

ained his election. The Committee came, and sat at Lawrence, with what results our readers already know. The whole tissue of villainies was unmasked. The illegal votes were confessed by those who put them in the box. A Secret Armed Society to make a Slave State of Kansas was acknowledged by its own members. Brutal assaults on the Judges and Voters at Polls were sworn to by the Judges themselves. The march of the invading army was clearly traced by ferrymen, teamsters and neighbors, from their homes in Missouri across the River and the frontier, into Lawrence and the adjoining towns. The Census and the Poll Lists confirmed the testimony of the witnesses by showing that the marauding usurpers of Suffrage and Government in Kansas were well known residents of Missouri.

Immediately the Pro-Slavery men set about the desperate enterprise of breaking up the Investigation, and destroying the Testimony. They went to the houses of witnesses and threatened them with death if they testified. They sent a file of Dragoons to arrest Hutchinson, Branson, and others who were to give evidence. They sent a Constable of a Missouri Court with a sham subpoena in a pretended case, after Reeder, who was helping the examination. They seized Gov. Robinson, without a warrant, supposing him to have the official copy of the Testimony, which they meant to destroy. They got Col. Sumner and his Troops sent to a distant village, where they could not interpose to protect the Settlers. Then they got one Lecompte, a tool of the President, and by him appointed a Judge, to issue indictments for high treason, without a shadow of cause, against all who had taken part in framing the Constitution and submitting it to Congress for approval. Finally, they mustered a force some two thousand strong, made up of Missouri, Carolina and Alabama adventurers, and the dregs of a border population, and marched against the town of Lawrence with cannon and small arms, avowing their intention not only to seize whom they saw fit, but to burn and raze it to the ground, drive off or kill the inhabitants and divide the booty.

The Lawrence inhabitants sent deputation, deprecating an attack, offering to submit to all lawful authority, promising to aid them in making arrests, and pledging themselves to do all that could be required of law-abiding citizens. They might as well as have sent messages to stop a conflagration or a pestilence. The messengers were received with indignity and answered with insult. The motley gang of all kinds of raked and scraped up villains, marched on the town.

—The telegraph and letters of correspondents tell the rest. The public buildings of Lawrence are in ruins. Its shops and houses are robbed. Of its inhabitants, some plundered of all they possessed, are flying for shelter in the woods and on the prairies; some prisoners in the hands of brutal captors; some lie dead amid the ashes of their homes. Lawrence—freedom-loving Lawrence—is offered up a reeking, bloody sacrifice to our National idol—Slavery.

The History of Lawrence.

Lawrence was founded in 1834. A colony of

Emigrants from New England, many of whom

went out through the auspices of the Massachusetts Aid Society, chose its site. That site was

on the south bank of the Kansas River, about

forty-five miles from its junction with the Mis-

sonri. Here, remote enough, as they supposed,

to be secure from molestation, something less

than fifty families erected their rude habitations,

and betook themselves to peaceful agricultural

labor on the adjoining prairie.

When the first inroad of the Missourians took

place, Lawrence was in its infancy. The armed

mob camped with their wagons near the town,

and committed with impunity such violence

and frauds as they desired at the Polls. The

Settlers were too few to resist. Besides they

were unarmed.

The brutality of the invading mob on this,

and two subsequent Election Days, admonished

the Settlers of the necessity of arms to defend

their lives and their families. They procured a

small supply of rifles from the East. The audacity

of Freemen seeking to protect their homes

from bloodshed, astounded the Missouri Gang

and shocked their Democratic sympathizers here.

For a year and a half, the Democratic press has

teemed with libels, and Democratic rostrums

resounded with abuse, of this act of the little

band of Settlers, as if manhood in our republic

were a felony, and love of freedom a crime.

But it had the desired effect. It held the Mis-

souri cowards at bay. The mere fact that 200

Rifles were in that town kept the would-be

invaders out of it, until they could be re-inforced

by Military Companies from the Southern States,

and Troops from the Federal Forts.

Meanwhile Lawrence was thriving and growing.

Of course New England men did not let a

winter and summer pass over their heads, with-

out building a School for their children, and a

Church to worship the God of their fathers, after

their fathers' fashion. Brickyards were laid out,

saw-mills were set in motion, stores opened, and

within a few months Hotels were erected and

printing presses at work.

