

Washington D. C.
Feb'y. 1st, 1859

Dear Sir:-

In his letters to you and to the people of Oregon- as you are aware- Gen. Lane took the ground that the admission of Oregon as a State into the Union would be more readily secured by the perfection of our state organization- the putting that organization into full and complete operation, and the suceeding of the Territorial government. With this position you took issue. I thought you substantially right. Justice to Gen. Lane and regard for truth now prompts me to say that what I have seen and heard since my arrival in Washington has fully satisfied me that the General was right. Col. Umphrey Marshall and a half dozen other members of Congress who rank amongst the best lawyers and most enlightened statesman of the country declare that we committed a great error in neglecting to follow the advice of Gen Lane;-that they would have voted for our admission had we entirely superceded our Territorial Government as did Minnesota but having failed to do so they could not vote for us. They oppose one admission for various reasons- one because of the alleged want of population, another because aliens are allowed to vote, and still others because of the free negro section; but they say that, notwithstanding these objections, they would vote for our admission if we had put on State government in complete operation. Having failed to do so we will suffer the loss of at least twenty or twenty-five votes. It is clear, therefore, that Gen. Lane was correct in his recommendation. It is to be regretted that the Legislative Assembly and people of Oregon did not follow his advice.

I have written the foregoing simply because I am fully impressed with the truth of what I have stated.

Very Respectfully, Your, &c,

Delazon Smith

A. Bush, Esq
Salem,
Oregon.

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They could not vote for us. They oppose our admission for various reasons - one because of the alleged want of population, another because claims are allowed to vote, and still others because of the free negro section; but they say that, notwithstanding these objections, they would vote for our admission if we had put our State government in complete operation. Having failed to do so we will suffer the loss of at least twenty or twenty-five votes. It is clear, therefore, that Gen. Lane was correct in his recommendation. It is to be regretted that the Legislative Assembly and people of Oregon did not follow his advice.

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A. Bush, Esq. } Oregon Smith
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Washington, D.C.

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As usual, Speculation is on the tip of
as to what the President's fourth coming
message will contain. I need not repeat
these speculations, since it is under-
stood that the Pacific Mail Steamship will
carry a day in order to convey ^{to} you the
message. It has been understood all
along that the President would urge
the building ^{of} a National Rail Road -
indicating a preference for the South-
ern route. It is not said that, owing to
the empty condition of the Treasury, the
President - whilst favouring the project
of a Rail Road to the Pacific - will
not recommend present Congres-
sional action. A few days will determine
what he recommends. Public senti-
ment & public desire is fully prepared
for a favorable recommendation - prompt
and prompt and vigorous action.

I will not venture upon any specu-
lations as to what the message may or may
not contain in regard to Cuba, Mexico