less expenditure of provisions than I have marching would necessarily require. My Indian that now carries you that could on his return bring on the Horses, as I think by the 25th they ought to be at Old Spokan House.

Antoine Felix with the Cattle, say 111 head, left us 27th of last month - He had a few lines for you on that occasion.

I am

Dear Sir

Very truly yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 10th Sept 1841 -

Mr James Sinclair

Dear Sir

By the arrival here last night of Joseph Hlyne with your note of 29th ultimo from "Rock Rock near Columbia river" it is with no small surprise & some disappointment I heard that after all you were coming on by land. That you are however now, or rather will be ere this reaches you out of the worst part of the journey, we must see how you & the party are to prosecute the remainder of the trip to Vancouver.

Henceforth, I enclose you a sketch of the route of the Country you will have to pass for attaining Fort Walla Walla, being ^{now} your only plan and only route; for, to make for this place in the existing state of things would be a perfect waste of time & labour, as, at Colvile a single Boat is not at my disposal. Instead therefore of coming on to the pendant d'Orville Bay, you will cross the river at what is called the Spokan traverse, between the Falls & the Chute, & thence push right on for old Spokan Fort - except for the first 10 or 12 miles the whole distance is a perfect prairie, and excellent pasturage for your animals. Taking it for granted that by the time Hlyne meets you reaches the aforesaid traverse you will be three weeks, by means of the provisions he carries will have 10 days' ^{rationed} provisions with which to commence the W. W. trip. To enable us to complete the arrangement to that place, it would be well that our receipt of this you will me if your own presence with the party from the traverse to Spokan be indispensable. Joseph & the young men with him leave this tomorrow with 16 horses to help you on to Spokan, and write to Mr McHenry at W. W. to send on to meet you all the assistance he can in that way too that the shortness of the notice will admit of.

A Boat with one of our Guides & 4 other boats left this on 24th of last month to meet you at the Boat Encampment, where, it was expected they would find you well on with the construction of the craft for the descent. There of course they must now remain till the fall party comes on. - I am

Dear Sir

Your obedient

Arch^d McDonald

Fort Colvile 19th Sept 1841

John M. Slaughter Esq^r

Dear Sir

I am happy to find the poor Red River emigrants are safely arrived in this neighbourhood. Mr. James Sinclair left them the other day sending them way for Spokan, & came in here himself to see me & to make further arrangements for the prosecution of the journey downwards. He starts again today to rejoin them with more provisions. The party in all is now accommodated with 22 horses & two of our people to go on till they must the horses exported from Walla Walla. Should you be obliged to go quite to the Establishment it would be necessary that Mr. McHenry send us the good ones from his place for the use of the Thompsons River party in addition to all the assistance we can afford in that way ourselves; & I have to beg that the enclosed order be executed & sent up to W. W. just good opportunity, as the equipping of Mr. Mansons people will strip us almost entirely of the Guns, Blankets & Hops intended for the plain trade. We can always continue to get these things on by land when required.

The three pole Boats will be loaded with all the grain they can take on & above their Mountain loading; but for what plan to consign it I cannot determine before Mr. M. is here - there will also be 8 or 10 Kegs Butter

I am Dear Sir Yours
Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 19th Sept: 1841

Mr. Arch. McHenry

Dear Sir

Your old friend Mr. Sinclair will be upon you a few days sooner than I did you to expect. In various reasons I am anxious that the party should be down without delay, & with this view have accommodated them with about 20 horses that will go on till they must come. Should William P. be obliged to continue the route quite to W. W. our horses will not immediately on their return be in a fit condition to commence another trip, & yet another trip & a much more arduous one is actually in contemplation the moment Mr. Manson arrives here, requiring at least 15 horses - it is an Expedition for Thompsons River; and that
nothing

Semi-official

Fort Colville 30th Sept 1841

Sir George Simpson

Dear Sir

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you
briefly the other day for descent of Mr. Simlin, thinking it would be
the last till the return of the Accountant. The arrival here however
the night before last of a Budget from my northern neighbours, con-
du another Courier necessary. Mr. Ogden gives me the substance of
his official report to you in reply to the communication made him
from here, & I agree with him as to the impracticability of ^{having} his being
able to ^{have} do much, situated as he was, to secure the Murderer's Expatriation.
But the part of it which related to the Cause of the Colony, & the
folly of sending for Salmon when it could be procured at The House,
I do not so readily come in to. No or no other ever yet supported
nor can support such an Establishment as that necessarily kept up
at Thompson's River without sending for Salmon; and the people of
New Caledonia are the last ^{that} thought to disapprove of the system of
collecting it out of doors from the natives, as, I believe, with very few
exceptions every year since my last, they were in the habit of getting
more or less of their Staff of life from Thompson's River. In all this,
I am not an advocate for frequent Excursions to the natives for
Salmon could they be avoided; and the only way in which we could
get ^{rid} of that great evil is, by having good Evidence. With adequate
Summer Establishment - a thing never yet allowed J. R., I am certain
the bulk of their livelihood in some kind or another could be pro-
cured in that way.

Such a round as Mr O. speaks of, that is, down ^{Thompson's} ~~Tennis~~ River
and up Tennis River to the Canon, by two Enthalmen + 25 men would
I think have a very good effect. Even if they were not lucky enough
to fall in with the murderer, it might be the means of speedily surren-
dering him dead or alive, & would always produce some stir in the
different Camps. The abundance of Salmon this winter offers a very
favorable term for this scouring, & as the two fruitless attempts lately

made

made, must now claim the object of them to an extent, that
renders it very improbable he will in a hurry quit his hunting
plans, I could wish Mr. Munson had fresh instructions, and was
differently arranged before he left this. Indeed, as nothing new
can be gained by his going in early it seems to me the most
effectual way of doing the thing would be by his going down
and getting a sufficient number of men suitably equipped for
the purpose, and upon the strength of this suggestion I shall take
the liberty of detaining him here till the 25th. Should he even appear
to be ready before. — I shall then be

Dear Sir

Very faithfully yours

Arch. M. Donald

P.S. to my private letter to Mr. M. Foughton

I finished this letter without alluding to the affair in which
we are unhappily involved at Thompson's river. You see what Messrs.
Ogden & Ford say on the subject. My own opinion, as the case now
stands, is that given in my letter to Gov. Simpson, & which after writing
it occurred to me you ought to see, as he may not be then himself
by the time this packet gets down, & as I think on consideration you
will be inclined to adopt the plan I therein propose with respect to
Mr. Munson. Should Mr. Grant be off before you reply is received. Mr. M.
if not to proceed on the original plan could follow down with another
boat & a cargo of grain, or go by land & leave & leave most of the ten
men here till his return, bringing up their Equipments of course. —
With so much in contemplation requiring a great deal of horse work,
I would recommend that a number at once be traded at W. Waller.
Now, we are completely run out again, & strong enough Mr. Ford writes
me that at his plan they "can scarcely muster ten for the saddle" —

Amc

Fort Colvile 1st Oct. 1841

John Tod Esq.

Dear Sir

Montaigne made a good use of it here, & delivered me your various favours both public & private from the north ward. The persevering struggle of the old Scoundrel we are in search of, to keep out of the way, is very mortifying, as you say, the winter, when he cannot so adroitly elude our vigilance, will I hope bring him to bay. By all I can learn from below they will be shipping a point to reinforce the party at Thompsons River this winter fall; and to this end it would be desirable that you send in the least suspicious way possible some help in horses to meet them. Sufferer Sunderland is on very bad terms with Laprade & doing nothing; I therefore direct Edouard to take him on with him (single of course) and come up at Kamloops you know what arrangement you can afford to make in order to be of service to them going in. Probably the safest plan would be to send Nicolas with at least 20 horses; he could worm his way on slowly so as to fall in with the party if not in the first mountains next the Forks on our trail, at least somewhere this side river on the and ought to have a letter to send on here, from the River of which we could learn where to find the horses.

The plan is not yet definitely settled; but with what we all write down on this occasion (the letters left me yesterday) I am certain some decisive steps will be adopted & communicated to us by 25th. As Mr. Manson is talked of for the Expedition, I will take upon myself to detain him & see men here till that date; but I trust when the surveying Commission arrives he will be permitted to take double the number if not the unfounded Russian tales will be the cause, for they must be shipped for the Coast by a certain day.

As Mr. Ogden writes me that you will be sending this way for the Express letters, there will be a better chance of hearing presently, before 25th, what your arrangements may be to meet our views here.

I am Dear Sir yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 13th Oct. 1841

Mr. Arch. McDonald

Dear Sir

Most sorry I am to hear of the lamentable
accident your letter of the 6th announces. We are all it is true liable
to the dreadful devastation of fire, but the Fort of Walla Walla seems
always particularly exposed to it in the eyes of every one; and the
thing has now happened, seem no doubt the very cause you assign.
What in the world are we to do? You yourself with everything about
you saved from the devouring element must be in a very uncomfortable
situation at a place so much exposed as the naked beach of W. W. —
Stones or Pebbles it is my opinion ought now to be tried in preference
to wood, especially the sort of wood ^{that can} be depended upon; but I suppose to make
anything ^{into} brick the summer season is required. Of course you will
be having Mr. McLaughlin's instructions on the subject without delay; but
though instructions without form in your case avail but little.
Perhaps the Expedition intended for T. R. will now be decided your way,
if we cannot meet both emergencies at the same time. I do feel, viewed
in any light, we are placed in a most awkward dilemma at this
very moment. — By the Boat, we can send you Horns, Axes, Apprehensions
but no Saddles. Grain also will go down by every convenient opportunity;
but the Smoke flocks & indeed all others we have to do with in that
way must bear in mind our stock here is not inexhaustible. Of
course we will not ^{have} a pound by the time the Boat is back from the Flat
head; but we shall send you down a keg of Butter to be at your dis-
posal together with 8 more for Vancouver; if you absolutely require
more of the kind, I think Mr. McLaughlin under the circumstances of the
case will make no difficulty about one of the 8 also. — It is our fears
are forthcoming, as they will be required should Mr. Manson proceed di-
rect for T. R. The Pelouse Indian tells me that the one who gave
him the letters met Fabric near W. W. with but some much the worse of the
journey — of course your news for below was off before he arrived;
but I still anticipate an answer to my express before the 25th to decide
on Mr. Mc's movements. Those frequent Carriers will not doubt be a
heavy pile of express, but for all that, they are in the present state of

things but the heart of the evil; and we ought to be thankful that they so well answer our purpose with cheerfulness & punctuality. — The present Indian is not entirely satisfied with fearfully because I thought it probable they were paid already, & fearfully with the view of inducing him to go your length now. All the little things he had, came safely to hand. He has been kindly treated, & it is as well that we should be so with the whole of them in our present untoward position — I see the Missionary all over are beginning to have their own trouble with them. I am at present favored with Mr. Haly's Company, who thinks of re-turning to the low Country by the Boats, having obtained here all the necessary information this side of New Caledonia.

