

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from Andrew Curtin to Eli Slifer, 1858-59

**Date:** 1858-1859

**Location:** MC 2003.4, B3, F10

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

Private

Ballymore 5 May 1858

My dear Sir

Hale is a candidate for  
Corys and will be nominated. He  
was here this week -

The con only on him in  
the camp for the Presidency with  
certainty - A candidate for that of-  
fice had named his name and  
was naming all his applicants to  
secure his nomination in this dis-  
trict - His plans are thwarted -

His candidate for the Senate  
is in the field in Tycoming Bay  
and we must beat him -

Bumbyer promises to write  
you, and I will because I leave  
the arrangements with my return -

Send copies undisturbed and  
do not name a time for the con-  
ference - If possible be a conferee  
yourself, or get Mr. you see de-  
pend upon - I have no idea of be-  
ing a candidate for office this fall  
but I will if anything were ever  
be elected if I am - If not we

would content the Association.

You alarmed me at Mel-  
licott's place and since that time I  
have given the matter some attention.

Let me hear from you soon  
on the subject.

I have always been faithful  
to my party, and all my friend-  
ships are in it, but I will separate  
myself from both before I will  
smell such a dose.

Truly your friend

A. G. Curtis

Private  
Bellefonte 5 Aug 1858

My dear Sir

Hale is a candidate for congress and will be nominated. He consented this week.

We can rely on him in the [canvass?] for the presidency with certainty. A candidate for that office had named his man and was [massing?] all his [appliances?] to secure his nomination in this district. His plans are thwarted.

His candidate for the Senate is in the field in Lycoming Coty and we must beat him.

Bomberger promised to write you, and I write because I learned the arrangements since my return.

[Send?] [congress?] [uninstructed?] and do not secure a time for the conference. If possible be a [canvasser?] yourself, or get [several] you [could] depend upon. I had no idea of being a candidate for office this fall but I will if necessary [cease all] be elected if I am. If not we

[page break]

must control the nomination.

You alarmed me at Williamsport and since that time I have given the matter some attention.

Let me hear from you [illegible] in the subject.

I have always been faithful to my party, and all my friendships are in it, but I will separate myself from both before I will swallow such a dose.

Truly your friend  
A.G.Curtin

Dear Sir

If you can carry out the arrangement suggested in your letter I believe we can contrain the Senatorial dist.

The indications are that the Democrats will nominate a Tyroning man. The leading men of the party expect it, and assure me that if we nominate a Clinton County man they will rebel. They propose to run in that count to run as a volunteer, but if I am a candidate I want the nomination of my party. They say they will rather vote for a volunteer on personal or local grounds, than for the nominee of the opposite party.

Be a conquer and by all means let the candidate you name be a gentleman who can withstand the pressure of your action.

For 20 years Tyroning and Clinton have taken the Senatorial and even Senatorial delegates to counties. They say they will not stand it again. If they are cheated we can carry out the arrangement proposed we will elect our favorite.

I intended to attend to my business, and in no event be a candidate this fall, but I will not anticipate

The state of things in politics that now  
surround me -

I will do anything fair and reason-  
able to reach a compromise and  
I would have been <sup>as</sup> opposed  
to the best man for the Presidency -

The time of the conference we wish  
to be the day the Congressional confer-  
ence meets - Some countries name the  
1<sup>st</sup> and some the 7<sup>th</sup> Sept

Let me hear from you when  
your arrangements are made in case if you  
have anything to communicate -

I must go to the College of  
Doctors I would go to see you at  
Aurushing on the 18<sup>th</sup>

Yrs. truly

W. L. G. C. C.

11 May 1848

P. A. B. B. and B. B. and the work  
in Dauphin like some - It is not  
black but I saw them the day after  
B. B. was far happier than the  
evening he died the McLellan some  
at the dinner of 7 courses of B. B.

A. G. C.

Dear Slifer

If you can carry out the arrangement suggested in your letter I believe we can control the senatorial dist.

The indications are that the Democrats will nominate a Lycoming man, the leading men of the party expect it, and upon me that if we nominate a Clinton County man they will rebel. They propose to me in that [want?] to [serve?] as a volunteer, but if I am a candidate I want the nomination of my party. They say they would rather vote for a [volunteer?] on [one word illegible] or local grounds than for the nominee of the opposite party.

