

PRIVATE

Pleasant Hill Ogn
12th Dec. 1862

Mr. A. Bush

Dear Sir

Wife and her father N. Coffey of Lane Co. have known the Gale family since J. N. Gale was born. The old "Gut" used to be a preacher and would "screw" the weak sisters of the Church. W. H. Tucker and J. M. Jones near Sublimity of your county caught him in the act, and when dealt with by the church acknowledged it publicly. The "Fanatic Gut" and son of the old preacher was always considered a very bad egg. The whole family came down the "Middle Fork" road from the states in 1853 and Joseph Gale (a gentleman and an honest man) and a brother of Wm. Gale the preacher in consideration of his former acquaintance with Mrs. Bristow sent his wife to my house by a friend till he should get his waggon out of the mountains, and in talking over old matters as you know women will do--the reputation of Wm. Gale was mentioned and Mrs. Jo Gale asked if Wm. Gale's family stood in reputation as usual. The reply was that it was no better and that since the young ones had grown up that they had beaten the old man in devilment, and among other things instanced the forging of "that note" spoken of in your last issue, by J. N. Gale of the "Strait' Republican."

He (J N.G) buried his first wife in Eugene City and rumor hath it that she recieved no more attention or kindness from his hands than if she had been a dog; and no little credence has been given the story which spoken of to me by those nearly related to him.

Madam Rumor also says that he has humbuged Old Man Shaw with

with his abominable Spiritualism, until he has put him in the ground, and taken a goodly portion of his (S's) property.

I am sorry to say that I cannot entirely endorse the course of the Statesman. If we mistake not the intention is to reorganize the democratic party. Like the king that "goeth to war"; you have doubtless "counted the cost," and see things as I do not. Without flattery we say we would just as leave have the Statesman, with yourself as editor to lead us in political struggles and revolutions as any other--indeed we could prefer it that way to any other. No human foresight can tell what may turn up in two years hence. Though the good Old Democratic party may be set on its legs again, we cannot tell at this distant day what we may do. The way to us is not clear. We have almost lost all hope for our country and almost feel indifferent as to the future-- The only desire of our heart is to crush out at all hazards this hateful, hellish rebellion, and we could but wish that all persons of whatever party who were sincerely in favor of saving the Union would stand together in all things giving strength to the hopes of the nation. If the party is revived it must divide the Union strength in a degree whose power shall be gauged and controlled by circumstances. We can see no way that it can be done--with any hope of success--without absorbing the "sympathising" element-- or plainly speaking the rebels of Oregon. They may have more simplicity than we give them credit for, but we do not see any way to avoid gaining their influence, but by talking anti-war and judiciously distributing some of the offices to their kind. How I can go into a primary meeting or convention with them--and vote with them (and especially in a county like this where the party would be four fifths traitors) is not so easy to be sure now. The atmosphere must change some first. We cannot for the life of us see any reason why the late

democratic triumphs in the states, is not in some degree at least a disunion triumph. Of course the Jeff Davis element--numerically is small there. But here--will it not surely dominate to a considerable extent.

But we are running this to an extent that you will not care to read. Our only desire is to retain your good will and affection.

Respectfully your friend

W. W. Bristow