Emigrants from the Northern States continued

to flock in, induced partly by the commercial

advantages of the place, partly by the belief that

they would be safe there from violence, when

they would not be safe anywhere else in the

Territory. It soon became known as a "Free

State" town. The leading "Free State" men

lived there. Three "Free State" newspapers

were published there, the "Herald of Freedom,"

"Free State," and "Tribune." The "Safety

Committee" held its meetings there. The move-

ment for a Free Constitution originated in Law-

rence.

This was enough to make it obnoxious to the

Pro-Slavery Party throughout the Union. But

they did not dare to proceed to open violence

against the peaceable and law-abiding Towns-

men until they got connivance and sanction from the

President of the United States.

To get an excuse for assailing, the President

was obliged to misrepresent them. In his Pro-

clamation of February 11th he characterized

their meeting to petition him for redress, as a

"combination to resist the execution of the

laws!" A Convention precisely like those of

other Territories to frame a Constitution, he

spoke of as an attempt "subvert by violence all

present Constitutional authority!" Benevolent

associations and persons who gave the emigrant

a gun for his defence or helped to pay his pas-

sage, the President charged with "engaging men

and collecting money in remote States, for an

armed intervention in the affairs of the Territory!"

And then, under pretences he knew to be false,

he sent U. S. Troops to "resist an invasion"

that no man in the Free States ever dreamed of

making; and to "suppress an insurrection"

which no two men in the Territory ever joined

to get up.

Encouraged by Executive approbation, Slavery

mustered its hordes to exterminate the doomed

Town. They set out from Weston, from St.

Louis, from Charleston and from Mobile. They

went in organized Companies. They had Cap-

tains and Lieutenants. They took Muskets,

Field-pieces, Cutlasses and Pistols, with the full

approval of those who thought the sending of

"Sharpe's Rifles" to Lawrence a heinous crime.

They were drilled and paid like mercenaries, as

they were. They were under pledges not to

settle, but to march where their leaders might

order, and to fire upon whomever their leader

should command. They were to come back

when the fight was over. These were styled in

the Albany Atlas and Argus and kindred Pro-

Slavery journals, "Southern Emigrants to Kan-

sas!"

A relentless persecution instantly commenced

against individuals. The Emigrant from the

Free States was bullied and brow-beaten from the

time he left St. Louis to the time he found shel-

ter in Lawrence. He was cross-questioned by

self-constituted inquisitors. His baggage was

searched. His arms were stolen. He was warn-

ed that if he went into Lawrence he should be

shot. He was warned that if he came out of

Lawrence he should be tarred and feathered.

When at last settled, he fared worse. Armed

intruders broke into his cabin. His vote was

denied him at the polls. An infernal Code for-

bade him even to speak of Freedom in the

streets. Ruffians assailed him with impunity.

The Courts instead of protecting, arrested and

imprisoned or carried him to Missouri, without

warrant of law or accusation of an offence. Men

known to live in Lawrence were hunted like

wild beasts on the prairies. One was shot dead

for saying he should vote to make Kansas a Free

State. One was mangled and murdered with

bowie-knives for refusing to swear allegiance to

Missouri. Three or four were beaten, tarred

and feathered. Several were compelled by threats

and mob violence to quit the Territory.

It was in vain the poor people of Lawrence

appealed for protection, to the President, to

Congress, and to the United States Troops. The

President took their petitions with contemptu-

ous silence. Congress sneered at them and flung

them under its tables. The Troops could not

move without orders, and their only orders were

to help the murderous invaders. The people of

the North, some busy, some apathetic, looked

on. The people of the South excitedly urged

forward the career of violence with men, with

money and with applause. And a venial Press,

bought with a pittance from the vaults of the

Treasury, despised even by those who used

it for their tool, poured out a daily stream of

ribald jests and insults over the sufferings of

Freemen from Free States, their own former

neighbors and kinsmen, whose only crime was

a desire to save by lawful means, Free Territory

from the curse of Slavery!

The contested seat of Gov. REEDER gave rise

to a debate in the House of Representatives, and

led to the appointment of a Committee of Inves-

tigation, into the frauds by which Whitfield ob-