Be a [illegible] and by all means let the candidate you name be gentleman who can [understand] the reason of your action.

For 20 years Lycoming and Clinton have taken the senate and even senatorial delegates to conventions. They say [this?] will [withstand?] it again. If they are elected and we [easy?] [out?] the arrangement proposed we will be at one [illegible].

I intended to attend to my business and in no event be a candidate this fall, but I did not anticipate

[page break]

the state of things in politics that now reward me.

I will do anything fair and reasonable to send a congressman and Senator from here who are appointed to the last [nom.?] for the presidency.

The time of the conference we wish to be the day the Congressional Conference [visits?]. Some locations name the 1<sup>st</sup> and serve the 7<sup>th</sup> [secty?].

Let me hear from you when your arrangements are made in [illegible] if you hear anything to communicate.

I must go to the [illegible] Court or I would go to see you at Harrisburg on the 18<sup>th</sup>

Yrs Truly

A. G. Curtin

11 Aug 1858

P.S. Bomberger and Kunkle aid the work in Dauphin like men. It is not [beautiful?]. I saw them the day after Bomberger was far happier than the evening he drank the mellowed wine at the dinner of 7 courses of [sausages?].

A. G. C.

~~Private~~

Hack Haver 16 Sept 1858

Wm. S. Miller

Dear Sir

I have been here since Monday and as you may readily imagine surrounded by politicians. Gigg would decline but his friends here would not allow him to do so. The influence that procured his nomination is bitterly hostile to his withdrawal. Last night he went to Congress and it is said made some impression on the members. He was interrogated as to how he would vote if a resolution was offered to re-investigate the bill for sale of the public lands and answered that he would vote for such a resolution as he would not stifle the investigation of his own vote or that of others.

Ball will go there by coming on Monday and Gigg will accompany him. Here Gigg will run well and in concert with our own men on full strength. Under the circumstances once as it is now known to him but our alternative we must fight it through. If they get up an anti-cumulative candidate if it does not elect Gigg it will break his face. The hatred that precede him on this is thoroughly selfish and some immoral.

Next week is our counterpart meeting if my good news be done I will come to see you - Write me at Ballport - Yours Truly H. S. Coontz

P.S. We had a large and very effective  
meeting here last night

A. B. C. B. C.  
1855.

Private

Lock Haven 16 Sept 1858

Hon E. Slifer

Dear Sir

I have been here since Monday and as you may readily imagine surrounded by politicians. Gregg would decline but his friends here will not allow him to do so. The influence that procured his nomination is bitterly hostile to his withdrawal. Last night he went to [Fringaham?] and it is said made [two words illegible] on the mal contents. He was interrogated as to how he would vote if a resolution was offered to investigate the bill for sale of the public works and once announced that he could vote for [illegible] a resolution as he could and stifle the investigation of his own vote or that of others.

Hale will go to Lycoming on Monday and Gregg will accompany him. Here Gregg will run well and in Clinton [run?] [well?] give him our full strength. Under the circumstances [chance?] as it is [were] [given?] to him but our alternative we must fight it through. If they got of an [anticurrent?] candidate if it does not elect Gregg it will break his fall. The mistrust that [forces] him on [us?] is thoroughly selfish and [more?] inexorable.

Next week is our encampment just after if any good can be done I will come to see you. Write me at Bellefonte.

Yrs Trly  
A.G. Curtin

[page break]

P.S. We had a large and my [effection?] meeting [her?] last night.

Dear Coln.

I presume you have  
seen Lugg once mentioned his  
position. The influence that pro-  
duced his nomination was irregular;  
and altho he went to L. H. to  
withdrew he was so situated  
he could not.

No more in this dist. ever  
right as I do his position, but  
it is too late now to look  
back - We will do all in  
our power in this County and  
will give him a good vote.

I am going to the  
State fair at Pittsboro  
on the 28th and will re-  
turn on 29th Oct. After that  
time if I can be of any service  
in your County I will come  
down - But such we have  
an abundant one -

Yrs. V. L.

W. H. Combs

17th 1848

Dear [Coln?]

