

Dear Mr. Burleigh & Flynt,
 Gentlemen:
 About Blaine, nothing ever struck us harder than his defeat by Mr. Burchard in '84. There are thousands in the west who will wade twenty miles through mud to vote for him. That can be said of no other Republican. They'll vote not for party or for issues, but for the man Blaine. I know of no other man who can have a fighting chance of winning. as in 1888 the Republican party has scarcely any chance whatever of winning. Blaine knows this well. As to the chances of winning with him at the head of the ticket, he will tell us as plainly as he would tell his own wife. He or no man would refuse the actual presidency. He is well, constantly and thoroughly informed of everything. He is competent to appreciate the dangers and the chances. If he positively will not run, then he plainly tells the intelligent among us that the Republican party can not win next November. I look for nearly the entire Northwest, - the reliable Republican stronghold for twenty-nine years, to go this Fall with the Democratic party. I think that Minn. Mich. Wis. Iowa and Ills. will go Democratic. I regretted exceedingly when Blaine and Sherman committed

Cincinnati, May 20, '88
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Contributed to the Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local Code: Coll. S-1685 80/24 Date: May 20, 1888 Description: Letter from Andrew van Bibber about James Blaine's Republican candidacy for president.

in haste the irrelievably blunder of antag-
-[?] Cleveland's message [torn]
heard that I knew the blunder was made and
the dog was dead. Their true policy was to
leave Tariff reform an open question to be earnestly
considered by both parties. Because of this
blunder we have the growing boom of Eresham
in the Northwest. Eresham having a free trade
leaning. If the Northwest is lost, then the
Republican party is out of existence.
Blaine has far more friends in the west and
Northwest than any Republican whatever, and
he can carry the large Irish vote also.

He knows this, and if he judges that with
all this the chances are against him, then
he will positively decline to run. In that
way he will plainly tell you the prospect
as he sees it.

Without any issues on either side the Dem.
party is probably 200,000 to 300,000 votes
stronger now than in 1884. You know what
the vote was then. You are in a Republican
State. Don't be misled by your immediate
surroundings. There may be a chance with
Mr. Blaine. There is none with Sherman.

Yours Truly

Andrew van Bibber,

If the Democracy fight it on the old plan, depending
on New York, then it will probably be a Republican
defeat like Antietam, with a fighting chance for
the Republicans in 1892. If the Dems. appreciate the
situation and attack the Northwest, then it will
be an Austerlitz, and the Rep. party will fight no more.

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