

Deer Creek O. T. Nov. 15th 1855

Dear Bush

Since I closed my letter last evening, news has arrived that the So. Battalion is at last organized. Ross and Drew to the contrary notwithstanding. Four Companies have been mustered in, under the Governors Proclamation. Jim Bruce (a good democrat) is elected Major over Bob Williams the candidate of the Ross & Drew faction. The companies mustered in are Bruce's Company, now commanded by Capt. Rice. Williams, ditto, Wilkinson ditto and the Company under command of T. Smiley Harris. They are all good companies, composed of fighting men and have elected the right sort of a major. Jim Bruce had a majority of 27 votes over Williams. The result is a great victory for us. Ross is a candidate for Colonel of the Division. On my arrival here today I found that the damned know nothings had been playing scots on us. It happens that all the Captains in our Battalion are Know Nothings or as good as such - Keeney, Bailey, Buoy, Gordon & Chapman - a great list.

Today we find that Bailey is a candidate for Major against Martin and I fear it is so understood among his K. N. Associates both in office and in the ranks that Bailey will receive all the K. N. votes together with the votes of such democrats from Lane and Linn as can be swayed by appeals to their local and other prejudices and predilections. I think it would be well to make Regiments out of the two Battalions in the South - have a Colonel appointed for each - and a Brigadier appointed for the Division. At all events, we must have some commanding officer of the Division who can control the movements of both Battalions. There must be some common head otherwise the two Battalions will not be likely to act so as best to accomplish a common purpose. I hope Curry will appoint some good democrat to commence the Division and do it at once. It is not well to give Ross a chance of election. He is the merest tool of Charlie Drew. I have no doubt that Bailey has been induced to become a candidate by means of influences brought to bear upon him from that defeated faction in Jackson County. Three days ago, Bailey and his Company were in favor of Martin for Major. Doubtless May and his K. N. associates in this place have been in the secret all the time, though they professed to be friendly to Martin's election. But Billy played off, on them a letter addressed to you in which he deprecates any effort to remove K. N. appointees. He does not do any such thing. If possible, he would like to see them all removed and he wonders as much as any of us that K. N.'s win ever appointed.

If Martin should be defeated for Major why can not Curry appoint him Colonel of the Division? He is far better fitted for the position than Ross or any of the K. N. aspirants. If he is defeated by this K. N. conspiracy and underground movement, by all means, let him have the appointment of Colonel.

I. N. Smith Esq of Linn Co. intends to leave for Willamette as soon as the result of today's election is known. He will pass through Corvallis and post you more fully about matters in this region.

Yours most truly,

Drew

Nov. 16th 1855

Dear B

All is right. We have beaten Bailey about 200 votes. Old Warnick has about 350 votes out of 500. I think this indicates that the sentiment of the Battalion is in favor of Martin. Now let Curry appoint a Colonel and Lieut. Colonel of the Division & we are all right. If we can make each Battalion into a Regiment with a Colonel for each and a Brigadier for the Division we shall be in town. Charlie Drew is completely prostrate at lost advices. The friends of Ross blame him for the downfall of Old John. Miller has taken the Cr. Master's department into his own hands, now that the Jackson Co. Battalion is organized. He has appointed an Assistant for this Battalion who will relieve McCorn of his duties as acting Cr. Master. Let T. N. Smith be recollected in the appointment for the So. Division or No. Battalion of the So. Division. He has been the most efficient of all the men north of Calapooiah Mt. in the recent crisis. The Linn Co. Company gave an entire vote to Martin, through the influence and perseverance of Smith. We are indebted to him for the victory over the Know Nothings.

Perhaps you do not care to confer with Curry under existing circumstances and in view of his recent acts. But you must recollect that the Whigs & K. N's in Jackson County incited this Indian War for political purposes and for a speculation in wheat & cattle. We are fast taking all the important posts out of their hands. Let us now see to it that we follow up the lead we have already struck. We can turn the tables on them now, if we please and do it easily. I will not bore you any more at present.

Yours  
Drew

(P. S.) We have taken divers drinks too numerous to mention since the returns came and we are not in a condition to write business letters. Charlie Drew is about to leave the country. We have been drinking to Clarendon's exit.

I understand Clarendon Drew is rather down on us.

Dear Creek C. T. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 1855  
10 P. M.

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Since I closed my letter last evening, news has arrived that the So. Battalion is at last organized - Ross and Drew to the contrary notwithstanding. Four Companies have been mustered in, under the Governor's Proclamation - Jim Bruce (a good democrat) is elected Major over Bob Williams the candidate of the Ross & Drew faction - The Companies mustered in are Bruce's Company, <sup>now commanded by Capt. Rice.</sup> Williams, ditto, - Milkinson ditto, and the Company under command, ~~of J. Smiley Harris.~~ <sup>of J. Smiley Harris.</sup> They are all good Companies, composed of fighting men and have elected the right sort of a Major. Jim Bruce had a majority of 27 votes over Williams - The result is a great victory for us. Ross is a candidate for Colonel of the Division. On my arrival here to day, I found that the damned Know Nothings had been playing tricks on us. It happens that all the Captains in our Battalion are Know Nothings or as good as such - Keeny, Bailey, Bruy, Gordon & Chapman - a great list - Today we find that Bailey is a candidate for Major against Martin and I fear it is so understood among his K. N. ~~Parties~~ Associates both in office and in the ranks that Bailey will receive all the K. N. votes, together with the votes of such democrats from Lane and

Lincoln as can be swayed by appeals to their local and other prejudices and predilections, I think it would be well to make Regiments out of the two Battalions in the South - have a Colonel appointed for each - and a Brigadier appointed for the Division - At all events, we must have some commanding officer of the Division who can control the movements of both Battalions - There must be some common head otherwise the two Battalions, will not be likely to act so as best to accomplish a common purpose. I hope Curry will appoint some good Democrat to command the Division and do it at once - It is not well to give Ross a chance of election - He is the most tool of Charlie Drew - I have no doubt that Bailey has been induced to become a candidate by means of influences brought to bear upon him to form that defeated faction in Jackson County. Three days ago, Bailey and his Company were in favor of Martin for Major. Doubtless, May and his K. N. associates in this place have been in the secret all the time, though they professed to be friendly to Martin's election - But Billy played off ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~lottery~~ on them a letter addressed to you in which he deprecated any effort to remove K. N. appointees. He does not do any such thing. If possible, he would like to see them all removed and he wonders as much as any of us that K. N.'s will ever be appointed.

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Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 1855.

Geo. B.

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