I presume you have seen Gregg and understand his position. The influence that produced his nomination was inexorable; and although he went to L.H. to withdraw he was so [infuriated] he could not.

No name in the dist. [can?] regret as I do his position, but it is too late now to look back. We will do all in our power in this county, and will give him a good vote.

I am going to the state fair at Pottstown on the 28<sup>th</sup> and will [return?] on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. After that time if I can be of any service in your County I will come down. Next week we have an [incumbent?] here.

Yrs Trly  
A.G. Curtin  
17 Sept 1858

Bellevue Oct 26 - 1858

Mr. Miller Esq

Dear Sir

A few days after the election I went to Philadelphia and from there to Phila. On my return here last night I received your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup>

If I had the knowledge on which to form an opinion as to whether you should offer yourself for the Presidency you may rest assured I would express it frankly - It is impossible for me to understand the combinations now forming or make any just estimate of strength we can concentrate on you -

When the rumor that you would be a candidate I made some inquiry as to the probable course of the Phila delegation and must say that the result was not favorable to you - There is for instance (pleas-ger before the election) and as he is the leading man in the delegation will have influence with them - I saw others of the members select but could not ascertain the names

There seemed to be a current in Phila against you altho I could not tell how originated or who were the moving spirits - Still must be with me

and will be in your way.

Sturthens and Laporte will  
no doubt get the north. Hancock is  
a candidate and will (it is said) get  
Lancaster, Leachman will get Adams  
Paine is a candidate. Sawyer was in  
Phila and pushing his claims. Tazewell  
is a candidate and I suppose will get  
Schubert. Then I understand there are  
candidates in Danville and some in  
other localities I have not named.

You shall hear to what  
this in Union My dear &c. - One Senator and  
member and the Yeas and Nays  
and the yeas. The any calculation runs out  
Write Mr Mackay and get Anna Pollock  
to write him ~~and~~ to secure Fearson and  
try to reach Mackay - An effort will  
be made to take the vote from you  
Write Judge Hall to me whether the same  
be from Myrtle - Direct your letter to  
him at Ferrisburg when he will be on  
Monday - I have not any bag or barrel  
but will this week.

I will be in Phila sometime  
next week and if I could see you and others  
and other friends would be most happy  
to look the ground all over and

comes to a conclusion -

If you cannot be elected  
do not be a candidate and I regret  
that I cannot express an opinion on that  
point -

Wells has not written to me - I ex-  
pected to find a letter from him on my  
return home -

Lamm's friends here written  
to Barlow and to gutterman here -

Barlow is an Abolitionist - was  
a Tribune man and the friends of  
Lamm have reached that class of  
politicians -

I can just now tell that  
Wells has written to this County  
but has not touched the right string

However I think we can arrange the  
matter to suit you -

Write me fully and if I  
go to Phila I will telegraph you  
when -

Yours Truly

A. C. Covert

Bellefonte Oct 26 1858  
Eli Slifer

Dear Sir,

A few days after the election I went to Philipsburg and from there to Phila. On my return home last night I read your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup>.

If I had the knowledge on which to form an opinion as to whether you should offer yourself for the Treasurership you may rest assured I would express it frankly. It is impossible for me to understand the combinations now forming or make any just estimate of strength we can concentrate on you.

We are the [illegible] that you could be a candidate. I made some inquiry as to the probable cause of the Phla delegation and must say that the result was not favourable to you. There is for [Parthue] (pledged before the election) and as he is the leading man in the delegation will have influence with them. I saw others of the members elect but could not [ascertain?] the [names?].

There seemed to be a movement in Phila against you altho I could not tell [how?] originated or who [was] the [naming?] [spirits?] Sellers was then with me

[page break]

and will see you or write.

[Sturthus?] and [Laporte?] will no doubt get the worth. [Henaman?] is a candidate and will (it is said) get Lancaster. Cochran will get Adams. Prince is a candidate. [Sankey?] was in Phla and preparing his claims. [Tagant?] is a candidate and I suppose will get Schuylkill. Then I understand there are candidates in Dauphin and some in other conditions I have not named.

