

Private & Confidential

Grand Prairie Home,  
March 18th 1855

Dear Bush:-

Yesterday (Saturday) I went to town and mailed letters to yourself and others. Whilst there I learned the facts which, at the instance and upon the suggestion of many democrats, I have communicated for your paper.

I wish now to communicate a few things in strict confidence. I say this because the persons who made the communications to me frequently repeated, whilst doing so, "now this I tell you, as your friend, not to be published or to go any farther." To which I carelessly replied, "O, no, of course I shall not publish it!" I care nothing about the persons communications. Yet I wish to repeat them to you, so that, if disposed, you can make use of them in a general way - in any way so that it does not directly appear that I communicated them.

This much premised, I will relate, that this man Hull, to whom I have so freely referred in the communication signed "Jefferson," I had a partial acquaintance with in Iowa. He came to this country the year I did. He formerly claimed, I believe, to be a democrat. He is also a sort of Methodist exorter. He resides in Portland - perhaps you have some knowledge of him.

Well, I met him here on Saturday last--i.e, in Albany. He appeared very glad to see me. Professed to be my friend, and very much devoted to me and my interests. He solicited and obtained a private interview. In a few words, the sum of his information was, that he was a leading Member of the Order; (K.N.) that they had nearly all the native born citizens in Portland & Multnomah Co; that Waterman had withdrawn; that every man who was appointed to office there last winter, by the Legislature is a "K.N;" that your informant has been detected and expelled; that they have now between 50 & 60 big names, and between 32 & 33, hundred names on their record; that they have men out all over the territory, and that before the election they will have 5000 members! That they will nominate one who has hitherto been a democrat; that nothing conclusive has been determined upon yet; that the members of the Salem Wigwam, talk of --- Judge Williams as being friendly to them and their objects!! that Judge Pratt applied for admission but was refused; that he had been informed by other brethren, but did not know the fact himself, that whilst in California, recently, Pratt joined! and that as soon as he returned he changed Leland, and that, though the latter had not become a member yet, I could see no more opposition in the "Standard!" That there were several Wig-wams in Marion Co, of which you knew nothing, and that even you talked daily with men who were members, but whom you do not suspect! that they (the K.N's) will carry Marion by 250 clear, and all before them in Multnomah, Clackamas, &c, &c.

After this recital, and a vast deal more of the same sort, he



began to tempt me- not by offering me "all the kingdoms of the world"- but by intimating, &c! When I turned upon and gave him "Hail Columbia!" It is needless to repeat all I said to him-- suffice it to say, that I told him,-- in no measured terms,-- what I thought of Know Nothingism and its advocates or apologists; and I did not and would not believe that Judge Williams favored, either openly or covertly, their views or designs; and that for oneself I would not identify myself with them if they could elect me to the kingdom of heaven! Neither did I believe that they had or could obtain the numbers of which he boasted; but that if they had they might all go to the devil together so far as I was concerned; and that I vastly preferred defeat to the remotest identity with them!

They are making a desperate effort in this county, but be assured they will make but little headway here!.

Judge Thornton has received a letter from Pratt since the latter saw "Plaindealer's" article in the Statesman. Thornton does not deny having received from Pratt the letter imputed to him by "Plain dealer!" He read to me the two first lines of the letter just recd. from Pratt. The substance of which were- "Dear Judge, I rejoice that you are taking a wise and judicious course in regard to delegate to Congress!" Thornton says this is the first letter he has received from Pratt for a long time! T. says he prefers P. to Lane, &c. I have no idea that he is for me-- and, of course, feel no solicitude upon that subject!

"Jefferson" has written a faithful history of the Know Nothings affair in Albany. I shall be suspected of writing it. But I fear nothing.

I shall send my son to town in the morning to get this in the mail.

Ever yours,  
Delazon Smith

A. Bush, Esq &c  
Salem

P.S. Hull says they (the K.Ns) have but the Spectator prep. and that in a few days the Rev. --Adams (author of the melo--- & I will start a Know Nothing & Maine Land Organ! Know Nothing & Main Can! Per nebile fratrum! Yours D.S.

*Private & Confidential*

Glend Prairie House,  
March 18<sup>th</sup> 1855.

Dear Bush:-

Yesterday (Veter day) I went to Townsend mailed letters to yourself and others. Whilst there I learned the facts which, at the instance and upon the suggestion of many Democrats, I have communicated for your paper. I wish not to communicate a few things in strict confidence. I say this because the persons who made the communications to me frequently repeated, whilst doing so, "now this I tell you, as your friend, not to be published or to go any ~~farther~~ farther!" I ~~see~~ To which I carefully replied, "O, no, of course I shall not publish it!" I care nothing about the persons communicating, neither do I attach much importance to their communications. Yet I wish to report them to you, so that, if disposed, you can make use of them in a general way - in any way so that it does not directly appear that I communicated them.

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