This has been a most harassing season altogether. My men for the Kootanais that ought to have left they on 10th are still at the Post Encampment. — Fortunately our word for six new Boats is home. The Mills will, by the end of this week, have passed this all the trashed wheat we have — 800 bushels, which I think, the more than we ever before at one time ground, will all be little enough. — Between one thing or another it was impossible to lay down any fall wheat at the usual time, & I gave up the idea altogether; but after receipt of your letter we have resolved on turning out three ploughs tomorrow. You did not say how the R. R. States are getting on — those of them that took up the rear even I believe getting on well enough considering their embarrassments.

The last Budget is principally about our new Padias: and the duplicate intended for Mr. Angus McDonald being addressed "Mr. Col. McDonald" you naturally enough sent it on to me — it now however goes back again to find its way to Fort Hall.

As regards yourself, (my good fellow, keep up your courage), & show the world that one man, when occasion requires it, can do the work of a whole host. —

- got
- 1 Corn: Colt: Short
- 1 Sculpa +
- 1 Amotul —
- 2 feet Tobacco +
- 10 Balls & powder

I am

Dear Sir

Yours very truly

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 15th Oct. 1841 -

To P. L. DeSmet, a Jesuit Priest
with two associates arrived in the Flat
Head Camp from St. Louis -

Rev. Sir

Herewith I enclose you a packet just received
from Mr. McLaughlin, which I am directed to forward without delay. -
In reference to that Gentleman's Communication to me of 12th April, also
herewith transmitted, I conveyed you the necessary information as
regards the Cattle, through my friend Mr. McPherson in the month of
August last should be full in with you in course of the season; &
all that remains for me now to say is, that 4 Cows with their Calves
a heifer & a Bull are now here in reserve for you if applied for.
You will however oblige me by not employing to come for them any
of our run away servants, as I hear this Indian it was in Custom -
Klotion would be the case: I mean Louis Brown & Antoine Duquette.
Charles Sapientasi is now on a distant trip, & will not be back before
the beginning of next month. His term being out in the Spring, he will
then as a matter of course be at liberty to join your Mission, & were
it convenient to allow him to do so sooner, we would be very much
disposed to go out of our way to render you that service as it seems
to be your wish. The death of the mother is, we never before ourselves were
so much at a loss for hands in the Upper Columbia; and to complete
our dilemma it is now my painful duty to inform you of the total
destruction of our Walla Walla Establishment by fire on the 5th Inst. re-
quiring, no doubt, immediate new creations. -

It is unnecessary for me to say that you may rely on full and
firm aid & any other little accommodation at our Command in the
way of domestic comforts like independent, by loading for it -
And I shall write Mr. McPherson to do as much as will be consistent
with his means in that way also. -

I am

Rev. Sir

Your most Obedient

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 15th Oct: 1841 -

Mr John McPherson

Dear Sir

As it is not likely this will reach you long before
the Boat gets up, I shall be brief. Along with it are letters for
Mr. Sedmet, whom acquaintance you have of course made before now
It is Mr. McLaughlin's desire that he & associates should meet with
very attention at our hands; which, I have no doubt you own kindly
feeling already prompted you to extend to them. And in the way
of Supplies, you will be good enough to go as far as your limited
means will admit without starting yourself in the primary object of
your preambulation. — We are exceedingly harassed in these parts
at present, & to mend the matter, it is with great concern I have to tell
you that our Walla Walla Establishment was burned to the ground the
other day, with of course the loss of much property. — A war party
is in Contemplation for Thompson's River when the Express is arrived. but
'tis more than probable than doubtly Champions from Astoria will
now be employed in the reconstruction of a new Fort for Mr. McHenry
— Our people are still at the Post Encampment, but was with some
difficulty I could get off the Wednesday Canoe this morning — When they
arrive we shall lose very little time in sending to you — Of the
Governor's mind, the only thing in which you can feel any very lively
interest is the appointment to Chief Trade ship of your Stepfather

I am Dear Sir

Yours Very Sincerely

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 21st Oct. 1841 -

John W. Laughlin Esq

Dear Sir

From the two events, one of them I am sorry a most disastrous one, which occurred with us inland since I last addressed you, I could more than ever wish it was in my power to make some alteration in the original arrangement sent up in Sept. This however, I cannot talk upon myself to do, but of course will so far adhere to the suggestions offered in mine of 30th ultimo, as to detain Mr. Manson here till 25th. Mr. Tod's account of the death of the murderer reached me here two hours before the arrival of the Express, & to that gentleman's letter, as well as to ^{the verbal information of} Joseph Allowell one of the exploring party, I beg leave to refer you for the particulars of the scene attending his destruction. —

Messrs. Grant & Allan leave today with 3 Boats & 42 men, who, together with the encumbrance of their own & the pack's take down 15 pieces for W. W. Should Mr. Manson be directed down, the 4th Boat will be entirely loaded with supplies for ^{devoted to the wants of that distant place.} — All are crushed what is now ground, & though more than ever before at our season, still appear it will be little enough to meet all demands; I take 2000 bushels of wheat alone must absolutely pass under the flutes this winter to meet the demands of our season, which is considerably more than we ever yet could effect of extra work. —

Of the 5 men ^{unless} liberally ^{an} am hands here, I send down Sajois for the benefit of medical aid; perhaps Robard too an amount of his eye ought to have gone. Phillips, Sankow & Grant may I suppose as well remain till Spring. It necessarily for having our Hortonsaid canoe off at the proper time in order to reach the Tobacco plain, & then men for that duty being still at the Mountain I beg you to send Edward Loring to that country with Charles; little Pierre however will be disposable for the 4th Boat should it go down this fall — The prospect for Mr. Adams's forwarded with the load would delay with a suitable communication from myself, & Sapanabie will be going up to see how this falls. No late news from Mr. McPherson. By the end of the month our people here will start to meet him at the ordinary time & place, I wish then I shall be sending Patrick McHenry to find his way to the Hortonsaid by the Tobacco plain — I am Dear Sir yours — A. McDonald

For George Simpson

Private

Fort Colville 21st Oct 1841 -

My dear Sir

Our east side friends are just come in, all safe, and before any separation was made I could wish much in had the benefit of your advice from below, as it appears to me in the present state of affairs the arrangement ^{might} now ought to be different from that last of beginning of last month. On the one hand the murderer is now annihilated, & to all appearances, from the action part they took in securing him, are better disposed. On the other, the disastrous visit at Walla Walla requiring labour & attention that could not have been given when those arrangements were made. All I wish to say upon myself to do is, to detain Mr. Manson here till the 25th agreeably to the tenor of my late communication for below, & should no fresh instructions by that time arrive the rule with eight men proceed to take his stand permanently at Thompsons River. Were I to give way to my own distracted feelings on these momentous events, I would be entrusting on your patience with more than is at all necessary. If anything on a solid footing is to be undertaken for the re-establishing of the Fort of Walla Walla, Mr. Manson clearly is the fittest person I could recommend for that duty.

Our poor Boy has joined us, & I regret to say the nature & present appearance of his case is such as hold out no hopes of his recovery.

With further reference to my letter to Mr. McLaughlin

I have the honor to be

Dear Sir

Very faithfully yours

Arch^d McDonald

Fort Colvile 31st Octo, 1841

Mr John McPherson

Dear Sir

Two weeks ago I addressed you a few lines with the Despatches forwarded to Mr Desmet; but before I make any further allusions to that Communication I shall advert to your letter of 16th August. The Governor was here when it came to hand & was well pleased with the whole contents, barring the low ebb of the Beaver Trade, which however we trust is in some measure made up by the successful issue of the second Campaign. In the fellowship about you of the Blackguard Brown, ^{that of you} I am satisfied you have great annoyance, & very little satisfaction from the labours of Martin Bost. Beucher while within his influence - perhaps their Ghostly fathers the Priests will put all to rights again. Of course ere this you have renewed your intercourse with the Finlays and followers, & I hope on a footing that will not leave us losers at the year's end, I think Centager & associate will exert themselves - Tell the body from me that I have not forgot his artificial hand, but our Blacksmith being at present the Miller I cannot possibly get it made for him before next Spring. I however, according to promise send him a Box of Caps, I spoke to Mr McLean about the price of the Mare, who still maintains he did not purchase it. - As regards Plante, 'tis not at all necessary that he should come down here merely to have a talk with me about the price of a horse, as his service will no doubt be in some shape or other required above. Tell him that to me the difference between £4 & £3 is very little, but that at the lower price he is not to have my racers & fancy horses at pleasure indeed, I should be pleased to see him for once satisfied with his terms, & whether he is sensible of it or not he has better conditions than are even stipulated by the Engagement, that is, the last he signed

to me, & I presume the one with you is the same - In Pierre's case,
that he is on wages. I think the last thing he can do is to finish his year
where he is, for, here he can be of little or no use for the Winter, &
will always save us a hand to come down in the Spring. There is
a Mr. McKenzie here now, intended for the Kootanais - to go up
with the canoe, however he arrived too late, & even to be of much
use for the fall trade; still, I send him by way of the Flatheads,
& you will see him off for the Tobacco Plain before you come
down. There, he can remain for a couple of weeks, & then return
to pass the Winter at the J. H. house & course ^{of the Country} ~~things~~ all over.

There will remain very little Country produce above this Winter
as, we make an effort to send you two Boats now, & both must
absolutely be loaded with every thing you can lay your hands
on. Thus, I think might be your arrangement with
respect to the men - Mr. McKenzie to return from T. plain & keep
things in order at the Sta. with Pierre & Plante to have charge of
the horses, & as little as possible to do with Brown. Brouillet &
Martin to come down, also. Leclair & Boucher

Leclair & Boucher, Unless you have settled with the freemen
I would like to leave him in some charge above. I mean
Leclair. Boucher, for all he is worth any where might
perhaps as well go with McKenzie, & come down here in the
Winter with the news after they return from Berland.