You should [leave?] to start on two in Union Snyder & [illegible] one senator and member and then Lycoming and Clinton [members?]. [Thus?] any [calculation?] [must?] out write Mr. Mackey and get [illegible] Polluck to write him to secure [Fearm?] and try to reach [MaKaffey?]. All effort will be made to take them both from you. Write [illegible] Hale to see whether the member from Mifflin & Direct your letter to him at Lewistown where he will be on Monday. I have not seen Gregg or Barlow but will this week.

I will be in Phla sometime next week and if I could see you and Sellers and other friends would be most happy to look the ground all over and

[page break]

come to a conclusion.

If you cant be elected do not be a candidate and I regret that I cannot express an opinion on that point.

Maclure has not written to me. I expected to find a letter from him on my return home. [illegible] [illegible] him with to Barlow and to gentlemen [here?]

Barlow is an American -- was a [Felman?] man and the [kinds?] of [illegible] have reached that [slope?] of politicians.

I am just now told that Maclure has written to this county but has not touched the right string.

However I think we can arrange the matter to suit you.  
Write me fully and if I go to Phla I will telegraph you [when?]

Trly Yrs  
A.G Curtin

My dear Sir

I was in Phce one day this week, but as I went unexpectedly and was in a hurry when the I did not write you -

I will go down soon and will telegraph and write you in time - I may go up & work but of that will advise you

I do not believe Power will decline. Mackay is in Phce attending to his interests there and I understand he is anxious -

Mackay takes care I fear was for you - One member will go with well Andy who has written you -

Yrs Truly

W. L. Garrison

5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1848

P.S. I will see you later this morning

My dear sir

I was in Phla one day this week, but as I went unexpectedly and was in a hurry when there I did not write you.

I will go [down?] soon and will telegraph and write you in time. I may go next week but if that will [apprise?] you.

I do not believe [Powert?] will decline. [Sankey?] is in Phla attending to his [illegible] then and I understand he is anxious.

Mackey told me [Fearn?] was for you. [Any] [number] will go with [Uncle?] [Andy?] who has written you.

Yrs Trly

A.G Curtin

5 Nov 1858

P.S. I will read your letter this morning.

Bilbyville

January 11-1859

Dear Sir

I recd. your dispatch  
and regret that I am not able  
to start today -

I took cold and have  
had a slight attack of bilious  
colic - I am better today and  
if I am as well will start  
tomorrow afternoon -

I will try to in-  
duce Hall to go down  
with me as the is some  
strength he can assist I  
cannot - I write to my  
Brother yesterday -

Yours truly

A. M. Lee

Bellefonte  
Jany 11 1859

Dear Sir

I read your dispatch and regret that I am not able to start today.

I took cold and have had a slight attack of biliary colic. I am better today and if I am as well will start tomorrow afternoon.

I will try to induce Hale to go down with me as there is more strength he can [until?] I cannot. I wrote Gregg and Barlow yesterday.

Yr Tly  
A. G. Curtin

Billyonite

Feb 26 - 1859

Dear John -

I recd. a letter last night inviting me to deliver the Annual oration before the Students Faculty & of the University in your place -

Do you think I should attempt the task? I might feel once more the impain it is said made on your people -

Within my education nor my habit of life qualify me for such an occasion, and yet I will try it if it is worth the labour -

I am receiving several  
rejoinders and discom-  
rejoinders, but none of them  
more than the latter  
in any respect for  
the nomination for  
Governor - I will leave  
it if I can but will  
not become so un-  
grateful in my own  
interests as not to be  
for the party if I will  
At all events I

will put out all my  
strength for the pure  
Justice Nicholson's  
opponent is a case  
and am pleased with  
it. Let me hear from  
you - Yours Truly  
Wm. L. Garrison

Bellefonte  
Feb 26 1859  
Dear Sir

I read a letter last night inviting me to deliver the annual oration before the students faculty &c of the University in your place.

Do you think I should attempt the task? I might fail and lose the [impression?] it is said made on your people.

Neither my education nor my habits of life qualify me for such an occasion, and yet I will try it if it is worth the labour.

[page break]

I am [assessing?] [an?] [enragement and disenragement?] but more of the former than the latter in my aspirations for the nomination for Governor. I will have it if I can but will not become so engrossed in my own interests as not to follow the party if I fail.

