

Port Townsend W. T.  
February 16, 1859

Dear Bush,

In the Statesman of the 8th inst, in the paragraph noticing the Election of Territorial officers, you say "there seems to have been some divisions with respect to Printer." You are right. There was a division & I ought to have written you all about it at the time. I neglected to do so because of the connection my name has with the affair. Now I do it because I know the next Pioneer will give the a one-sided-Stevens version in reply to your paragraph.

There was a division in the democratic party in our Leg. It was the same kind of a decision that you seem to have had at Salem. One Genl. Miller a Whig up to 1857, a federalist in principle, and a democrat now for his private interest is the leading member of the Council. He is a member from Thurston Co. That county has six in the House. Miller sits behind twenty or thirty thousand dollars which he loans out in the county so cunningly that he makes it subserve two purposes to wit; 1st to put money in his purse. 2nd to gain for himself political influence and power. By this means he succeeded at our last election in electing six members of the House who were ready and willing to obey his orders. As soon as the two houses were organized the Genl. gave orders that no man should receive the support or the bounties of that body (in which he hold the balance of power) unless they were Stevens - men. This test was immediately applied and in order to see if the body would apply it, resolutions laudatory of Stevens in the superlative degree were introduced. The Council passed them 7 to 2. The house passed them after a hard struggle 15 to 14 or 15 to 13 & one absent who would have voted against them. This fight note in the house alarmed the Genl. & his followers. They hauled in for awhile on the test. Matters went on for a week or two without any instance being presented to call for the application of the test. During this time the Genl. & his followers lost some of their strength. The two houses had resolved to go into Joint Convention on the 22nd Jany. Two days before that time nothing transpired on the subject of the elections appointed. There was no canvassing. No electioneering publicly. Several democrats who would not stand the Stevens-test requested me to offer for the office of Printer. I told them my situation pecuniarily and position publically, and expressed a willingness to take the office if elected, but declined to become a candidate until I could get a Press on the ground. On thursday evening (the election took place on Saturday) before the election that "We the undersigned", was circulated calling a "Meeting" of the democratic members on friday at 2 o'clock P. M. I advised those who were anxious for me to run to go into that meeting, & nominate me if they could, if they could not let it drop. They said that meeting was a foul affair - that it was not a proper caucus, and that its purposes were not fair and they would not attend it. When 2 o. c. friday came 17 number met. The 17 sat in council for a while and sent our emissarys to call in enough to make a majority of the joint convention. In an hour or two by dint or promises of reward

(doubtless) and hard persuasion they brought in two of their halting brothers,--two who had sworn they would not go with the test party. After the meeting had sat for an hour or two more they had joined. Their proceedings were kept strictly secret. When asked who had been nominated they would reply so as to leave the impression that no nominations had been made. When the Joint Convention assembled not a word was said as to the proceedings of that meeting. I was engaged all day Saturday in a case before the Register & Receiver. Mr. Biles, as sound and correct a democrat as ever cast a vote, on his own hook nominated me and the result was as you said reported. This is a simple statement of the facts in the case with my impressions and belief as to its causes. You are at perfect liberty to use them as you see proper, with this single exception: that you will not publish what is said as to Millers control over the six members from Thurston. You will appreciate my motive in this when I tell you that four out of these six are honest democrats who are most shamefully bamboozled, by Genl. M.--I do not wish to offend them.

Pardon me for this long story - I've told it as briefly as possible.

Accept my thanks for the notice you take of my political status as Hibben would say. I am a democrat but will never consent to be one of those who bow down & serve when a man - any man passes the gate.

My regards to friends & best wishes for your success.

Yours truly

Butler P Anderson

P. S. George Corliss is in my room. He suggests that one of the principal reasons why the democrats would not to into that caucus was that the "We the undersigned" was not presented to all those who voted with the Democratic party in the House. It was the design and purpose that the test men -- the Stevens party should control that caucus. I was not aware of this fact before.

Yours & c

B. P. A.

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There was a division in the democratic party in our City. It was the same kind of a division that you seem to have had at Salem. One of our men, a Whig up to 1837, a federalist in principle, and a democrat now for his private interest is the leading member of the Council. He is a member from Thurston Co. That County has six in the House. Miller sits behind twenty or thirty thousand dollars which he loans out in the County so cunningly that he makes it subservient two purposes to suit, 1<sup>st</sup> to put money in his purse. 2<sup>nd</sup> to gain for himself political influence and power. By this

means he succeeded at our late election in electing  
six members of the House who were ready and  
willing to obey his orders. As soon as the <sup>House</sup> ~~houses~~  
were organized the Genl. gave orders that no man  
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