Dugutte, no doubt by this time has got hold of his wife
& will, it is expected be taking up his quarters with Berland
& come down with the canoes in the Spring. Tell the Finlays
they must on no account harbour him about them.

The Goods you will I think find quite enough; indeed a great
deal more than is likely to be required for immediate use; and
had I had your own opinion on what might be wanted I would
not at this season of the year send up a single pair ^{worth} more; but
with the uncertainty I am in, I rather be above than below the
mark. you yourself very justly observe that when your customers see
a superabundance 'tis difficult to withhold from them advances they
ought not to get. - And in all conscience, they have got enough already.

The Fairbays had not give you any bother about their little advances here last Spring - Augustin is short credit £ 2. - - -

Aliguan - - - - 7. - - -

Penatou - - - - " 2. - - -

Of the men now going up, Lafantaisie is the only one who does not return. She is at liberty to join Mr. Desmit - probably the intended Establishment of that Mission is too far from the House to admit of your seeing them before you come down. I have no supplies as yet in my hands expressly for them, but you will let them have

2 Bags flour

a Sm. Keg of Butter

1/2 lb Tea - &

^{as it is not} the quarter part of the Keg of Sugar going up near ~~of it~~ is intended for the freeman. We have met with two misfortunes this season in that article, & I must have some in reserve for your Spring trip. I have already addressed you on the attention and civilities it would be proper to show your new neighbours, & before you return we shall have a more distinct understanding on the subject, which I hope will be satisfactory to them. - Herewith I write a few lines to Mr. Desmit himself.

For various reasons it would be well that as little time as possible be lost above after the Trade is made - We shall endeavour to have 45 horses for you in the Bay - the not above half that number goes now - With your other appointment coming down I hope there will be a supply of Leather, indeed, there is a vast demand all over for every thing you can bring down.

You will be sorry to hear that Fort Walla Walla with great deal of property was burned to the ground 5th of this month.

They sent here for grease & horse agrets the other day, which we could not supply.

I dare say your furmen will be grumbling at the small allowance of Amunies sent up this fall, but before they can reasonably do this, they ought to think of the amt. of their advances already, and on the other hand of their contribution this season towards the increase

of our Returns. If fortunately I should be mistaken as to their usefulness in this last respect, you may assure them that we shall make up for it next Spring -

If contrary to my expectation Bequette does not go to the Mackenzie we will have to come down that way in the Spring; & it would be as well that you tell him so before he is off to the Tobacco plain, that he & Berland may strike it together when & where to meet in order to come out in the same Craft -

Fort Colville 31st Oct: 1841

Dear Rev: Sir

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you a few lines the other day when I transmitted the packet from Mr. McLaughlin. Since then I have spoken to Charles Lafontaine & delivered him the Ring enclosed me by Mr. Emswiler. He had been told to make his arrangements here in a way that will admit of his putting the winter at your Mission, & accordingly accompanied the Boat now going up to the Flathead River -

By way of a wish with constant animal food, we send up for your acceptance - Five Pigeons - a small Bag of Butter & a little Tea & Sugar, which Mr. McPherson will deliver or leave in charge of old Pierre Satokanats at the House

Trusting to have the pleasure of hearing from you by every opportunity. I have the honor to be

Dear Rev: Sir

Yours very sincerely

Rev: J. P. de Smit

Arch: M: Donald

Instructions for Mr. Patrick McKenzie

you already know my views with respect to your occupations for the winter, which however I shall briefly recapitulate here to refresh your memory. Had you been with us earlier in the season your station would have been the Kootanais, & even now, you proceed to Berland at the Tobacco plain, via the Flatheads. There, you will remain a couple of weeks, & make yourself as intimately acquainted as possible with the affairs of that place - as it is more than probable there, will be your future field of action. The language, above all things you ought to direct your attention to - to ^{acquire an} intimate knowledge ^{of the} Indians - the number of men in the different bands - the best disposed & the best hunters &c &c &c you will take an account of every thing at the Tobacco plain for our information here, & then return to the Flatheads where you will pass the winter. Mr. Pierre will keep charge there till your return, and sometime in December we shall expect to hear a full account from you of all that is going on above. This is all I shall commit to paper. I need not say that, to enhance your own value & to be useful to the ^{at my fr} -cern, ~~only~~ by paying assiduous attention to every thing that comes across you, & to turn your hands to any thing that must unavoidably be done -

I am

Dear Sir

Yours

(Signed) Arch^d. M^d. Donald

Fort Colville 31st Oct^r 1841

Fort Colvile 1st Novr 1841 -

John Tod Esq^r

Dear Sir

Yours of 18th Oct. per Lapleu, & 19th per Edmond I duly received - the former on 19th & the latter on 27th - Both these men now return with Mr. Manson & party, & to that Extent I beg leave to refer you for the Cause which delayed the return of Lapleu so long with the T. R. & N. Caledonia Express letters. Mr. C. Taylor McLaughlin's last Communication from below, as you will find by his letter to yourself, authorised such deviation from his original plan with respect to Thompson River affairs - with further reference to my private Communications in which with other topics I have enlarged on the disastrous accident at Walla Walla. - I am

Dear Sir Yours

Arch. McDonald

Colvile 27th Nov. 1841 -

Mr. James Sinclair,

Dear Sir,

Your letter of recommendation & Credit already from Sir George, sufficiently paves the way for your wants along the route, without further Credentials from anyone. It is however necessary that I should bring under your notice the duties contemplated for Lapleu as set forth in Mr. Howard's letter to me per yourself. You will therefore have the goodness to leave him at the Tobacco Plain, that he may come down here with the Kootanaid Canoes early in April in order to be disposable for any Service he may be called upon to perform then in Connection with the Spring Communication by land with Edmonton in the manner you are already aware of.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours

Arch. McDonald

To,

Fort Colvile 2⁵ January 1842 -

Mr. Murrison

Dear Sir, - I had the pleasure of receiving yours of 7th ult: I saw Mr. Cameron, who arrived here on 27th and was glad to hear things were restored to so favorable a condition at Thompsons River. He now returns with the felling axes, Gibson files, the Parley, Bussen & the like wants that constituted his means; and to my private belief I beg leave to refer you for all that is now depending in this part of the Country. - Meantime

I am

Dear Sir -

Yours -

Arch^d McDonald

Annexed the following Note to Sir George Simpsons recommendation
of Mr. James Sinclair to the notice of Gentlemen in Charge of Districts and
Ports on the Communication from Vancouver to Red River Settlement:

Fort Colvile 7th January 1842 -

Gentlemen - On the 28th of last month Mr. Sinclair left this place in prosecution of his trip for east side, as well arranged for the accommodations as it was possible to be; but on account of the unusual depth of snow already on the ground, and the quantity of provisions it was indispensable to carry in the intermediate space to the next Estab^t, he was reluctantly compelled to relinquish all hopes of getting thro' the journey; and accordingly was back here again his fifth day. Still, we are about making a second attempt with nothing but Sir George Simpsons packet, in charge of two men as little encumbered as possible, trusting they may reach some of the Cree Camps near the height of land before the end of the month; and of course when the packet reach the respective Ports it will be forwarded with the same care and despatch recommended by Sir George. -

I am

Gentlemen

Yours

Arch^d McDonald

Colville 8th January 1842

Mr. Patrick McHenry

Dear Sir

Should you be at the Tobacco plain when Saquis
gets there. You will afford Peas Cook every facility to get on with the packet,
and even if it is necessary let Saquis himself continue on with him for
some days till he falls in with some one of his own people that will
accompany him to the Mountain House. — Mr. Remond's man however
must absolutely be down here with the Canoes. —

I was sorry to hear you could not get off from the Flatheads before
Mr. McPherson left; and in the uncertainty I am in about your present place
of rest I do not know what orders to give in addition to those you already
have. — In case that does not find you with Berland, I have given
Saquis a few verbal messages for him how to act, & that is all I think it
worth while committing to paper. — Yours — Archibald McDonald

Fort Colville 18th January 1842

James Douglas Esq^r

Dear Sir

It is now about the time I usually make up our
winter Communication for you below, & most cheerfully would I do so now
had I see the prospect of a Caravan getting to W. W. The snow, early in the
winter, set in hereabouts exceedingly severe. Mr. Sinclair joined us 17th
of last month, after taking seven days to the 55 miles from the Mission
to here. On 28th he recommenced his journey as well arranged as it was
possible to, be accompanied by Saquis, his own Indian & another from
here; had horses for the first two days ^{to the foot of the mountain,} but
on equipping themselves there with all their train, their progress, even
with the help of ^{two} extra Indians, became exceedingly slow, & indeed
the journey altogether hopeless; the 44 miles they made that day they re-
traced to the horses the next, & at the end of the fifth day were again
back to us. However, the importance attached to Mr Saquis' packet for
Red River, induced us to make a second attempt, by the two men only,
incumbered with nothing but their own scanty allowance of provisions for
15 days to take them to the Tobacco plain; who accordingly left us on 8th

and as no tidings of them have reached us since, the presumption is, that they are getting on.

In return to Salguse, that man, by Mr. Stewart's letter to me was to have remained here until I further heard in reference to him for himself and others below; that is, until I had official orders to send him off from here in the spring with 35 or 40 horses of ours for the height of land that would ultimately be driven on to Edmonton. Now, as regards the horses, I wish it to be distinctly understood that we have no such bands at our disposal here; & that I very much fear from the loss already sustained, scarcely enough will live to see the Spring for an even indispensable outfit. And as regards the man himself, it was clear Mr. S. could not prosecute the journey without some one with him, & Salguse in every respect being the fittest for this assistance & of little use to us here for the winter. I in the first place allowed him to accompany Mr. S. — and in the second to go on with Bras-croche as far as Berlands, but in either case to be down here with the Hockanais canoe early in April to be at Mr. Stewart's disposal.

