

Settlers.) C'est là qu'en 1828 Joseph Gervais s'établit et fut le premier à ensemençer du blé. Sa ferme se trouvait un peu plus bas que l'endroit où est Salem. Quelques années plus tard, plusieurs voyageurs retirés de la Compagnie s'y établirent aussi. L'endroit fut appelé French Prairie. Gervais y vécut jusqu'en 1861 alors qu'il mourut à l'âge de 84 ans. (Cf. Ross. Oregon Settlers. Thwaites Early Western Travels.) C'était ce groupe de voyageurs qui s'était adressé à Mgr Provencher en 1833 etc. Il n'y avait que deux ou trois voyageurs établis sur la Cowlitz.

Hudson's Bay House
London, 17th Febr'y 1838.

To The Right Revd
The Catholic Lord Bishop
of Quebec

My Lord,

I yesterday had the honor of receiving a Letter from the Bishop of Juliopolis dated Red River 13th October 1837, wherem I am requested to communicate with Your Lordship on the subject of sending two Priests to the Columbia River for the purpose of establishing a Catholic Mission in that part of the Country.

When the Bishop first mentioned this subject, his view was to form the Mission on the Banks of the Wilhamet, a river falling into the Columbia from the South: to the establishing of a Misson there, the Governor and Committee in London and the Councils in Hudson's Bay had a decided objection as the Sovereignty of that Country is still undecided. But I last summer intimated to the Bishop that if he would establish the Mission on the Banks of the Cowlitz river or the Cowlitz Portage falling into the Columbia from the Northward and give his assurance that the Missionaries would not locate themselves on the South side of the Columbia River, but would form their Establishment, where the Company's Representative might point out as the most eligible situation on the North side, I should recommend the Governor and Committee to afford a passage to the Priests, and such facilities towards the successfull accomplishment of the object in view as would not involve any great inconvenience or expence to the Company's service.

By the letter received yesterday already alluded to, the Bishop enters fully into my views and expresses his willingness to fall in with my suggestions: that letter I have laid before the Governor and Committee, and I am now instructed to intimate to Your Lordship, that if the Priests will be ready at La Chine to embark for the Interior about 25th April a passage will be afforded them, and on their arrival at Fort Vancouver, measures will be taken by the Company's Reperesentative there to facil-