

Panama, October 30 1858

Dear Bush

Mr. Smith and I arrived at this place on the 18th inst. intending to go forward at once to New York, but Mr. Smith had suffered so much by reason of sea sickness and fever during the voyage hither and as he was at that time still seriously ill, I thought it if not dangerous for him to go farther in such condition. We therefore determined to remain here two weeks and await the next steamer; notwithstanding the bad reputation of the isthmus for health. During our stay here Mr Smith has been confined to his bed a full week but the last three days has begun to recover somewhat. Yesterday was the first time he managed to get from his room since our arrival. With care I think he will be able to go on again by the steamer next for New York three days hence.

I have been his constant and only attendant and have endeavored to see that he received everything necessary for recovery, which now after a serious and protracted illness of more than a month seems to be certain.

No one can regret more than I do my failure on this account of getting to Washington and other points in good time to attend to many private commands from friends and certain public duties wherever time is important. I did at first debate in my own mind whether Mr Smith might not be left here in charge of our consul Mr. Convine (a very clever gentleman by the way) and thus be enabled to go forward myself. But I am now satisfied that my course, in remaining, was the only true one, notwithstanding it disarranges my plans and duties in other directions.

I wished to get for Col Hemmish that leave of absence in the time he desired it. I wished to see the President about their New Grenada government paying the damages done our people by the mob at Panama on the 15th April 1856 that he might put something strong in his forthcoming message. I think there is time yet on this score. And as to our state question and war matter the earlier the better you know.

Gen. John C. Smith of Connecticut is here awaiting the English mail steamer for the south is on his way as U.S. minister or charge to Bolivia, lately appointed to relieve Gov. Dana. I had heard that Gov Dana had expressed a desire to return home at the close of this year and thought that we might be in time to secure the succession for Oregon, as we talked, but it seems we are too late. Had we been in position to have put in our claim I believe we could have got the place. Gen Smith tells me that he was not an applicant for the position and rather hesitated about taking it after the appointment. He is a man of habits and cannot stand a warm climate. He was an applicant to go to Switzerland in place of Mr. Fay who was sent there many years ago, and who, most democrats say, ought to come home. I think Smith would most happy to be transferred to the post which he for. We must see what can be done that consistent and perhaps other New Engla will put forward secretary Tansey's name for

the in '60

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 ing tration of our government against Para way, and say  
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 to New Grenada. think so too. For no one can remain here at  
 Panama as long as I have remained without the bad temper  
 and lawlessness which character the conduct of the natives  
 toward Americans.

We have been treated with much attention and unfair  
 kindness along our route. We have had few tickets though from  
 Oregon to New York promptly furnished us. Smith has been sick  
 almost all the time since we left Portland, and I have avoided  
 being heralded on our way a la Ferrar, so you will see no account  
 of us except what comes from original sources.

This letter is not for publication, as you will observe,  
 if there is any item of news which see fit to use, of course  
 the letter is ipen.- We expect the N.Y. Steamer today-

In great haste  
 And Most Truly

L.F. Grover

Panama, October 30, 1858.

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debate in my own mind whether Mr Smith might not be left here in charge of our Consul Mr Corwin (a very clever gentleman by the way) and thus be enabled to go forward myself. But I am now satisfied that my course, in remaining, was the only true one, notwithstanding it disarranges my plan and duties in other directions.

I wished to get Mr Smith that leave of absence in the time he desired it. I wish to see the President about this New Grenada Government paying the damage done our people by the mob at Panama on the 11th April 1856, that he might put something strong in his forthcoming message. I think there is time yet on this score. And as to State questions and war matter the reader can better see than I can.

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of Mr Fay who was sent there many years ago, and who, most - dem say, ought to come home, I think Smith would not be happy to be transferred to the post which he has held for. We must see what can be done. I think that Connecticut and perhaps New England will put forward Secretary Folsom's name for the office in '60.

American residents here are greatly pleased with the pending relations of our government against Paraguay, and say that it is what should have long since taken place in relation to New Grenada. I think so too. For no one can remain here at Panama as long as I have remained without observing the bad temper and lawlessness which characterizes the conduct of the nation towards Panama.

We have been treated with much attention and uniform kindness along our route, we have had free tickets though from Oregan to New York promptly furnished us. Smith has been sick almost all the time since we left Putland, and I have avoided being heralded on our way, a la Farnas, so you will see no account of us except what comes from original sources.

This letter is not for publication, as you will observe, if there is contained any item of news which you see fit to use, of course the letter is open. - We expect the N.Y. Steamer today -

In great haste

And most truly

L. F. Groves

FIRE—LIGHTNING—WINDSTORM.



CASH CAPITAL, \$3,000,000.00.

*[Faint, mirrored handwriting is visible on the paper, appearing as bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is largely illegible due to fading and the presence of the central label.]*