We had Mr. Cameron also with us here for a few days from T. R. He left that place with 2000 Salmon for Ch. about 7th Oct. & arrived here 27th after a very tedious & harassing trip of it from the last mentioned place — sometimes by water, then by water & finally in snow shoes. His object was getting axes and a few other little wants. He left us on 3rd to get to his horses by much the same mode of travelling he was obliged to adopt coming up. He was accompanied by young Ahiche, a man & an Indian. Agreeably to the arrangement made at Kamloop, Salguse & the rest of the men returned from Ch. & Cameron was not too slow of the safety of either party returning by the Forks. To the letter of our friends themselves I must refer you for the news to the northward. Mr. Cyden's boat to depart on 27th Oct. — all well, with plenty of salmon & a few Beavers.

Mr. McPherson with the Flathead people was lucky enough to get home before the snow became too deep. His collection in furs, considering everything, is pretty fair; the Beavers are within a few to the number of last year, & the amt. of all the furs from that quarter rather better, notwithstanding the loss on Freeman's hunt

by their all coming down this way early part of the season, and thereby doing nothing I may say for half the year. But in the required quantity of grease we are I am sorry to say so fully short, arising in some measure from a misunderstanding of my order to the trader. He was directed to give all the reasonable assistance he could to the New Missionaries, & somehow or other amongst them all, it was construed to mean all they wanted in their way of meat & grease, & of consequence we ourselves are now without this last essential article. In other respects I am well pleased with Mr. Spence's exertions, & I have no desire to have him removed from his present charge. His two men, Brouillet & Seclain, go out, as they are refused their freedom. Lafantasio, Wacon & Bron take it. Nathan is little better yet settled with, & Joachim & old Pierre are ^{now fairly} done up; Canoh however thinks himself able enough to serve another year. You will therefore have the goodness, as far as possible, to plan 4 or 5 good hands at my disposal by the Express Boats. I am certain it is unnecessary to bring under your ^{notice} a part so well known & experienced as the want of good Express Boats. - Now, I have not a single one that can be relied on for '43. -

Our outfit last summer was in every respect very ample, but from the various & incessant calls upon us throughout the season, the storehouse will not be more than enough to meet the plain Spring demands. It would therefore be very desirable that as many whole pieces as possible be sent up this way in the Spring. - Mr. DeSmet, who was down ^{to us} this way for supplies in the month of Nov., wished that our requisition should include the value of 30 pieces for them; but however willing we may be to accommodate these good people in ordinary matters, I distinctly say that so far as depends upon myself, I do not wish to have anything to do with their supplies from the depot, & this I candidly told the Rev. Gentleman himself. We loaded the horses for him here, principally in provisions and feed stuff, & left us 400 dollars in specie to meet that & future demands. He speaks of being down this way again about the middle of April to proceed to Vancouver by the first conveyance that may then offer. -

Enclosed is a List of the few things we absolutely require for
the Express Boats. The full price can be made up of the same assort-
ment as sent ~~up~~ by that opportunity last year. The more the better,
as I shall expect to be allowed one Boat exclusively for the Conveyance
of a Whetstone Mill this way of next summer - all hands here
at present are principally employed in that way. -

I suppose the horrid state of our powder Hops last summer
has already been reported to headquarters. Now the goodness to re-
mind the Gentlemen in Charge of the Express of the funds on hand
at Walla Walla. They are 8 in number as per ^{exclusive} margin, of a proposed
list of things required from depot ensuing Spring -

I am Dear Sir Yours & c
Arch. McDonald

[Mr. Adams]

Fort Colville 1st March 1842

Dear Rev. Sir

An Indian about starting for the Flatheads offers me
the opportunity of addressing you a few lines, merely to say that we are
wile & want for nothing but Grace for the people with their grain. In this
article, from some Cause or another we were woefully short last fall, &
in order that we may be seen of enough by the Spring Boat I hope you
will direct the Indians coming out from the plains to proceed at once
with all the grain they may have to the Horse plain or Little House, for
Mr. McPherson to trade before the Boat returns. - I am

Dear Rev. Sir Yours & c Arch. McDonald

To the Same

March 22^d. I dare say we trust you have received my note of 1st & I hope
of the much required Grace then will be enough for the Boat to take
down. - It is to have the pleasure of being yourself in by this con-
veyance! If so, Mr. McPherson will see that room is made in the Boat for
your own Rev^d person at least. If you do not require him yourself, I have
authorized Mr. McP to employ E. Pundhorn for the season a few longer
period if he disposed himself. I am Dear Sir yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 22nd March 1842

Mr Patrick McKinnon

Dear Sir,

By return of the Flathead Indian, you would have seen this Mr. McPherson's note to you, all I then had to say. Of your original destination for the Kootanais you seem to make account - not even so much as a single allusion in your note to that place or to the trip you was to have made there yourself. This is not the way in which we can get on together. I shall cut doubts for you & you shall cut for me the doubts I ought to give you. Mr. McKinnon this won't do; but as matters no stand & trusting to more useful excursions from you in future, I have decided on employing you for the early part of the season watching a very useful Band of Flathead Indians Conducted by the Chief Called Fouse, and to that effect have given directions to Mr. McPh. to employ you in abundance -

By the Summer Boat I'll write you again as to what your duties may be, but it will not be necessary for you to come out to the little Mr. at that time, as Mr. McPh. can always see the letter forwarded to you. The Band in question not leaving the Prairie Area so early in the season as the grand Camp, I think you will have time to give us a hand in collecting the Ladang of Fouse & to extend for the Summer Boat which cannot otherwise be depended upon & which is absolutely required. Mr. McPh. will arrange all this with you, at same time supply you the few essential articles of Trade that may be required for your trip with Fouse. And relying on your activity & carefulness I am

Dear Sir - Yours

A. McDonald

Fort Colvile 22nd Mar^{ch} 1842

Mr John McPherson

Dear Sir

You are again about setting out in charge of the Flathead and Solam Outfit, and having already had a year's experience very little more is necessary than reference to my last instructions. The Outfit, ^{now made up for you} you seem to think quite ample for the 1st Trip.

Cont^d

Your party will consist of Martin, St. Loed, & Old Pierre: & Mr. Talt: Mr. Kenyon also will be placed under your orders.

Neither of the three young halfbreeds of our own, we had in the employ last season, choosing to serve any longer, you may engage Gabriel Proudhon of perfectly free, either for the season or a term of years at the rate of £20 if an - should he not be so despoiled, you can employ ^{the very man called} Foreman at the rate of £17 for the year; but I do not think it will be necessary to put both on the Boats, either of them engaging for more than one year can have his goods from the depot at servants prices.

Mr. McHenry, having entirely overlooked the ^{importance} duty assigned him last fall, may as well I think be sent out to watch Porsies Camp with a few supplies ^{in order} to pick up at once from them whatever they may have in the shape of Beavers.

The rest of the party you ought to have yourself, from the necessity there will be of dividing them when you must come in with a couple of them to meet the Summer Boat.

My views with respect to the Beaver ^{trade} you already sufficiently know, but in reference to the other supplies we require from you, it may not be amiss to be a little more particular.

It is obvious to yourself now that we cannot well get on here without something close on one hundred ^{hundred} ~~pieces~~ ^{pieces} annually, exclusive of about fifty pack saddles, ^{the best} which in all may be enumerated as follows (viz):

200	Appushunoes	15	fines
	Buff. Robes (all you can)	2	
30	Elk Skins	2	
75	Chies: Fe	1	
30	Gunflitches, being 120 as wrapping	2	
2700	& Inside Fat	20900	30
700	send in Fe	20900	8
900	dryed Meat		10
180	Pemmican for Express		2
500	Buff: Tongues		10
40	Bosses		1
16	& Marrow Fat		1/2
30	Sinews		1/3
200	Yths: Gutch Cords		-
3	Lodges		3
50	Gutch Saddles		-
900	& Back Fat		10
25	Gutch of Furs		25
			<u>122</u> fines

To accomplish this transport by three trips of the Boat, it would be well to have an eye to the memorandum you have taken for making use the loading of the Spring Boat, that you may the easier be prepared to meet the required demand by the summer and fall trips; & to this end some arrangement ought to be made with a trusty old Indian to take charge of the surplus Spring trade in order to be sure of showing a head load for the summer Boat. Perhaps Mr. McHenry before he starts with his Camp, could give a hand in making this collection even from the Kasim Umen.

Plante & Alcedus DuLay, though on wages, ought as much as possible to be allowed for our mutual interest the proper season for hunting; and let both send down orders for their supplies from Vancouver on the footing of Engaged -

Cont. 2

Canote, Twine, Leclain & Johnny return with the Boat
& ought not to be in the Bay later than the 20th of
next month as some of them may be going out with the

Wagon and the Horsekeeper accompanying you to
the Boat, and the directions you will then give them
with respect to the Horses must altogether depend
on where you meet the Boat and the state of the snow.

It would be very desirable could we hear
from you before the end of July on ~~the~~ ^{the} probable wants
for ~~your~~ ^{the} summer ~~trips~~.

I am not aware that Racine under Mission
will be making any demand on you that will put
you to much inconvenience, Mr. d. Smith I understand
is going down for his own supplies, & you are only
furnished with the goods necessary for the trade.

Yours

(Signed)

Arch^d M^c Donald

Coloche 18th April 1842

Dear Rev. Sir

Old Puma presented himself ~~thru~~ ^{thru} this forenoon
& showed me your kind favor of 13th. We have endeavored
to meet your views in delivering him at once the supplies mentioned
at the bottom. I am much disappointed by the prospect
before us of obtaining so wanted an article as grease
from the Indians alone; & so long as that scarcity continues, it
cannot be expected that we shall very cheerfully continue to afford
a liberal supply of the very articles we could always depend on
from — I trust however by mutual accommodation I shall
never again be placed in the same awkward dilemma in which
I at this moment stand with respect to that article.

Trusting to have the pleasure of seeing you in a few days,

I am

Dear Rev. Sir yours

W^m de Bouché

Arch^d M^c Donald

x a Day Note - 1/2 Day Journal - 1/2 Day Log - 4 1/2 1/2 - & the other little things -

Fort Colville 19th April 1842 -

James Douglas Esq^r.

Dear Sir

From various Causes I am obliged to address
you sooner than I intended or is usually the Case about this period.

Mr. Anderson with two Boats arrived here the day before yesterday.

