

Oregon

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN RELATION

*To the Indian difficulties in Oregon.*

MARCH 29, 1848.

Read, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:*

I lay before Congress the accompanying memorial and papers, which have been transmitted to me, by a special messenger employed for that purpose, by the governor and legislative assembly of Oregon territory, who constitute the temporary government which the inhabitants of that distant region of our country have, from the necessity of their condition, organized for themselves. The memorialists are citizens of the United States. They express ardent attachment to their native land, and in their present perilous and distressed situation they earnestly invoke the aid and protection of their government.

They represent that "the proud and powerful tribes of Indians," residing in their vicinity, have recently raised "the war whoop, and crimsoned their tomahawks in the blood of their citizens;" that they apprehend that "many of the powerful tribes, inhabiting the upper valley of the Columbia, have formed an alliance for the purpose of carrying on hostilities against their settlements;" that "the number of the white population is far inferior to that of the savages; that they are deficient in arms and money, and fear that they do not possess strength to repel the "attack of so formidable a foe and protect their families and property from violence and rapine;" they conclude their appeal to the government of the United States for relief by declaring: "If it be at all the intention of our honored parent to spread her guardian wing over her sons and daughters in Oregon, she surely will not refuse to do it now, when they are struggling with all the ills of a weak and temporary government, and when perils are daily thickening around them, and preparing to burst upon their heads. When the ensuing summer's sun shall have dispelled the snow from the mountains, we shall look, with glowing hope and restless anxiety, for the coming of your laws and your arms."