

Fort Umpqua, Ogn. Jan. 3d 1860

Deaa Bush

As "ancient Joseph" used to address you, so do I.

In November, when I was estopped by the high waters of Elk Creek from getting down to the Eugene Convention, I forwarded to you a copy of the proceedings of the Curry Co. Dem. Convention together with my credentials as proxy for Stephenson & Gregory, the regularly chosen delegates from that county.

Much has been said in the Lane Society organs about the sentiment of Curry Co. on the withdrawal of the delegates from eight counties, including Curry, from said convention and I enclose herewith a letter that I obtained last night from Nelson Stephenson, one of the regularly chosen delegates to the convention from that county.

Mr. Stephenson expresses the sentiment of that regime of country and I thought it would be well for you to have some evidence in your possession, showing that Curry is with us.

I do not desire that any part of Mr. Stephenson's letter should be published, as it is a private letter to me and indeed I don't know as its publication would effect any good.

In his rough way, Stephenson, who has always been a hard democrat, expresses the general feeling of contempt entertained in his Co. for Lane and the whole damned society, including the new convert Delusion.

I regret to see that Tichenor is enjoying one of his periodically unpopular spells, but he may be all right by spring. He ought to be reelected to the House, if not to the Senate.

I am in correspondence with many other democrats in Coos & Curry and most of them feel very much like Stephenson. This "neck of woods" will be kept all right, notwithstanding the sparse population, hard times and above all the influence of office holders and the government patronage.

Living at the only public house in this region, I have the chance of seeing and talking with democrats from Curry, Coos and Umpqua and occasionally from Douglas.

We have got the Applegate influence, to fight in Umpqua, which will be thrown into the hands of the Lane Society, but we will either elect a Republican who will refuse to write with the society in support of Sam or we will elect an anti-Lane democrat.

The election of a Lane democrat in Umpqua is an impossibility.

Cooper, who was put on the dem. central committee from this Co. in place of Lord, is not a popular man and only recently a democrat. He invariably voted the opposition ticket until 1856. He has no influence and the few men, who were inclined to favor Lane in this Co. are on unfriendly terms with Cooper and are made positive Anti-Lane men by the appointment of Cooper. It was a very impolitic move of the Lane Society in displace Lord. Besides Cooper is by no means reliable for them and can do them no good, if he was. C. told me the other day, he should not act with them at all, until after he conferred & consulted with me.

I am on the new ticket with McMillan & others, as you know.

Simpson, our Coos Co. committeeman has been absent at San Francisco since the Convention was held, I shall correspond with him when he returns. I learn that Williams & Nesmith are going south - Shall try and meet them up the Valley.

We are in a streak of bad luck just now, Ned has got to pay about \$400. sometime this month, on an execution for damages sustained at his in 1858 by one of the teamsters on the road. Gard Chism, whom Beggs knows.

My fine horse is also sick and not likely to recover. So we go. Wish I had sold him to Ind. Dept. before Ned went out of office. Regards to all my friends.

I felt slightly mad with that damned traitor Delusion, when I read a recent number of his paper and lost temporarily my "idiotic grin" but consoled myself with the reflection that considering last May's work, he was not much ahead of me.

Yours,

J. W. Drew

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