The supply of goods sent up is very handsome, & seems to have come
in ^{most} very opportunity; for, all the Jasper House people dropped down

here with Portland the other day to have themselves equipped for a
Sledgment on the Klacum Arroy; and this moment people from

Mr. Adams has presented themselves for a large supply in Ammanah

Jobano, Blankets & for that quarter. - I believe I have already

noticed the manner in which we happened to fall short of Green last

fall. In short I wish up to the Mission to beg that the Indians gone

to the Cache might be allowed to pass on with that article to meet

our Boats at the White House middle of this month. The Rev. Father

now writes me as follows from the House plain. - "I have the honor to acknowl-

the receipt of your two letters of attack - the matter had been very soon on the

Klucum Arroy, Harmon & Illustration sent at an very dose; in consequence

spent all our provisions & ammunition to feed the needy & distribute Indian &

Now, it is clear that at this rate we can no longer depend on the Indians for

grain. At the moment the 70 Patients in becoming carried out daily & from

the mouth of the White intended for exportation last fall; I am aware it

is a sort of guarantee that is not likely to create much commiseration, but

it is nevertheless a most serious one to us, & one that must steadily be

adjusted down way or other. - My next subject of distress is Sackling, &

the rent of the Carries. Grain is called for from every bay every point

of the Camp, & I leave yourself to judge how far a couple hundred of Dollars

(which I believe) will enable me to meet the demand - Of the Stock

of last year 15 goods of the Caribou is all that is on hand, & of the Sackling,

not a foot. - Our other two, which we occasionally turned to some account

in that way, have entirely failed. So that altogether, unless some Staff

for Boats to him by 25th all the Boats must go down light.

Before we get back to the Klucum's till three days after Portland's departure,

the summer Cook up here yesterday the town of what is called the 113 northern

and the remainder of it supplies the Express men tomorrow. It will
with scarcely be credited that not a pound could be had this morning
with which to mix the gum for the Boats. This Shop is quick enough
to give an adequate idea of the difficulties we have fallen into; and
I must say all arising from the stretch made last fall to accommo-
date the Racine Amice mission with no less than 28 Pails mixed
meat & fat, in the belief that a good haul would have reached
us at the Flathead House this Spring. The Case unfortunately is seen
to be otherwise. If any remained at the Racine amice, seemingly
it is for the Missionaries themselves as they sent down to me for
Ammunition & Tobacco to secure it.

By reference to my Correspondence since last fall on this subject,
it will be seen this disappointment is nothing more than I apprehend-
ed. - Content we have some relief from below by the two men now
sent down, our people here much chafe the schematics to season their
grains from the Fork & Nam intended for New Caledonia. - Before the
Scarcity Supply of last fall came to hand they actually refused
to work on grain alone -

Wagon trucks down agate for six hours which it is expected the
Can favor at W.W.; and I write Mr. McHenry that the secret plan would
be to let them know that narrow down to the dallas to whip up at
once whatever may be sent by them - I am - Dear Sir - Yours &
Arch. McDonald

P.S. I have already so repeatedly drawn attention to the state of the
Cattle House that on this occasion it is scarcely necessary for me
to add that if Mr. Howard depends on a band of extra horses here
he will find himself disappointed. - Arrd

Mr. McHenry Dear Sir - Wagon & one of our Indians go post-haste
to Vancouver for Flour - Shaking & Mails. & I hope you will be able to
secure them horses to the dallas - They will down six spare agate -
if easier for the return here there will be horses enough - With further
reference to my private note I am

Dear Sir yours
Arch. McDonald

Infer Mr. Rowland's letter first

Fort Colville 30th May 1842

Messrs Ogden & Thomson
Gentlemen, —

I have the pleasure to acknowledge rec^d.
of yours of 25th Announcing your safe arrival that day at Okanukane
Mr. Cameron & party got here Saturday forenoon, & had on been
favored with a note from the Frocks on night, probably have got them
off the same day. — I notice what you say of Boats, we managed
to finish the last of 5 on Thursday evening, & it was then too late
to begin a sixth when it was only on that very day the mails arriv^d.
from Vancouver; however, we have six good ones for you notwithstanding,
that will this moment be under weigh with 250 pieces as per
enclosed description list, beaded families

Perhaps you will be disappointed at not seeing me
down to Okanukane. But as I must infer from your private
letters that it would not be convenient for all parties that
I should go further, I have made a sacrifice of my own
private inclination & perhaps of the interest of the little business
entrusted to me, to relieve you both from any embarrassment
so far as I am concerned. Mr. Cameron & the two guides with
I hope conduct all in safety to the Green Rocks, where I under-
stand they will be met with the horses from Okanukane
The number of men from here is 14 including Wagon & Lafantastic
of the Vancouver men 5
of yours — 29 48 as per Bill of Lading

With respect to the wants of this District I suppose 'tis
as well to pass them at once under the name of Mr. C. F. Mac
Laughlin & if you can among you continue to meet my needs,
all very well — for I can insist on nothing. I am grateful for
the few pounds of Grease sent up, because it is more than I
could get from headquarters after a trip of 1000 miles for it. We
however killed a horse the other day which, after boiling down
the meat yielded about enough of Oil to prepare Grease for the
Boats. In making up the loadings below I trust you will not
overlook that indispensable article for us, as without Grease

at Colvile one may say he is without men. Mr McLaughlin
refus me to see Beattie, though I made them know a month ago
that we were already at the far end of that resource -

I have in like manner to beg that in passing Walla
Walla you ^{will} be good enough to acquaint Mr McWhitney that it is
my intention in a few days to send to him for the 30 horses
Mr Douglas wrote me I could have to replace the 33 horses
the 20 from W.W. / Mr Howard left this with the other day. -

As to men, I suppose I must trust to chance as usual.
Some of our best Canadians went out this Spring, & three
of our best men engaged will be independent tomorrow
that famous man William Fien is at length free, now in posses-
sion of a flock of horned cattle obtained from the Red River
Settlers, & a previous I scoulded he will make. At this moment
came in to me to ask a passage to the Wallamette, which I have
to be a man fetch in order to get his family to Okanogan

The arrangement you proposed with respect to the P.R.
supplies from here, is a settled point - Saddles & apparatus
are kept for that purpose, but no wraps, coats or blankets -
Mr Cameron can take the Rose & the Bull too if he chose, which
we will more cheerfully give as there is neither Beef nor Bacon

This man Monague, with his clique of associates gives
me a great deal of annoyance when here. I wish they could be
informed from the proper authorities below that while with
me they are liable to work & subject to my orders

As I cannot on so short a notice, & otherwise occupied
as I am during these days, with on every point I could wish
to Mr C. F. McLaughlin, have the goodness to submit this letter
to him for his information in addition to what I address
him personally - I am

Gentlemen

Yours most obedient

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 30th May 1842 -

John M Loughlin Esquire

Dear Sir

By return of an Am man from Vancouver on Thursday last I was handed your favor of 10th Inst: but much to my disappointment without an answer of grace

There are a great many points which I thought might very advantageously be talked over together, this summer, & which I foresee no paper Communication can obviate. —

Six of Am men left us this Spring, besides, Jackson, Philippe Sajoie & Duquette, whom I hope it is intended to replace with hands equal to the arduous duties the Colvile men have to perform

The remainder of Am outfit to come up is as per enclosed requisition — trusting a few Negs Geese may still be added —

Inclosed, I also send down the distinct accounts, with separate statements of the Flathead and Kootenaw Trade —

The Tariff applied for is sent down in like manner

Shown given old Philippe & Jackson with his family a passage down in the Boats, also Sajoie's wife & the wife of St. Mauriceau.

Peter Grant too with his family goes down as far as Okanogan.

It is quite a mistake to suppose that so many useful hands can be maintained at Colvile without feeding it; I had there been fewer of that description our Indian men might have fared to day better than they do. — Our grain of last year is now in a fair way of soon becoming very low: Three hundred bushels of seed is now in the ground, but the question is how to secure the harvest should providence prosper the crops

With further reference to my letter of this date to Messrs Ogden & Manson

I am

Dear Sir

Very faithfully

Yours

Arch^d McDonald

Mr. Cameron — You are to Conduct to Athanaskan the six Boats
now leaving this for that place. — Mr. C. F. Ogden informs me
that at the Gros Roche 40 horses will meet the Craft to take
80 pieces by land to the Fort; and should you not send the
horses then you are to land that number of pieces, ^{including the pack} nevertheless.
With your own experience, ^{that of the 2 guides} this is all that it is necessary to Compose
to paper — Sam

Yours

Fort Colvile — } Arch^d McDonald
30th May 1842 }

The following letter in pencil I received from Mr. Rowland Yes-
terday morning, which considerably influenced ^{me} in not leaving my
Fort to go down to see Mr. C. F. Ogden —

Campment de Cheveux
Pond d'ouille Mountain 27th May 1842

My dear Sir

Having heard since we left you several Circumstances
relating to your interpreter Flek, which materially affects his Chara-
cter, I think it but right to inform you of them, so as you may have
an opportunity to discern whether they are founded in fact — Our
people say, that every occasion on which you have left Flek in charge
of Colvile he has invariably got drunk & been guilty of other
excesses. On one occasion particularly when our men were with you,
you & your lady & family went to the Mill, leaving Flek in charge with
instructions to make up some packs; but instead of this the fellow got
heavily drunk & slept, & towards evening when the men had made
up 2 packs he told them they had worked enough that day and
dismissed — William Flou it appears was chagrined that he was
not asked to drink the Rum also & extorted a promise that on the
next occasion he should form one of the party. This fellow Flek
was heavily drunk last year when we passed down. A person guilty
of drunkenness you may fairly expect to be guilty of other misdemeanors

We really pity you when we think of the carelessly set of men you
have to deal with, & this man whom you are obliged to trust seems to be

the worst of all -

We have got this far without accident, & trust the rest of our journey may be equally prosperous, & with kind regards to Mrs. McDonald & yourself in which Mr. Kipland joins.

Believe me ever yours very truly

J. Rowland

Fort Colville 8th June 1842

John McLaughlin Esq.

