

so far as I have received them from witnesses. In giving these statements in writing I would prefer to take the course very much which I have taken in giving them verbally, is to lay down the principles of the Christian religion as found in the Bible, as also the principles of the Am. Bond. Rev. Hor. Miss. under whose patronage Doct. Whitman was laboring up to the day of his death, & attempt to show that Doct. W. was at his post of duty where he fell. Do require of the cause, direct & indirect which seem to have brought about this bloody tragedy. In doing this refer to the conduct & attitude of "certain Catholics & through them the Catholic Church" before, at the time of, & since the massacre. For all this much time and labor will be required & with my numerous duties & cares, I shall be able to proceed but slowly.

All this I will cheerfully undertake provided finally, you will secure the continued use of the columns of the Oregon Spectator, in which we may publish all our correspondence, provided it be written in courteous language.

I make this last request of you dear Sir, because I have made a like request of this paper & have been refused & I am not willing to be at the immense expense of time & labor in collecting the facts, examining the witnesses, discussing the principles which will be necessary, without having them come before the community in which the bloody tragedy took place.

May the God of truth guide

& direct us into all truth is the prayer of
 Your unworthy servant
 W. W. Spalding.

Dear Sir,
 Ecuanary, April 28, 1848.

Rev. W. W. Spalding,
 Dear Sir,

I received your letter under date of 11th April in due time, and have delayed answering it, until I could see the Editor of the Oregon Spectator. In your letter you state to me your willingness "to give to the public through a letter to myself, or any other gentleman, a full statement of the facts concerning the late massacre of shot Whitman, his associates, as also of others abiding at the station, so far as they have come under your eye, and so far as you have received them from witnesses." You add in conclusion "All this I will cheerfully undertake provided finally you will secure the continued use of the columns of the Oregon Spectator, in which we may publish all our correspondence, provided it be written in cautious language". You also express your unwillingness to enter into the matter unless this can be done.

When I read that part of your letter making it a condition, that the "continued use of the columns of the Spectator" should be obtained, before you would undertake to make out your statement, I was very well satisfied, that the editor could not grant such a request. I however, called upon the gentlemanly editor of that print, and laid the matter before him; and he assured me of his great desire to grant us the privilege asked,

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7

but stated that the Constitution of the Organ Printing Association prohibited it.

In your letter you also state, that in conducting the investigation, you would prefer to take the course, which you have done in your oral discourses, "ie to lay down the principles of the Christian religion as found in the Bible, as also the principles of the Am. B. & F. M. S. In saying you would prefer this course, I do not know whether you intended it as a condition upon which the discussion must proceed; or whether you merely expressed a desire to take that course, if satisfactory to me. Also when you say you would prefer to discuss the principles of the Christian religion and of the B. & F. M. S. Missions, I am at a loss to determine the extent of the proposed investigation; whether it is to include all the controverted points between our respective churches, or be confined to matters strictly relevant. From the general and indefinite nature of your expressions, I cannot determine how far you wish to go. If it was intended to enter the boundless field of theological controversy, I have some suggestions to make which will I think, satisfy you of the impropriety as well as inutilty of such a wide latitude of remark. In the first place you and myself, as well as the community, would readily agree upon the principles of the Christian religion, so far as applicable to this matter, as I should most cheerfully admit, that if any Catholic had any part in the massacre of Doct. Whitman, he was guilty of murder against ^{both} the laws of his country, and the laws of God. I would

also admit that the lamented Sr. was at the post of duty up to the hour of his death. In the second place were an correspondence to take so wild a course, it would subject us both to much severe and just reproach. Sensible men would at once say, that we had seized upon the massacre of Dr. Whitman as a mere pretence, under which we could abtude upon the public an ephemeral opinions upon points of controversy long since discussed by able men; and the married wadu would turn away in disgust from the perusal of a correspondence stuffed with so much irrelevant matter.

You will now see the situation in which this matter ~~now~~ stands. The use of the Spectator cannot be obtained; and will Mr. Spalding still refuse to tell us in plain and intelligent language, what charges he makes against us? Must the accused and injured suffer in silence and submission, knowing that they are charged with the commission of the most grievous crimes; and yet not permitted to know what they are, nor upon what evidence those charges are made? I will appeal to Mr. Spalding's candor. Suppose a gentleman should preach from the pulpit, charges implicating you in a heinous murder; and when called upon to state in a definite and tangible form, the facts and circumstances upon which the charges are based, he should refuse to do so, except upon a condition you could not possibly comply with. Would you think this right?

It occurred to me, at the commencement, that, as you had made these grave and solemn

charges against others, from the pulpit, on the
 Lord's day, ~~but~~ you could readily reduce to
 writing the same facts stated by you orally;
 and that if you had been persecuted to make
 the charges publicly, you would also be persecuted
 to put them in, writing, that those who are im-
pllicated, and who were not present, might
 also know, what was alleged against them.
 I most earnestly request Mr. Spalding to take
 this matter into his most candid and serious
 consideration; and to inform me whether he
 will still make the statement I have requested.

Yours very obt. Servt
 Titus A. Bennett.
