

Roseburg March 9th 1858

Dear Bush

Your favor on the subject of State printer was duly received and as you requested me to drop you a line on the subject, I shall endeavor to do so. We did not attempt to instruct, in your favor or Drews for the reason that, it could not have been done without raising a row that would have defeated the ticket in this county and would not in the end have done you any good. There were efforts made by certain parties to secure anti-Drew men. I did all I could to overcome this opposition and considering the extent of the opposition I think we have succeeded well.

I have always thought that your election by the people would be a greater triumph of the Democratic party (of Eugene) than the election of any other man for any office for the reason that, the everlasting clamor which has been raised and the notorious lies which have dimmed in our ears about Yourself and the Salem "Clique" are only so many shafts of the enemy directed against the Democratic Party. Yet disguise it as we may the feeling against you is strong with very many within the party as well as those without in the south. I speak particularly of Douglas, Jackson and Josephine.

If this opposition should be as extensive and as bitter in the counties of the Willamette as in the south I think it would be impolitic for you to run for the effect upon the party which I have assigned to your election would prove equally true in the event of your defeat, only reversed - it would be the greatest defeat that the party could receive. Although I do not believe in the doctrine of availability, I do think at this crisis, in the inauguration of a new state, we should run no hazards of a defeat.

I believe also that personally you and pecuniarily you would be better off without the office and do not believe as many do that it is the public printing that keeps up the "Statesman" without it. It would still be the organ of the party and scores of persons would then patronize it, who now will not because they have an idea that they are taxed to support it and that Mr. Bush is growing fat off the peoples money.

Now don't you come to the conclusion from the foregoing that I am opposed to your nomination for I am not the man to desert an old soldier in the party who has personified its principles and wears the scars of many a battle.

Truly Yours,

James M. Fyle

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