

At Home, June 27th '56

Friend Bush:-

I have just written a communication for the Statesman in regard to the late election in Linn County. I regret its length; but I could not well abbreviate it and say all I wanted to. Though it pertains chiefly to local affairs, yet its main features- facts, observations, &c--like an Almanac, will do for various regions. But of this ----- you will be your own judge ----- read it and if you think your space can be better occupied, throw it under the table, and forget it, and you will not displease your friend. If published I am satisfied it would be extensively read at least in this county, please our friends and do good.

Since the first day of this month I have been at work on my farm like a sailor. Indeed, I have ploughed and hoed, &c, &c, incessantly. I should have sent you the result of our election governor, but I presumed others could attend to it. I did not hear it myself until I saw it in the Statesman.

Can't you come up to Santiam City on the 4th? Hundreds of the patrons and admirers of the Statesman will be there. And I know they would be glad to see its editor there upon that occasion, as would, also, the "Orator" of the occasion.

I have it in contemplation after the 4th to write two communications for the Statesman. One in review of the course of the Last Legislative Assembly and in refutation of the Dryer and Leland falsehoods in regard to the same; and the other in regard to the political antecedents of Delagon Smith and in refutation of the Dryer and Leland falsehoods relating thereto. I should have written these long since but for two reasons, 1st, the repugnance I have to write about myself- or --- doing anything which ----- seem to assert or to magnify my own importance either in my own or the estimation of others. But I have suffered for a long time and am now suffering from the falsehoods, slang, slander and misrepresentations of open and secret political foes. Good friends who are ever ready to defend me when assailed, are often unable to do so because ignorant of the facts- they desire to be put in possession of the facts that they may be able to know what to admit and what deny and how to defend. My identity with the democratic party of Oregon is such that the Oregonian, Standard &c- often circulating a thousand falsehoods in regard to me all over the Territory- aim to strike down the party by striking me down. I have thought it perhaps due to myself and much more to my friends and the democratic party with whom I am identified, that these falsehoods so industriously circulated by every class of opponents, should be fairly met- and their exposure and refutation put upon the record.

In what has gone before I have candidly suggested my thoughts addressed as to a friend. I am not certain that it would be wise for me to notice the lying dogs or their falsehoods, since it may furnish a pretext or excuse for a new edition. And again, I have queried

whether it would not be better to defer the matter until next winter ---- insane Dryer will open the ---- full refutation of all their falsehoods both as it respects the democratic party generally and myself and a few other members particularly. Give me your opinion. I will be governed by it. Allow me to say, that whilst very real democratic member of the Legislature is under many obligations to you for your defence of them and their action last winter, yet, through the constant lying and misrepresentation of Dryer, Leland and 500 other enemies all over the country, hundreds are -----

The other reason why I have not written upon the subjects indicated, are this, is, that I supposed you would publish, if at all, hesitatingly, fearing that you might give color to the charge that you were giving undue prominence or importance to particular democrats. But it is the attacks of the enemy which does this if it is done at all, and these attacks would seem to justify a full reply from me. The paramount question would now seem to be this, would it be policy to prepare and publish the proposed replies? Or, in other words do my own political reputation and the interests of the democratic party require it?

I am aware that had not Judge Pratt's supposed interests required the establishment of the Standard nearly two years ago, - that, had not Judge Pratt been disappointed in his aspirations for -----; that had Avery been satisfied with the University at Corvallis and suffered the Capitol to have remained at Salem; and had not Gov. Curry, in an evil moment, foolishly appointed a lot of rascally know nothings to office, whom the people had just discarded and condemned, there would have been no such war upon "Bush, Smith, &c," as now disgraces the country; neither would there now have been any division in the democratic ranks such as a few scape-graces have been able to ----. For myself I want to start right by destroying the influence of their personal falsehoods, and then, God willing, I will do my part in the coming struggles to make them bite the dust. I predict a reaction from this moment in favor of the real but much belied democracy of Oregon.

As Ever, your friend

Delazon Smith

A. Bush, Esq &c

At Home, June 27th '56

Friend Bush:-

I have just written a communication for the Statesman in regard to the late election in Lane County. I regret its length, but I could not well abbreviate it and say all I wanted to. Though it pertains chiefly to local affairs, ~~its~~ its main features - facts, observations, &c - like in Almanac, will do in various regions. But of this you will be your own judge. If you think your paper will be better supplied, throw it under the table, and forget it, and you will not displease your friend. I published I am satisfied it would be especially well received at least in this County, please our friends and do good.

Since the first day of this month I have been at work on my farm like a mauler. Indeed, I have ploughed and hoed, &c, &c, incessantly. I should have sent you the result of an election soon - but I presumed it would attend to it. I did not hear it until I saw it in the Statesman.

Can't you come up to Lantana etc. on

I will be in Salem some time after harvest. I was delighted
with the tone of the late Standard, your article and "Volunteers" even
in connection with the excellent. Alas, poor Henry, give my kind regards to all friends
there early, Mrs. Reddish, Green and Dr. Grant.

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