Dear Sir

Yesterday morning a confused report this morning reached us of the melancholy fate of our poor people, which but too truly was confirmed by authentic accounts from Ok. this morning. It is a most lamentable case, & a proof from what in much all feel as fellow men, that is likely to have the effect of increasing our difficulties here - By a glance at the names of the men equipped for this distant last year they will soon be found 13 less, namely -

Canah Amphurville

P. Alstromman

T. Hull

H. Brouillet

C. Robard

T. Leclair

W. Pion

C. Lafontaine

W. van Amphurville

W. Lajou

Ant. Duquette

Joseph Hubert &

Philip Desjardis

13

Since nominal ad servants

Bapt. Brouha

1

in the plains

John Canah

} Boys

1

W. W. for horses

Trappers, taken ad Engaged

Antoine Plant

1

Rich. Finlay

1

} Trapping

Superannuated - Burn Stollorand

1

5 in the plains

18

Continued

Colville 8th June 1842 -

Mr. M. Amblay

Dear Sir

Having notified to Mr. O'Brien for your information my intention of sending for the horses as soon as I could, young Conote and one Indian carrier now leave me for that purpose. Thirty of the best you can muster are expected. If the 24 Mr. Howard brought have the left 2, besides 2 of our own in that number. The rest of the Court you will be able to put into the proper shape yourself.

The two loads leave me a few days sooner than I intended when you heard from me last, with the view of carrying to you in time a second report I am obliged to make in consequence of the painful affair at the ^{at} Dalles, which it is highly expedient should reach Vancouver as early as possible, at all events before the departure of the Brigade, & which with your usual punctuality in this way I have no doubt you will find the means of being accomplished.

Excuse me if I don't write more on this occasion. The lamentable tale you will have heard of, has thrown me into a painful state of mind - My Greys, my Miller & my own servant all gone!!! What a sad blow for Montaigne's wife had sustained within the short space of the same three days - on the 3rd of the month, three days after she lost her father, her husband, & nearly her brother, her only boy of ten years old was killed here on the spot by the falling down upon him of one of our fence Roubens while in the act of climbing over it. - I am

Dear Sir Yours

Archibald McDonald

Colville 11th June 1842

Mr. D. E. Cameron - Dear Sir - Fort Montaigne has not been idle since her coming here, about as far as I may, & very little help at my disposal to give her. She now loaded her own as well as property as far as I can - You will find on Bag floor enabled to give another to Mr. Tamm, also the two apprehensions you apply for the affair on the Dalles may truly be called a melancholy occurrence.

I am Dear Sir

Yours Archibald McDonald

John McLaughlin Esq.

Colville 16th June 1842

Dear Sir

I did not expect when I last wrote that I should again so soon be troubling you. — Mr Patrick McMorris quite unexpectedly joined me here last night from the plains, with anything but cheering news from that quarter so far as the essential articles go — flour & grease, as can be seen by Mr McPherson's letter herewith enclosed. The same demand however for supplies seems to be felt all over, more especially in the article Tobacco. The first part of the year's Campaign commenced with 4 Bolls — 4 an now request for the same & I don't say it will extend to 3 more in the fall, making 11 in all out of the 16 condensed for. & all this in that article alone, to say for 150 Bolls perhaps 300 Appointments. You see what he says of grease. The Indians it is clear will not now leave the Post ground for food or anything else if they help it. —

With respect to Mr. McMorris himself, I think if placed on the proper footing he would become most worthy & make himself useful; & it is on that account I now tend him in order to have the necessary understanding with yourself, & to be returned immediately permanently attached to this district as one of his description is absolutely required. He is even now without an English & I cannot comprehend how any one thrown on my hands in the same way he was last fall could be expected to show any very lively interest in the Cause or be engaged in. — I Perhaps it is intended to give a Mr. Thew upon us. If so, I might be accused for anything it tells that that gentleman him ^{the by from} ~~Abstract~~, by the way in which that gentleman holds of the ease & comforts with which he expects to be carried about. It will be granted that a certain provision is made for him in the shape of food.

Should it now be got down before the Pugash blocks I would suggest that after he is loaded with he be sent up with the Mr. O'Neil & from Mr. Accompany our Boat here at the only alternative I see. to be after that conduct the Boat to take charge of the property to the Ft. Keely & send them clear out his future duties. —

With a drop of rain here we have some the state of my last & the crops of Corn begin to look straggled. The Indian Corn will be very scarce for

the effect of the frost. Felix was obliged to replant the ground in culture
as the May plow.

I think, considering our difficulties, it would be as
well if we could, consistent with good faith, defer for
the present determining up the cattle intended for the Roman
Army Mission. We lost some of our best milk cows
since last Nov. It is true that of the paltry quantity of
Dutch in Can. made here some is required for the feeding of
our own people in the plains.

3 Hops from the required &
3 Hops from absolutely

Yours &c
Arch. McDonald

Colville 16th June 1842

Mr. Arch. McDonald

Dear Sir

I am again quite unexpectedly to trouble
you. Mr. Patrick McHenry dropped in upon us here last night
from the plains, & affirms them not being in the most thriving
condition I send him down at once with his own verbal report
With expectation he will I think get to in time for the Brigade.
I provided with a blanket & a shirt he would be more sure of a
Cure at the Falls. He ought to have a look out for the hottest
likely forwarded in case from time (perhaps they may have
died on the way down wards. The two young men with I have
say to go their way back before the present party reaches you.
In that case the three horses now going down must without fail
be sent back by Sagarbaris or some other one of the party coming
by land after the Probs an up your length, and Calasfella
himself, (Mr. McHenry's guide) being a good Boatman, comes on by
water with the own people. With further reference to the same

I am

Dear Sir

Yours &c
Arch. McDonald

Dr John McPherson

Fort Colvile 20th June 1842

Dear Sir

Yours of 13th Inst was handed me by Mr. Mc-
Kenzie, & it is unnecessary to say I am much obliged at the
unfavourable turn affairs have taken in your quarter. ^{the late attention from that high} ^{some late} ^{from}
respect to the grease is nothing more than I apprehended
As regards the Beaver perhaps under existing circumstances
things could not look ^{much} more promising at the early date of
the ~~season~~ you write; but truly the expenditure on Tobacco to
me looks enormous when compared with the trade of every
description yet come in. - McHarris Guide now returns with the 2⁵
of that article you require in attendant. The summer outfit
will be forwarded you as complete as possible, but ^{where} ⁺ ^{by} ^{when} it is
yet impossible to say. Poor Old Canoe that has navigated the
Flathead river regularly six times a year for the last thirty is
now no more, as well as his son in law poor Mackenzie & my trusty
servant David Fild who all three together with two other porters
perished in the Ok. dables their 2⁵ day from here - 31st May -
It is yet uncertain who is to accompany our Probs up the Ok. -
To obtain this as much as in my power I immediately sent off
Mr. M. to Vancouver, & may either come up by water, or be here
by land in time to relieve myself for making the Craft there -
For God's sake be sure to put every man in the place to get us a good
supply of Grease this fall for, without that article here one
may say he is without Men. -

The rest of this letter is on Americk News, which it is unnecessary
to transcribe here) -

I am

Dear Sir

Yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 30th June 1842

John M. Laughlin Esq^r

Dear Sir

Your favor of 25th Inst was handed me as early as 27th by return from W. W. of the Indian sent down with Dr. M. Harris. The perusal of that Communication gave me truly the most unfeignable pain, & most feelingly do I sympathize with yourself in the severe family Calamity you have thus sustained. Good God! what awful visitations of Providence have in not had of late years for and near

With reference to the melancholy occurrence in the P. K. letter, I see it is your opinion that accident might have been prevented by the presence of an officer - possibly it might; That you was also disappointed I did not go down to Okanagon. On this last point I must be permitted to speak more at large for myself. In the first place, by not one of the Communications either public or private which reached me this Spring from headquarters was the least allusion made to my own summer appointment. I knew however that there was a standing order of late years that Colvile should not be left without a gentleman, & to that order in the absence of any other arrangement I adhered, finding that Dr. Manson did not come up to relieve me, though I wrote both to that gentleman & to Mr. Ogden across land middle of May that, "as I conceived the interest of the Charge I had required my presence at Vancouver this summer, I was determined on going down. Their private letters however for Mr. E. D. Cameron - after notifying him officially by their joint letter that "twenty nine men were despatched without loss of time to assist in bringing down the Brigade under charge of Mr. Cameron", - so earnestly urged the hardship & personal inconvenience they conceived it would be to Dr. Manson were he obliged to summer inland, that it directed; & in guiding the point in discussion in his favor I thought I was doing nothing more than complying with their wishes in reasoning at my post. Moreover, in coming to this decision it may not be irrelevant to notice that, I was not a little influenced by the letter which I received the very day Mr. C was with me from Mr. C. F. Rowland. Copy of which is already transmitted apprising me of the impropriety of ever leaving my Establishment in charge

of such a man as Thomas Fife my Interpreter. Under those circum-
stances, had I gone down & reached Aik in safety of course there would
be no more said on that ^{part of} subject; but if unhappily anything serious
had taken place at Colvile during my absence, I think I might
with greater justice be found fault with than for the case in which
I am very innocently found my name mixed up. And in that connection,
with this clear & candid explanation so far as regards me, I have no
doubt you will yourself readily acquiesce.

It is not enough for me to be subject to the troubles and
travels which really belong to the charge I have; I must be placed
in a situation to receive every annoyance from an insolent insolent
fellow, incapable of appreciating common kindness & common atten-
tion even to himself: I mean that celebrated Gentleman Master W. Thow
whom arrogant, & insupportable behaviour after insulting myself and
family before he was 12 days under our roof, obliged me to forbid
him my house & discontinue all further intercourse with him. -
Really, with the general character throughout the country which they
youngster bear, I cannot look on his being quartered upon me,
merely to suit his own idle & unambitious disposition, for ~~for~~
long months, as at all a compliment. He is however still provided
for three times a day at a separate mess by my wife & family, on
whom I believe it is well known necessarily devolved the kitchen
duties at Colvile during the summer months. -

I will not trouble you with a repetition of the permanent
troubles I took the liberty of bringing under your notice in my letter
of the 8th & 16th inst. & will merely beg leave to draw your earnest attention
again thereto. We may get out of our present difficulties with suitable
means, but, without, assuredly not. - I am Dear Sir yours &c

Arch^d McDonald

P. S. Master Thow's open declaration of war against us, commenced
with a refusal to let him Fife's daughter to help to wheel away the
bedroom of his handsome house which here, when he found himself in
every other respect far too comfortable, I think perhaps the Gentleman
ultimately mentioned to accomplish despite any one who dared to oppose him

Most unaccountable, how, dare to say the least of him, such a useless
Character could have been so long tolerated in the Country. He has, just
sent me in word that his tea is not stout enough, & a by candle in
quantity sufficient & that his candles, for night study in the month
of June that he may sleep like ten in the morning, are far too short!
Judge of the graces took in hand in being obliged to provide for
so hopeful a guest —

