

Troy, Dec. 24, 1877

Hon John Bigelow:

Dear Sir: As an old printer and a friend of Mr. Parmenter, you will excuse me for writing about his bid for the legislative printing, since I have seen the bids and the reported award in the Argus. I have carefully examined the bids and am squarely of the judgment that if the bid of Van, DeWittszen, of the Albany Times, is closely scrutinized, you will not fail to see that it is greatly higher than Parmenter's. Mr. P. proposes \$29,000 per annual session. There will be but one full annual session, and part only of another, therefore this part of a session which, from an experience of four years in doing the work I am enabled to say would embrace full half the work of the session, it being the fore part of the session, & when most of the heavy reports are sent in, — would, under Parmenter's bid, amount to \$14,500 only and thus, in point of fact, make his bid \$43,500 against Van B's

bid of \$55,000, or \$11,500 the lowest.

The phrase "State Institutions" in Van B's bid is at least ambiguous. He can say that it means only State Prisons, or institutions owned by the State. Parmenter's lump bid covers all such work. And Mr B's lump bid of \$58,000 is, ^{also,} lower than Van B's, because it includes every thing without any qualification. It is my candid opinion that his bid of \$58,000 is the lowest of all.

Very Respectfully Yours

Alanson Cook