

Monseigneur Provencher, écrivant en 1835, disait : "on demande des prêtres sur l'Océan Pacifique, dans les environs de la Rivière Colombia. Je pense qu'il en partira ce printemps pour cet autre côté de notre hémisphère. Il y a là un petit établissement canadien (anciens voyageurs) et des Sauvages" etc.

En effet, après l'Union des deux Compagnies, en 1821, un groupe d'anciens voyageurs s'était établi en Colombie, sur la Willamette. Nous avons aux archives de l'archevêché deux lettres qui émanent de cette poignée de trappeurs devenus colons. Les deux lettres sont écrites en anglais. Nous les donnons ici toutes deux. Elles sont inédites et ne manqueront pas d'intéresser les chercheurs.

Willammett, March the 22nd, 1836.

To the Bishop of Juliopolis.

Reverend Sir,

We received your kind letter last fall which gave us much pleasure and ease to our minds for it has been a long time since we have heard the likes of it. It has given us a new heart since we received your kind instructions. We will do our best to instruct our families according to your wishes, still living in hopes of some speedy relief to which we are looking forward with eager hearts. Since we received your kind letter we have begun to build and make preparations to receive our kind father. We hope our labor will not be in vain, for you know our situation better than ourselves, for some of us stand in greatest need of your assistance as soon as possible.

We have nothing to write to you about the country but that the farms are all in a very thriving state and produce fine crops.

We have sent you these few lines hoping that it will not trouble you too much in writing so quick but the country is settling slowly and our children are learning very fast which makes us very eager for your assistance which we hope, by God's help, will be very soon. We sent you a list of the families that are at present in the settlement. From your humble servants:
Willamette Settlers:

Joseph Jarvay, 7 children.
Flavian Laderoute, 1 child.
Eken Luceay, 6 children.
Peare Belleck, 3 children.
Charles Rondo, 3 children.
Charles Plant, 4 children.
Pear Depo, 1 child.
Andrey Pecor, 4 children.
Joseph Delar, 5 children.

Lucey Feoruny, 3 children.
Lamab Erquet, 3 children.
Jean Bapt Perrault, 2 children.
Andrey Longten, 4 children.
John B. Deportes, 3 children.
William Johnson, 2 children.
Charlo Chato.
William McCarthy.

L'on voit quelles transformations peuvent subir les noms les plus français aux mains d'un quelqu'un qui ne sait pas la langue