Archibald McDonald

Private

(to Mr. MacLaughlin)

Colville 30th June 1842

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for the trouble you took in addressing
me so freely on the tragical affair at Stikine, but though that
unlambently intelligent was conveyed me under an official cover
you will excuse me if, beyond the brief notice taken of it in my
than that, I take this method of giving my opinion more at large
on the painful subject. & In whatever way we view the unhappy
event, such a horrible occurrence among ourselves is lamentable to think
of. — One thing pretty evident, with so many Scotchmen engaged
together within one Fort like Stikine, the Establishment ought to have
been more officious, & the plea of being kept in perpetual bodily fear
excused as much as possible; but Corporal punishment by all
means resorted to on deserving delinquents. In fact, all over the
Country we are far too lenient in Gentlemen which must give a footing
to men & Indians to become daring & defiant. I never must be a
propaganda watch & I view very little better; but between ourselves, I
fear the conduct of the poor deceased gave them all but too great a
handle, of which, depend upon it, a learned Council before a British
Criminal Court would make the most in mitigation of punishment;
and, all things considered, perhaps the verdict of an English jury
would go no further than "justifiable homicide". I the prosecution
which you propose against Plover will I apprehend fall to the ground.
From the villain at an improper hour & most wantonly, as the case is stated;
long the sole shot did go a shot when Plover approached him but he shot
no one; one can it perhaps be clearly proved that he fired with intent

to murder or do bodily harm to any particular individual. This
business is a point on which all depends on the evidence. The subsequent
flipping he had had under the circumstances stated, he most richly
deserved, & ought not, one would suppose, to have any weight in support
of the plea set up by the other prisoner; but the legality of having him
again criminally tried on the same charge appears questionable.

I hope you will excuse me for giving my opinion thus freely.
I know you must feel the absurdity of the deed with the becoming feeling
of a parent, but however painful the result we must resign ourselves
to it, & endeavour to determine what is right & what is wrong between
man & man. I dare say Mr. Manson with an eye to the Journal will
be able to do things more thoroughly than Sir George had time to
do, & without a good interpreter as I suppose he was, at the time.

I am
My dear Sir - yours &c &c
Arch^d McDonald

Fort Colville 8th Aug. 1842.

John M. Loughlin Esq^r

Dear Sir

Though I did not do myself the pleasure of
addressing you from St. John Monique, it was not because I had
nothing to say. I must have been well known to you all the 12 men
made over to me there full for short of the means of getting up an
Outfit of 130 pieces. - 26 of them I was compelled to leave there. 52^d
put into each of the two boats I could man, a stretch of ambition
to do all I could, I had cause to regret before I got here. In the Stoney
Solana rapids, my own boat filled & sank. Lost the greater part of
the powder, salt sugar including Mr Rowlands Keg, & I am sorry
to say materially damaged the delicate contents of Governor Shumblers
Cassette before it could be got out of the water & the work started.

While thus drying the property, had a misunderstanding with
the natives, the worst disposed set on the Columbia from one end to
the other. Next day, on ascending the rapid with half loads on the
line, the quarrel became more serious; they let fly their arrows at the
boats & gave myself on shore the most unenviable reception with their

brandished knives & arrows. It was an ugly affair as it was, but
had very nearly gone the length of something more disastrous in the
helpless condition we were in with our property exposed along the
rapid, & worse still, with not a man of the party able to speak the
words of the language to bring us to a better understanding - I men-
tion this last circumstance being so little is made of the young
linguists brought up in the District, all now I understand ordered
away as a useless burden on the Establishment. Let the maxim be never
lost sight of among Indians that, much mischief can be prevented by a
timely & proper understanding of existing difficulties, which, in the absence
of such simple explanations it might take years of main strength
to correct; & then, after all, in nine cases out of ten we only come off
second best. - Interpreters are a necessary evil. -

It was the 2^d before we got here. On 4th, the outfit for the
upper country was off. Butland, I have sent to the Indian lands
with a 2 gate bag of Rum to see if he cannot get a little grain for
us, all hopes in that way for this season at least from the Flathead
plains having disappeared; in fact however I think we'll still do
something. - All our grain is now overripe, & scarcely a man that
worked in the river is in a fit condition to put his hand to any
efficient labour yet. In short, nothing can be more distressing than our
present plight with so much to do with means so limited, be it believed
or not. -

Of Mr. Thew, I have written already. During my absence he
took incredible airs upon himself here, & called in question any authority
that refused him whatever he chose ask for. - On the evening of Saturday
last he beat myself at the gate with exceeding violence, which nothing
could tolerate but a studied wish to avoid an open rupture with him.
Yesterday afternoon [Sunday] the Scoundrel followed me to the field
with a table knife in his pocket; provoked me with the most
insupportable language till we reached the foot gate when I was irre-
sistably compelled to knock him down, after which he exhibited
the knife & confessed to my wife & Mr. Anderson that it was intended
for me. To day, I am about getting him off to W. W. [having refused
to remain at B.K. for the few weeks he has still to remain on the country] where
he

When he must remain till Monique & the Mountain come up.
I must say the conduct of this young man altogether has been the
most outrageous & unaccountable, & that too from a worthless fellow
without house or home. — Of course it is unnecessary to say my ten-
mentor is sufficiently fashionable to get himself up a Cardigan. —

I am Dear Sir

Very truly yours

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 9th Aug^r 1842

Peter S. Ogden Esq^r

Dear Sir

At your earliest convenience have the good-
ness to communicate to me officially, — if you do not prefer doing
it to the Council, what the Character & Conduct of Mr. William Thew
had been while under your Orders, as it has ^{been} turned that for
the few weeks he has been with me as a men guest, the whole
tenor of his behaviour has been that of a madman more than
anything else. In the second time since my return from Ok: he
accosted me on Sunday last in the fields with a rather large
knife in his pocket; provoked me to a personal encounter which
however my better discretion was able to put off until we reached
the Fort gate, when his violent & abusive language became so
insupportable that with one involuntary blow I was obliged to
fell the fellow to the ground, which caused an open exhibition
of the knife in question ^{the part of the dagger which he held an open} ~~on his own part~~ ^{was} ~~around~~
of the purpose for which he carried it. — Next morning (yesterday)
I marched ^{him off} the whole off for Walla Walla, having expressed an
willingness to locate himself ^{at Ok} for the few weeks it is still our
misfortune to have such a worthless being on our hands —

I am

Dear Sir

Yours Very Truly

Arch. McDonald

Fort Colvile 15th August 1842

Solm. McLaughlin Esq.

Dear Sir

Without any direct orders from you on the subject,
another detachment of our people leaves me to day for the Wallamette
— Since the day I got rid of them the date of my last, we have
been unable to do anything at the harvest from incessant rains; a
loss that had at least the advantage of giving our inveterate corn
to regain their wonted strength, but alas the grain is going for it —

Please how the goodness let me an order for five good men from
the Express; four of them we are actually short of an ordinary Com-
pliment, but their wages, if thought the best way, to at once charged
to the District: the fifth, I should like to have in readiness for the
plains next Spring to replace them going out. One of them is Bellard
made over to me this summer, besides the Firm who will be free
in April to attach himself to the Mission. The Rev: gentlemen
have not yet sent for their Cattle, & I do not know how they will
survive the winter, the big plain Establishment being necessarily broken
up & no means in the ordinary way of getting hay made even for
conservation. — Fall ploughing is a thing thing that must absolutely
be attended to, as no other grain now give much satisfaction here

I have heard nothing since, of the row in Connection with
the Indians of les Her de pierres —

I am Dear Sir — yours faithfully

Arch: McDonald

Fort Colvile 15th August 1842

private

Mr David McLaughlin

My dear Sir,

Your kind favor of 29th June received here
middle of last month for return of Mr. McKenzie. The unfortunate late
it desired I had previously secured this year from afflicted father,
and since then have perused the judicial documents taken on the
circumstances attending that lamentable event. I wish to god it
was possible to bring home the direct charge of murder to the villain

to the villain said to have fired the fatal shot. The supplementary evidence taken after Sir George's departure goes I am in some degree to maintain part of the information taken by him, especially that given by Mr. Pherson. It is most unfortunate that so many obstructed concordably continue to keep this unhappy affair out of the hands of a competent tribunal that would at once try the merits of the case; though I must confess I am not without apprehensions the accused would have something to advance in mitigation of punishment on the Capital offence. This however seems a point not likely ever to be satisfactorily settled in the public mind without the decision of an upright impartial jury, & with this conviction I think the sooner means can be fallen upon to put the case in that shape the better -

The rest of his letter is on domestic matters -

Archibald

Fort Colvile 8th Aug. 1842

Mr. W. H. Murray

Dear Sir

I little expected 24 hours ago that I should now be sending you my little bill that your etc from Mr. Thew. That gentleman, whose conduct indeed throughout the summer was exceedingly bad, made himself so disgracefully conspicuous here towards myself personally last night that I am compelled to remove him from the Establishment. An Indian Prince Akatik accompanied him to your place where they will both remain till the Vancouver men pass up for the mountain whom I expect here by the 25th of next month - I am - Dear Sir yours

Archibald

P. S. It would be well if the letters for Vancouver could get down by the 10th of next month, in order to have an answer here before the Earl's side Budget starts -

Archibald

Fort Colvile 23rd Sept 1842 -

To The Chief Factors &
Chief Factors. - H.B.C. }

Gentlemen,

I am reluctantly compelled to bring under
your notice the deplorable conduct of Mr William Thew lately
allowed to retire from the Service. This gentleman was quartered
upon me here for the summer in consequence, as I was told by
Mr C Jackson Agent, of his having resolved himself incapable
of going out in the Spring by his having used money in
N. California about the time of starting the packet. He was
not above 12 days here when he thought the 18 months idle term
still on his hands in the Country would pass away more quickly
by getting to himself a female Companion; and did not blush at
asking for one out of my family. He was of course refused, &
with this refusal commenced a life of conduct ^{not only} utterly unbecom-
able but highly disgraceful to himself as ^{a man &} a gentleman - insulting
myself & family whenever he could. On 20th June, I was obliged
to expell him my tent, but had him comfortably & decently
attended to with his three meals a day notwithstanding. On
Saturday Night 6th Aug. after my return from Ok: he was where
he had opportunity to meet me outside the Fort, where he made use
of the most abusive & insulting language with I have no doubt
the view of provoking an open assault upon me; but would
it be believed that the following evening, ^{on} the Sabbath, the
Misses went the length of arming himself with a rattled
table knife in his pocket, followed me out & accosted me in
the fields with insults & menaces of possible more violent than
anything he had yet resorted to, which however I was sufficiently
cool & composed to withstand till within a few feet of the Fort gate
when further forbearance ^{became} was impossible, & then while he braced
up & sprang in my face, trying he was about to lose his prey
I gave him an involuntary ^{whack} ~~blow~~ which brought him to the ground
with

with a bloody face & nose. In this plight however he soon follow-
ed me down to my own door, when his further progress was ob-
structed by the female part of the family with the assistance
of the Interpreter; and ^{after} ^{with great haste} the gentleman produced the knife
in question with a flourish, making an open avowal of the deplorable
purpose for which he carried it "to put it into your husband's back."
Soon after I went out to him, & warned him ^{to get} to be off out of my
lot before the next sun rose. Accordingly I had him ^{away} off to Walker
Hallen, whence he ^{voluntarily} returned, & now proceeds to the Mountains
agreedly to the original intention.

