

[From the Washington Standard.]

A LETTER FROM MAJOR VAN BOKKELEN.

EDITOR STANDARD:—I notice that the would-be censor of the Democratic party, has given my name in his last issue, as his authority for charges made by him against G. A. Meigs, of Port Madison. In relation to the same, the editor of the *Democrat* has no right to use my name. But he has done it, as during the last winter I opposed him and others in forcing on the Democratic party the nomination of a Delegate to Congress, as I thought, as a member of the party, that after the re election of Lincoln it was policy for the party to remain dormant in the coming election, as an admitted fact that a Delegate opposed to the Administration has no influence at Washington. For these ideas I was scoffed at by him and told that I was no Democrat.

I was but one of a large number at Olympia last winter that discussed the proposed visit of the agent of the Freedmans' Bureau to the Sound, for the purpose of soliciting the mill owners to agree to employ some of the negroes they had on hand, the said agent being at that time in Victoria soliciting that Colony to take a number. In all these discussions it was generally allowed that Mercer's proposed Emigrant scheme included the negroes.

Mr. Mercer, and a number of persons at that time represented Mr. Meigs to be a warm friend of Mercer's colonization scheme, as it was to the interest of the mills to have men with families, employed around them instead of single men, as they were not so shiftless.

Mr. Mercer represented to me that after the adjournment of the Legislature he should visit all the mills to see what number of families each would employ if he brought them out. He has generally been considered a warm advocate of the negro.

But after the introduction of the celebrated bill prohibiting importation of negroes, he in a conversation with me stated that it was never his intention to touch the negroes, but only to bring out mechanics and mill men with families. During the discussion of this subject last winter, it was often said that as Mr. Meigs was such a firm friend of Mercer's that he would certainly take some of the negroes when Mercer brought them out.

But for myself I am certain that I never made an assertion in the presence of the editor of the *Democrat*, or any one, that Mr. Meigs had agreed to take a lot of negroes from Mr. Mercer if he brought them out, or was in favor of it. So the editor of the *Democrat* must go further to find some one upon whom to fasten the authority of his political assertions.

J. J. H. VAN BOKKELEN.

Port Townsend, May 23, '65.