

murders; and our hitherto peaceful settlements will become the scene of fierce and violent warfare. We do not doubt the readiness of the people of this country to defend their lives and property, and to submit to all the privations incident to a state of war in a new and remote settlement like this.

Circumstances warrant your memorialists in believing 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 our settlements.

The number of the white population of Oregon is alarmingly insignificant compared with the swarms of Indians which throng its valleys. To repel the attack of so formidable a foe, and protect our families and property from violence and rapine, will require, we fear, more strength than we possess. We are deficient in many of the grand essentials of war, such as men, arms and treasure; for them our sole reliance is on the government of the United States; we have the right to expect your aid, and you are in justice bound to extend it. For although we are separated from our native land by a range of mountains whose lofty altitudes are mantled in eternal snow; although three thousand miles (nearly two-thirds of which is a howling wild) lie between us and the federal capital, yet our hearts are unalienated from the land of our birth; our love for the free and noble institutions under which it was our fortune to be borne and nurtured remains unabated. In short, we are *Americans* still, residing in a country over which the government of the United States have the sole and acknowledged right of sovereignty; and, under such circumstances, we have the right to claim the benefit of its laws and protection.

Your memorialists would avail themselves of this opportunity to invite your attention to other subjects of deep and vital interest to the citizens of this territory. The nature of our compact, formed between the citizens of a republic and the subjects and official representatives of a monarchy, is such that the ties of political union could not be drawn so closely as to produce that stability and strength sufficient to form an efficient government. This union between the democrats of a republic and wealthy aristocratic subjects of a monarchy, could not be formed without reserving to themselves the right of allegiance to their respective governments.

Political jealousy and strong party feeling have tended to thwart and render impotent the acts of a government, from its very nature, weak and inefficient. In establishing a regular form of government, and creating tribunals for the adjustment of the rights of individuals and the prevention and punishment of crime, a debt has accumulated, which, though an insignificant amount, your memorialists can devise no means of liquidating. The revenue laws, from not being properly executed, while they are burdensome to classes of our citizens and sections of country, are wholly disregarded by others; and whole counties, which, for numerical strength, are equal to any in the territory, and fully participating in all the advantages of our com-

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