Mr. C. Taylor Douglas on this unpleasant subject writes me
of 1st Inst. "Mr. Smith's Conduct is a matter of regret, being without
precedent in the Country & most disgraceful to himself"
Mr. C. Taylor McLaughlin on the same subject addresses me 12 days
after in these words "It would be well you send a narrative
of this affair across the Mountains with him / there / so as Fort Kom-
wright know how to act towards him" There are very minute
notes of seven pages on the subject, recorded immediately as the
circumstances occurred, but they I deem sufficient for the present
to answer the purposes contemplated by Mr. McLaughlin

I am

Ever Dear

Yours very faithfully

Arch^d McDonald

Deposition of Thomas Fells

C. F. —

Thomas Fells assistant Justice at Fort Colville being duly
sworn & read the oath & says that on Sunday the 7th day
of August last after breakfast he was with another man,
Thos. Stangway, coming up from the ~~the~~ river side; saw his
mother Mr. W. Smith (the witness) walking alone home
from the fields at the distance of about 300 yards from the
Fort; soon after saw Mr. William Fells make up to him across
the plain from a side direction with what appeared to
this deponent a very hurried step, which struck him the

deponent

more probable from his previous knowledge of their not being
on speaking terms. Mr McDonald did not seem to challenge his
word when the other came up to him. Deponent observed to
his Companion "let us make haste, perhaps there will be something
going forward". Upon this they both ran. By the time they got up
the hole in front of the Fort Gate saw a scuffle had just en-
ded as Mr Thomas's face was all over with blood & himself calling
out in a furious manner against Mr McDonald whom they saw
walking up to his own house. Mr Thomas then rushed away from
the people who were trying to keep him up the platform
after Mr McDonald, & would have entered the house were not
his further progress interrupted by Mr McDonald & Mr Anderson
who stood in the door way before him and called deponent to
their assistance. - On pushing the said William Thomas from the
door with some difficulty, the blade part of a table knife was
seen sticking out of his fine dress coat pocket behind; on which
Mr McDonald observed to him that he ought to be ashamed of
himself carrying about him such an implement, & that too on
the Sabbath night. "Yes", said he, pulling the said knife out
of his pocket, & with great bravado flourishing it about "this
I carry to put into your cowardly husband's back". As the
said William Thomas soon after came to this deponent for the key
of a certain Casket in the Fort, which he knew contained pistols
and told him the deponent that he wanted them to fight
Mr McDonald with, which key deponent refused to give up,
and told Mr McDonald of this application made to him for
the arms. - Mr McDonald then came out to where Mr Thomas
was haranguing the people, and ordered him to leave the Fort
next morning. - Further this deponent saith not.

Sig: Thomas Fleck

Sworn at Fort Colville this
27th day of Sept 1842 -

Before me

Arch^d McDonald
C. F.

Fort Colvile 23rd Sept 1842 -

W. A. C. Anderson,

Dear Sir

We have managed to get off the Boat @ the usual date, & I hope his arrangement as the portage in due time will be no delay to you - I enclose will hand you the packet Box with the other loose papers: I see no document especially addressed to "The Intendant in Charge of the Express" But you can peruse the Budget then made up for the Factors & Indent, & I am sure you will have the goodness to direct the whole being forwarded in the same state with the List of Contents to Mr Rowan or Edmonston without fail -

Newsletters & the Russian you will find go across with Mr. Shaw and all the property as per list

You see the distribution then made of the grain sent up, but should you find yourself short for the down coming you know what to do. - In goodness I wish if you be well off in Even by being as down as you can, for I have not seen an arrow here since you left -

There come but one route from Vancouver, but in case you have from here besides Redoubt the middleman -

With further reference to the public documents

I am

Dear Sir

Yours

Arch. McDonald

Continuation from opposite page - and sincerely hoping Mr. McDonald, yourself & the family are in the enjoyment of health & that that you may soon have to travel through the Woodhouse Country in the season of high water

I remain

My dear Sir

Very truly yours

Sig - Edw. A. Hopkins
Arch. McDonald

Fort Colville 29th Sept: 1842 -

John M. Loughlin Esq^r

Dear Sir

I have just heard from Portland, who, I am sorry to say has completely failed in the object of getting out Game from each side. He forwards me a note from Mr. Hopkins, which I transmit for your information

"Rocks Range 22^d June 42 -

During, after much difficulty & to the no small surprise of the Indians who during the state of the waters gave up all hopes of being able to pass, reached this place, we arrived from the Nookanans the remainder of a bag of Beavers & a bag of Flour, of which the poor devils helped themselves & no wonder, as they had been starving all Spring". In relating the fate of 8 or 9 of their horses he says of W. C. "Drowned in the River falling out of the Ground Sucka. This horse was loaded with six two tents, the bag of William Spindelow & a gun falling off a high rock into the River was swept under an embarras shoot. In the baggage of Spindelow is a small tin Case containing the documents by which he draws his pension of one shilling a day: this of course is a dreadful loss to the poor man, & if you were to make an effort to recover them it would be a great blessing to him. -

Nothing but the greatest Care could have brought our band of miserable horses thus far through the dreadful rocky country we have been obliged to traverse over; a country which the Indians thought quite impassable, & our men agree by far more than anything they ever saw before. The whole Country is under water, prairies, hills, rivers, valleys & all are drowned, leaving no place for us to make our way along except over snow clad mountains & dangerous overhanging rocks. -

Mr. Rowland, I am sorry to say is suffering ~~exceedingly~~ from a severe indisposition almost incapacitating ^{at} him from travelling; his complaint is some injury in the back, so that he cannot move without pain & hands help only when lying down; & added to this he has had a relapse of Fever & ague. All the rest of us are well,

(Continued on opposite page)

A paragraph in my private letter to Mr. Cunningham - 29. 5. 38 - in reference
to the case of the late Mr. John McLaughlin -

"So much you say about poor Mr. John I perfectly agree, & that
the manner of communicating a tale so melancholy distresses the unhappy
father about as much as the deed itself. I do not however so readily
admit that Mr. Simpson has his strictness in matters of business what
it may, is the more unhappy to wound the feelings of a fellow creature,
more especially in a case so peculiarly trying as the one in question;
& I dare say did you see it, his private letter had made some amends
for the stringent style of his public one. If the information he
obtained at Peking is incorrect, we are in Christian charity bound to
believe it was from no intentional design of his. Mr. McLaughlin being
a ^{character} private & unassuming man upon the depositions, but
depend upon it wisdom of that nature in such cases has great
weight in a Court of justice & however sanguine we may be to
bring the Criminal to a severe condign punishment we ought always
to be prepared to hear all that the law will admit in his defence -
Certainly it was wrong to have left the demand at Peking alone, &
in my opinion not very judicious not very judicious to have given
him the principal charge there at all to avoid - In common with
all others that will bear the lamentable business, I most feelingly
sympathize with the worthy old Gentleman himself who cannot be
otherwise than distressed in mind beyond measure - All the
documents in connection with this unhappy affair that left Vancouver
up to the 14th are now on their way to the Post Establishment

P. S. to my last letter to Mr. McLaughlin dated 2nd Oct.

Yours of 16th ultimo announcing the arrival from Oakes of
our R. Catholic priest for the Mission of the Rev. Mr. Planchette, came
to hand this morning; but is ten days too late to send by the mountain
boat the fellow addressed to Bishop Provencher. I will however in-
deavour, through Redland this fall, to see it forwarded to Edmonton
via the R. Mountain House by the Crest of the Rocky Range

If true, the assassination of the British Ambassador at Peking
will be an additional stimulus to John Bull to bring his Catholic
majesty to a proper sense of his barbarous policy. But had we an
Ambassador at the Court of Peking? - C.M.D.

Private - to Mr. Ogden - 30th May - '42 -

My dear Sir - I have just addressed you a few lines
in the way of business, but it in the Book of some date / at present.
I have not official letter from Mr. in which you will
find I have advised you from ^{the} unpleasant situation you say in
your private communication to Mr. Longland's letter placed you, in
reference to Mr. Manson & myself. In truth my friends, it appears
to me had you caught the meaning of that letter with the eye
of a good lawyer, as you are, you would have stated the case
otherwise than you did, & have found yourself in no dilemma
to whatever, especially when you had my ratification, tho' not
officially, at the time. But as neither feeling or convenience is
to be consulted I remain a second time, & I hope all will go
on with more than usual - If I can you know what to do with them.

Private to Mr. Manson of same date -

I have only time to say that I had the pleasure
to receive your sheet per Mr. Cameron, & being no alternative
I have decided on remaining inland. That baggage which
had on our hands here for some time, now being for
Nasqually & not tempted to run after some of the Porters
it may be as well to let you know that the information I was
in duty bound to take in writing on that vexatious affair is
now sent down to our Superior, that you may be prepared
to give the best excuse ^{the} case can admit of, for so far as
you are concerned the sooner it is got over the better as it will
come about some time or other. - Wishing you all a
pleasant trip of it - I am yours -

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Correspondence of Archibald McDonald,
relating to Fort Colvile, 1838 - 1842.

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