At all events I will put out all my strength for the prize.

I notice Michelson's appointment is [carried?] and am pleased with it. Let me hear from you.

Yrs Trly  
A.G. Curtin

Bellevue  
March 2. 1859

Dear John,

I am about to  
ask your kind offices and  
with you I intend to proceed  
in the undertaking.

A young man in this  
place in whom I feel  
a deep personal interest wants  
a place in some well es-  
tablished Bank.

He is a son of Mr  
Thomas Egan who has for a  
long time been my warm  
personal friend, and I have  
enjoyed the most inti-  
mate personal relations  
with him.

The young gentle-  
man is of very ex-  
traordinary personal

Character and in all  
aspects qualified for  
any of the subordinate  
offices in a Bank.

And Dennis is a  
gentleman of agreeable  
manners.

I will look out for  
some vacancy and want  
your assistance when I  
find one.

Can you help  
me?

In a consultation  
with Mr. Mason this  
morning I suggested  
to him to write you  
on the subject.

I think I will  
be away in Hanslow  
next week.

Truly your friend  
W. G. Lovell

Bellefonte  
March 2 1859  
Dear [Coln.]

I am about to ask your kind offices and with you I intend to succeed in the undertaking.  
A young man in this place in whom I feel a deep personal interest wants a place in some well established bank.

He is a young John [Tomms?] Esq. who has for a long time been my warm personal friend, and I have enjoyed the most intimate formal relations with him.

The young gentlemen is of very exceptional moral

[page break]

character and in all respects qualified for any of the subordinate offices in a Bank.

And besides is a gentleman of agreeable manners.

I will look out for some vacancy and want your assistance when I find one.

Can you help me?

In a consultation with Mr. [Tomms?] this morning I suggested to him to write you on the subject.

I think I will be a day in Harrisburg next week.

Trly your friend  
A. G. Curtin



Bellefonte

March 5 - 1839

Dear Cole

I recd your letter  
last night and have accept-  
ed the invitation -

I think you are right  
as to an apartment in  
the North end I am  
much obliged to you

I will go to Harris-  
burg on Monday and  
will be present for  
next year the -

Yrs Truly

W. M. Lewis

Bellefonte  
March 5 1859

I read your letter last night and [have?] accepted the invitation.  
I think you are right as to an appointment in the North and I [will write?] allegiance to  
you.

I will go to Harrisburg on Monday and will be pleased to meet you there.

Yrs. Trly  
A. G. Curtin

Ballymore 21 April 1849

Dear G. Mifflin

Dear Sir

We were opposed to  
selection for Senatorial delegate  
made by Union Party next week

I am written by the friends  
of the candidates for Auditor here  
as you may expect -

One writes says "It is pro-  
bably ascertained that Messrs. Pollock  
is using all his influence to effect  
the nomination of Sullivan and  
that he has pledged himself to  
secure all the votes in that region  
for him".

Some of the say developments  
will be made to be -

You know what that  
means - I am not surprised that  
Pollock is for Sullivan - He  
was my faithful ally and they  
are mutually attached to  
each other - But some of the

other gentlemen named are his  
friends and too much should not  
be made of his partiality for  
Sullivan -

Will you please to get  
me back from you on the  
subject and particularly if you  
have me the same as you said  
you would -

Not having heard from  
you I presume you have not  
heard you check -

Yours truly

A. S. Curtis

Bellefonte  
21 April 1859  
Hon Eli Slifer  
Dear Sir

We will approve the selection for senatorial delegate made by Union County next week.

I am written by the friends of the candidates for Auditor Gen as you may expect.

One writer says "It is positively [asserted?] that [illegible] Polluck is moving all his influence to effect the nomination of Sullivan and that he has pledged himself to secure all the votes in that region for him.

Some of them say developments will be made &c &c

You know what that means. I am not surprised that Polluck is for Sullivan. He was very faithful and they are virtually attached to each other. But some of the

[page break]

other gentlemen named are his friends and too much should not be made of his partiality for Sullivan.

Will you [illegible] to get [illegible] hear from you on the subject and particularly if you [illegible] in the [Governor?] as you said you would.

