

Confidential

Washington, Aug. 11, 1850

My Dear Sir: This will be the last letter you will receive from me before leaving for Oregon, but immediately on receipt hereof you will write me.

It is now made certain, that a whig press is on the way for Oregon, to be established at Portland, and to be edited by W. W. Chapman, formerly Delegate in Con. from Iowa. This is certain. A. M. Abrams, direct from Portland, was here yesterday, who is to take his family out to Oregon, and from him I rec. the information. This then establishes the fact which I had before conjectured.

It is also certain, that Marion & Clackamas Counties, the two heaviest counties in the Territory, have drawn the lines & organized accordingly, and this will probably be the case, all over the Territory, very soon, it is also true, as I have apprised you, that the friends of the Statesman are at work getting subscribers, and that the paper will be triumphantly supported. You will therefore have a consultation with Russell, immediately on arriving in the county, & with the leading Democrats, and pursue such a course as you & Russell, in consultation with the Democrats, shall think proper. You will show this letter to Russell, which he will consider as confidential.

You will understand my position, I have no objections to parties organizing, but while I am a Delegate, I shall not engage as a partizan, but consult solely the best interests of Oregon. It would be injudicious for me to take any other course, and I trust the whigs will not seek to drive me to any other position. If they attack me, and endeavor to run me down, why we shall go before the people to try the issue, but come what may I am for Oregon.

If you & Russell form a partnership, you can use the establishment on the terms understood by him. You will pay a sum yearly to keep the concern in as good condition as when commenced. You will guarantee or insure the same against loss, and for the paper & inc &c, you will pay me, as soon as the press gets into operation, or in a reasonable time thereafter, and you will have the privilege of buying in a part, whenever you may please.

You will not shrink at all, but will prosecute the matter with the utmost vigor & enterprise. You have as a political war on your hands. Most of all have the good of Oregon in view, and let all other things, party included, be secondary. Treat your opponents with dignity & courtesy, but with decision, ability & firmness.

You will assure Mr. Blain that his enterprise will not be obstructed by the Statesman, but promoted, and that I will do all in my power to aid him in it. You will also show this to Bej. Simpson and then follow his advance. He is shrewd & prudent and energetic.

Lose not a moment in reaching them, and when there let no one get it earlier, work later, or steal the march on you.

Yours truly &c

Samuel R. Thurston.