

viz: 20 heads of families, 13 single men and boys, 4 women and some children. Father Delorme exhausted with fatigue, is also seized by the fever and barely escapes the danger.

St. Joseph college, St. Paul, is closed in June, in consequence of the California mines. On Saturday, June 9th, the Sisters of Notre Dame, of Oregon City, enter their new large church, built on a block given them by Dr. McLaughlin. On the following day, the archbishop blesses it and celebrates the first Mass in its chapel. Deacon G. Leclaire is raised to the priesthood, Oct. 21st. Rev B. Delorme returns from California by sea, and arrives Dec. 26th. A picket of soldiers, under the command of Col. Backentos, passes the winter at Oregon City. Mrs. Backentos becomes a convert to the faith and is baptized, with all her children, by the archbishop.

1850. The murder of Dr. Whitman and others had brought war against the Cayuse tribe. It lasted two years, (1848 and 1849) without catching one of the murderers. And while it caused the fall of the Presbyterian missions, it had the effect of increasing those of the Catholics by the establishment of St. Peter's at the Dalles, and converting five supposed Cayuse murderers from Presbyterianism to Catholicity. For the civil authorities absolutely requiring the extradition of the murderers, the Cayuse chiefs found at last five men who consented to go down, not as guilty, but to have a talk with the whites and explain all about the murderers, ten in number, who were now no more, having been killed by the whites. Sent by their chiefs on this message, they expected to return home. They were delivered to Gov. Lane early in the spring, brought down to Oregon City and kept as prisoners. Their trial took place, "Notwithstanding the prisoners were pre-doomed to death," says the "River of the West;" therefore it was a sham trial which deceived no one; and they were sentenced, May 27th, to be hung. The execution took place on June 3rd, at 2 p. m., before an immense crowd. On hearing their sentence, their thoughts were to save their souls, and call for a priest. The archbishop went to see them without delay, and continued to go twice a day to teach them, with the *Catholic Ladder*,

and prepare them for baptism and death. Mr. Spalding went early to see them, but they refused to hear him and pray with him. Such were the fruits of the eleven years of the doctor's teaching. The Indians call the priest; had the priests counseled them to murder Dr. Whitman, it would rather have been to assail them with reproaches, than to ask for their spiritual ministrations.

On the eve of their death, the old chief Kilo Kite and his four companions made a declaration in duplicate, before Henry H. Crawford, sergeant of Co. D., R. M. R., and Robert D. Mahon, corporal of Co. A., R. M. R., declaring: the first, that he was opposed; his two sons took part and were killed; the second, that he was absent and came home the day after; the third, that he saw the deed, but did not participate and was sorry; the fourth and fifth, that they are innocent and die for nothing; all declaring the priests never counseled the crime (see *Catholic Sentinel*, April 20th and 27th, 1872, for full account.) In the forenoon of June 3d. new questions were made, to the same effect. On that day the prisoners heard a low Mass, after which they received the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. At 2 p. m. the archbishop, assisted by Rev. F. Veyret, now a Jesuit, accompanied them to the scaffold, where the prayers for the dying were recited. Touching words of encouragement were addressed to them on the moment of being swung into the air: "Onward, onward to heaven, children; into Thy hands, O Lord Jesus! I commend my spirit." They were then swung into eternity.

There is a shameful omission to be found in the "River of the West," as to how they died, whether Presbyterians, infidels, or Catholics? A shameful and false charge is found there also against the youngest of the five, of having been cruel to Jos. Meek's little girl at the time of the massacre, which is about as true as the ridiculous story of the marshal himself, who said: "One of them on the scaffold begged me to kill him with my knife." A calumnious falsehood! The truth is that the old chief, Kilo Kite, proudly refused to let his hands be tied. But upon the archbishop showing him the cross, he became resigned and kept silent. That is one of the many inaccuracies to be found in