

Portland 4th Nov 1853

Friend Bush

The coalition of the "softs" and "encarnacionites"--grows stronger and daily assuming a more threatening appearance--not that any fears may be entertained of their success provided our friends are on the alert, and keep themselves posted up in regard to their movements. As I stated before they have gathered strength anew from the removal of Doady, the ill success of Pratt, &c, &c. And they have tried and succeeded somewhat in making capital out of the slow progress of the Public Buildings--particularly the Penitentiary--A law having been passed making it the duty of sheriff to deliver convicts to the Keeper of the Penitentiary in Portland, to be "kept according to law". No directions given as to what manner--nor no provisions made in that law, whatever for defraying any expenses thus making it totally impossible for prisoners to be kept safe unless the Penitentiary--or some part of it was completed. The escape of these convicts has given them another item to rejoice over--and also to cry down the present administration and its officers at present directing their batteries at Col King elated by these unfortunate circumstances in which he has been placed by the non-arrival of the funds--Gratified by matters above stated--they have actually the effrontery to predict the removal and openly aver their determination of soliciting the same of the rest of the public officers! Democrats in this city dream and talk in this But, however preposterous this idea of making a clean sweep---!! they have their plans well laid for the removal of Col. King by the Legislature this winter as principal or Acting Commissioner of the Penitentiary. Already have their men been picked out to fill the various places. The Tanus-faced Morris--who has been acting in concert with the Democrats of late through fear, and not through any honesty that he may possess is to be the Commissioner. While the treasonous Thompson forgetting what it was that placed him in the position he now occupies as Representative of Washington County--assisted by Stark, Peter Lelano, Dryer & Co will pull the strings that is take off the Col's head and Thompson for this is to be made inspector of the Port of Portland. Leland a d---d traitorous whig is to be Post-Master &c Whatever may Col. Kings faults--it is but justice to say that through all the struggles and mishaps of the Democracy of this County he has stood up to it manfully and in every instance heretofore he has come out victorious. As an officer he is ever mindful of his duty--and in regard to the Penitentiary he has materially involved himself and sacrificed his own private interests for the progress of that work. Even his enemies cannot censure him on that score but chuckle at his misfortunes--for in their thirst for office they would even betray their God! if it would afford them a lousy living The Whigs hate Col King and also the Softs because he is hard to out-manoeuvre and stands firmly on the right track. The both curse you too and even carry their selfish spleen so far as to attack me for being Agt. of the Statesmen!! When them. But I think all their well concerted plans will be overthrown--and they will in a very short time be buried in obscurity--at least I am willing to abide by the result. I was always suspicious of Thompson and from present indications his course will be treasonous this winter. He has a Soft selected to run for Clerk of the House this

winter and I am coming up to run as a "hard"---I am.-- I wish you would inform in which house I would be the most likely to win.

Truly
Yr friend

Boyd



Portland 4th Nov. 1853

Friend Bush:

The coalition of the "Softs" and "Excarnationists," grows stronger and daily assumes a more threatening appearance. Not that any fears may be entertained of their success, provided our friends are on the alert, and keep themselves posted up in regard to their movements. As I stated before, they have gathered strength anew from the removal of Deady, the ill success of Pratt, &c, &c. And they have tried and succeeded somewhat in making Capital out of the slow progress of the Public Buildings - particularly the Penitentiary. Plans having been made making it the duty of Sheriff to deliver Convicts to the Warden of the Penitentiary in Portland, to be kept according to law. No direction given in what manner - nor no provisions made in their laws, whenever for defraying any expenses. Thus making it totally impossible for prisoners to be kept safe unless the Penitentiary - or some part of it was completed. The escape of these Convicts - has given them another item to rejoice over - and also to lay down the present administration and its officers, at present directing their batteries at Col. King. Elected by these unfortunate circumstances in which he has been placed - by the non-arrival of the funds - gratified by matters above stated - they have actually the effrontery to predict the removal and a speedy and their determination of soliciting the same. of the rest of the public officers! Democrats in this City - dream and talk in this wise. But however preposterous this idea, of making a clean sweep - if they have their plans well laid for the removal of Col. King, by

the Legislature this winter, as principle or Acting Commissioner, of the Penitentiary. Already have their men been picked out to fill the various places. The Janus-faced Norris, who has been acting in concert with the Democrats of late through fear, and ^{not} through any honesty that he may possess - is to be the Commissioner. While the treacherous Thompson forgetting what it was that placed him in the position he now occupies as Representative of Washington County - assisted by Stark, Peter Seland, Dyer, & Co. will pull the strings that is taken off the Col's head. And Thompson for this is to be made inspector of the Port of Portland. Seland a - old traitorous whig is to be Post-Master, &c. Whatever may Col. King fancy - it is but justice to say, that through all the struggles and mishaps of the Democracy of this County he has stood up to it manfully and in every instance he heretofore he has come out victorious. As an officer he is ever mindful of his duty - and in regard to the Penitentiary he has materially involved himself, and sacrificed his own private interests for the progress of that work. Even his enemies cannot blame him on that score, but chuckle at his misfortunes - for in their thirst for office they would, ^{ever} betray their G.O. if it would afford them a leg's living. The whigs hate Col. King, and also the Softs, because he is hard to out-manoeuvre and stands firm on the right track. The both curse you, too, and even carry their selfish spleen so far as to attack me for being left of the "Stationers!" when attacking them. But I think all their well concerted plans will be overthrown, and they will in a very short time be buried in obscurity - at least I am willing to

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Yours

To friend

Boyd