

Archbishop Seghers' Pastoral Visitation.

Interesting Sketch of the establishment of Catholic Missions among the Indian Tribes of the Northwest. Catholic Success and Protestant Failure in Civilizing Indians. A valuable Historical Contribution.

Portland, Oregon, July 21, 1879.

Editor Catholic Sentinel,

DEAR SIR:—As the Vicariate of Idaho (which also contains that part of Montana territory lying west of the Rocky Mountains) is under the administration of Archbishop Blanchet, since the resignation of its Vicar Apostolic—July 16, 1876, and as the Coadjutor to Archbishop Blanchet will visit that region first, I send for insertion in the columns of your valuable Catholic weekly the following historical facts concerning the establishment of Catholic Missions in that region.

THE MISSIONS TO BE VISITED

are those of Northern Idaho, Montana, and Southern Idaho, in the order named. The Vicariate contains four Indian Missions which are still under the care of the Jesuit Fathers whose Order first founded them, and seven other Missions for the whites. The Indian Missions still retain the names given to the tribes by the French Canadians employed as voyageurs by the various early expeditions to this coast, and as traders among the Indians by the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies.

The Missions of Northern Idaho are known as the *Nez Percés* (Pierced Noses) and the *Cœurs d'Alenes* (Hearts awls or Pointed Hearts.) Those of Montana are the *Pendants d'Oreille* (ear rings) of St. Ignatius. Their cognomen, for abbreviation sake is written not *Pen* but *Pend'* *d'Oreille*, by omitting the last syllable of *Pendant*. The other tribe is the *Tetes Plates* (Flat Heads) of St. Mary's Mission.

IN THE ORDER OF CONVERSION

to the Faith the *Tetes Plates* are the first, and the manner of their becoming Catholics is worthy of being recorded among the archives of history. In the year 1812, twenty-four Catholic Iroquois Indians from Canada deserted from the expedition organized by Captain Hunt, in 1811, and took up their abode among the Flat Head nation where they intermarried and raised numerous families. During their daily intercourse the Iroquois naturally spoke to the *Tetes Plates* of their religion, their priests, ceremonies, churches and festivals. This information made the Flat Heads desire to learn more about the Christian religion; accordingly, in 1830, they sent a deputation to St. Louis, Missouri, in order to secure Missionaries to teach them the truths of Christianity. The delegation arrived safely but shortly afterwards its members fell sick, they called for the priests, were baptized, and expired kissing the crucifix. Two years later the Indians sent an Iroquois to seek for the Blackgowns. He arrived safely at St. Louis, had his children baptized, and was returning with the glad tidings when he was murdered by the Sioux Indians on his route. A third delegation of two Iroquois was sent in 1839 who also reached St. Louis, which they left in the Fall of that year filled with the hope that some Catholic Missionaries would visit them the ensuing year. This hope was fulfilled by the appearance among them in 1840 of Father P. J. DE SMET, S. J., who founded the Flat Head Mission of St. Mary's in 1841. It is re-