Not having heard from you I presume you have [illegible] your clerks.

Yrs. Tly

A. G. Curtin

Weymouth 4 June 1859

Dear Miss

I will not be at the conference and will be obliged if you will hand the enclosed letter to Petrikin as soon as he arrives -

I would send it to Leavelle but he may change his hotel -

If Sullivan is out of the way not opposed our interests must - I wrote Sullivan today a confidential letter on that point

There is no use in disguising the fact that you and I have personal friends who are running in a direction politically that cannot advance our interests - that is if they are identical

Stone our delegate will see you - He is our honest clear fellow and I believe has but one wish in politics and that is to see my interests - his in the light of your course -

Yrs truly G. L. Leighton

Bellefonte  
4 June 1859

Dear Slifer

I will not be at the Convention and will be obliged if you will hand the enclosed letter to Peter [illegible] as soon as he arrives.

I would send it to Conly's but he may change his hotel.

If Sullivan is out of the way [rest assured?] our interests his [illegible]. I wrote Sullivan today, a confidential letter on that point.

There is no use in disguising the fact that you and I have personal friends who are running in a direction politically that cannot advance our interests. That is if they are identical.

Stone our delegate will see you. He is an honest clever fellow and I believe has but one wish in politics and that is to serve my interests. Give him the [benefit?] of your counsel.

Yrs Trly  
A.G. Curtin

Bellevue 7 June 1889

Dear Mr. Sligo

Dear Sir

Mr. Dennis sent you  
me this morning to ask me if you would  
object to his making some \$400 of school  
warrants to the Henisling Bank - He  
hesitated to do so as you might justly  
expect him to credit our Bank with  
them - His reason for desiring to send  
them to Henisling Bank is that we  
owe a balance them -

I took the responsibility of telling  
him to send them to Henisling Bank and  
promised to write you of pleasure in

Yours truly

W. G. Corstine

Bellefonte  
7 June 1859  
Hon E. Slifer  
Dear Sir

Mr Harris sent for me this morning to ask me if you would object to his sending some \$400 of school warrants to the Harrisburg Bank. He hesitated to do so as you might justly expect him to credit our Bank with this. His reason for deciding to send this to Harrisburg Bank is that we own a balance there.

I took the responsibility of telling him to send them to Harrisburg Bank and promised to write an explanation.

Yrs Trly  
A.G. Curtin.

Phila 29 June 1859

My dear Sir

In consequence of the  
failure of Mr. Fallow the ac-  
count of Henry McAlister  
Hale & Co is not as we des-  
ired in Bank here -

We are secured by  
a judgment but some  
of Fallow's acceptances  
have been returned -

If you can I  
will be much obliged  
if you will send me  
by return of mail part  
of the \$4000 school draft  
I mentioned to you  
say me brief of it -

I sent the draft to  
Mrs. Thomas to enclose  
and return to you

If you can do as regards  
the charge check to  
account of H. No. 74. 610 -  
We would be  
much obliged if you  
could let us have  
some time before  
the 1<sup>st</sup> August how  
you wish to de-  
scribe arrangements - We  
that project know  
I will see you -

If you cannot  
give us the \$2000 no  
matter and I will  
not remove the appli-  
cation but that I  
am here -

I am at the  
Lizette House -

Yours Truly

W. S. Lester

Phila 29 June 1859

My dear sir

In consequence of the failure of Wm Fallen the account of Humes McAllister Hale [it] is not as we desire in Bank here.

We are [secured?] by a judgment but none of Fallen acceptance have been returned.

If you can I will be much obliged if you will and send me return of mail part of the \$4000 school draft I mentioned to you. [Send?] me half of it.

I sent the draft to [Mr?] [Thomas?] to enclose and return to you.

[page break]

If you can do as [requested] change check to account of H. Mc. H. [one word illegible]

We would be much obliged if you could let us have even [this?] [illegible] the 1<sup>st</sup> August have your wish or [private?] arranged. [See?] that [magic?] knows I will see you.

If you [can't?] give us the \$2000 no matter and I could not [remove?] the application but that I can be [one word illegible].

I am at the [Girard] house.

Yrs Trly  
A. G. Curtin