

Portland Nov 9th 1863
My Dear Genl
I have been intending
to write you for some weeks
upon matters here in which you
have an interest, but for some
cause or other have neglected it.
The result of the political
contest in our state was what
we had a right to expect, and
in my judgment no one contri-
buted more than yourself to
bring about that result, & it
is the opinion of a large part
of the community, I am inclined
to believe should occasion ever
offer the people in this state will
be ready to acknowledge it in
a form which would be satisfac-
tory to you & your warmest
friends. At the present time Port-
land appears to be in a very pros-
perous condition. I think it never
has increased so much in business
& population in any one year as
the present. What the result
of this inflated state of affairs

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

MMN # 76133

Date: November 9, 1863

Description: Horatio Nelson Jos wrote to George F. Shepley about the
booming business opportunities in Portland.

is to be. I do not undertake to predict. There never has been a time when so few notes are given in a business way as the present. This is a good indication & that the trading part of the community are cautious.

Real estate begins to be affected & the sales are large particularly in the upper part of the city & on Commercial Street. The abandonment of the Canal below Vaughns bridge & the change in the location of the P & R R Road will make quite a difference in that part of the city in a few years. Since the location of the Glass factory many other enterprises in the way of manufacturing are talked about some of which I think will be carried out. One of which is a Rolling Mill which is much needed. As all our Railroads have to send their iron to Boston & Worcester to have it rolled & at great expense & delay.

I have bought recently quite a large interest in the lands

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& flats in that direction & at a good bargain, I often think I would like to step in and advise with you in such matters. When I get the purchase all closed up will write you more particularly in regard to it. Since you left Adams has carried up the wing of the Preble House on Preble St according to the plan which I shew you when here, he will have to expend about \$3000 & I have agreed to allow him \$750 towards it & this years taxes, It is a great improvement to the house.

The Portland & Kennebec RR enterprise proves to be a good one I presume your father has posted you up in all these matters - If he has not sent you one of the reports I will. Judge River will resign his Judgeship & devote his whole time to the interests of the road,

Ex Governor Washburn has been appointed to the collectorship in place of [?] deceased & is a good appointment I think.

Our mutual friend Brown is desirous to establish a National Bank here under the new law if he

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Our mutual friend Brown is desirous to establish a National Bank here under the new law if he

can get the right parties associated
with him, he thinks if you were
at home you would join him in
the matter, his idea is to start with
about \$300,000 Capital with liberty
to increase say to \$500,000 - he would
take at least two thirds of the
amount required, have you ever
looked into the new Banking law?
If so, would you be willing to join
him with your humble servant
& a few others in the management
& direction of the first National
Bank of Portland, should not
be particular about your taking
a large interest unless you desired,
but would like much to have
you as one of the Directors - let
me hear from you in regard to
it if you can find time - remember
me to Capt Thornton & all others
of my acquaintance - hoping to have
the pleasure of hearing from you
soon. I am Yours very truly
Horatio Nelson

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