

FROM MAJOR J. L. MEEK, MARSHAL OF OREGON.

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WASHINGTON, *August 10, 1848.*

MY DEAR SIR: With reference to your inquiry as to my idea of the value of the Hudson's Bay Company establishment, of Fort Vancouver, which, in fact, from the number and extent of the buildings may be considered a small town, I think, after much consideration, I am under the mark in saying that it must have cost the Hudson's Bay Company at least \$200,000, independent of the very heavy outlay incurred in bringing into cultivation several thousand acres of land, fenced in and under crop, from year to year. It may be proper to add, that Fort Vancouver is situated on the most eligible spot on the Columbia river, within ship navigation, for the site of a town; and that Bellevue point, on which it is situated, must, in due time, become the site of the capitol of Oregon. Fort Vancouver, you are aware, is the principal depot of the Hudson's Bay Company, on the west side of the Rocky mountains; and its defences, with a small force within the fort, are quite sufficient to afford protection to a large population against any attack from the natives.

JOSEPH L. MEEK.

*supplied*