New York Feby. 2d 1855.

1697

John Lee Esqr.

Dear Sir

On my return I met at Philadn Mr Gilmore, late member of Congress. I had some conversation with, and gave him a letter to you. He knows very well many of the members, and has much influence with the Penn: delegation. He is also very intimate with Judge Campbell - altogether I think he may greatly aid in the passage of both bills. He will have seen you before this however, and no doubt you have properly arranged with him on the subject.

I am obliged to leave New York for some days, to attend to business at Toronto in Canada. I shall certainly be home again by Tuesday the 6th inst. At that time I hope to hear from you in relation to what progress has been made in the affair, and whether Olds will positively recommend the change.

Mr Gilmore seemed to think that there would be more certainty if my name was left out, giving it the appearance of our own matter. I would have no objection to this if there could be certainty in securing the contract. I think there are some objections too, besides the hazard sure, the principle of which is, that if no name is in, it would be difficult to interest positively and actively, many, whose united effort

Baltimore, two Phila: and two New York. This owned by at discretion of Post Master General, and not inserted in the Bill, but privately mentioned to P M Genl. It would take him, and would take also with Southern men. — But if you have Hare interested you defeat at once all these combinations.

The whole matter should be kept in secret, arranged fully for, and the blow struck before the Hare & Bremen line could in any way organize an opposition.

This matter can only be carried through successfully by great tact and secret arrangement with your friends inside — if trusted to outside men to talk of — or if mixed up with other things, it will not go through

I regret that I am called off to Canada just at this moment, but it cannot be helped.

If Strother can secure the ~~vote~~ action of the party of K.N. in the House, & Gilmore acts with others inside & your arrangements with Olds is firmly made, success is certain, but a changing policy, or course will lose all.

Instant yours

A V N T.

MdHS 1974 [1634-1697]