

In good confidence

Salem May 25th 1851

Friend Bush

I recd yours. Am glad you interogate me so early in regard Wilson & Lane. What it is that has induced the Doct to try his political speech at this time I know not. I think I stated in my last to you that I had heard it stated that Doct was a candidate But had not seen him. Soon after he came to me and asked my opinion in regard to it and I told him I thought it would be impossible to elect him. And the worst of policy to come out. By request I saw Shannon. His opinion was the same as my own and so expressed to the Doct. But he went to Linn and Benton and the morning of his return I recd a note from Shannon enclosing an to Doct requesting to try and induce him not to come out. I handed Doct both notes. He read them and said "it is to late. I am a candidate untill the polls are closed". I said "I am sorry but if it is so, go it." And I might have told him I would vote for him, do not recollect He has many Friends in the upper Counties and will get many votes. Its no doubt But I consider his election out of the question. And as he is a particular Freind and neighbor and I believe as compitent as Lane I expect to vote for him. But cannot and shall not try to do more for him. And against Lane I shall do nothing at all. And as I have done so far continue to, try to prevent the impression being made that Lane is "A HB's man" an "Anti Thurston man". "not a citizen of Oregon" a two sided man &c &c.

Because I believe them to be false. And doct may get a majority of the votes in this County Linn & Benton. But I believe that his best and most intelligent freinds are sorry that he is out. His ruming will injure his standing, the political standing of the county and this place and perhaps be mortifying to those friends who brot him out. If I had seen you myself I would have advised you to have mentioned his name in Statesman as a candidate and if consistency would permit to have put him on as good as you have Lane. And by all means to have treated the matter with respect and to have said nothing against him. I see by last weeks paper that you do not mention the matter. I am glad of it. For what Campbell told you will satify him and his Friends I think. If not, it will the large majority. And rest assured that no efforts will be spared to prevent your being injured. You have Friends here who will ask nothing unreasonable. And those Friends have Friends. This excitement will soon be over though there is but little here. Not a "devil" of a one as you have been informed. And then it will be fair sailing again. When I see you I will give you all the particulars of this matter and if I do it, I believe you will excuse me for voting Doct and do not believe that I am opposed to Lane except as above.

Yours &c

B. F. Harding

A. Bushy Esq
Oregon
City

In Good Confidence

Salem May 25th 1857

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H. B. Spaulding