

THE SACKING OF LAWRENCE.

Ruffian Arson, Robbery and Murder.

PARTICULARS by an EYE WITNESS.

No Private Arms Surrendered.

A Woman shot by the Ruffians.

A Pro-Slavery Account.

To the Editor of the St. Louis (Missouri) Democrat:

A little before sunrise on Wednesday morning, May 21st, a body of men armed with U. S. muskets and cannon, appeared upon the hill about three-fourths of a mile southeast from the town of Lawrence. Additional forces continued to arrive for several hours from the direction of Leocompton, and also from Franklin. Between 8 and 9 o'clock, part of the troops moved down to the north, by Gov. Robinson's house, to a hill immediately overlooking the town. About 11 o'clock, U. S. Deputy Marshal W. P. Fain (three weeks from Georgia) with a posse of eight men, came into Lawrence. They were respectfully received at the Eldridge House. The Marshal first summoned several prominent citizens to aid his posse, and then proceeded to arrest Judge Smith and Col. Deitzler on a charge of high treason. Judge Smith was sitting in the reading room of the Hotel, and when informed that the Marshal wished to see him, he cheerfully went into his room and submitted himself to the arrest. During these proceedings there was no stir or excitement in the town, and not more than twenty or thirty men were about the streets. The Marshal and his posse took dinner at the Hotel, after which Col. Eldridge went with his hack, and conveyed the prisoners and part of the posse to the camp.

The Marshal now dismissed his entire posse and Sheriff Jones immediately summoned them all. And then commenced the scenes disgraceful to humanity, the destruction of Kansas, and the end of which God only knows.

About one o'clock p. m. Jones rode into town with a posse of twenty-five mounted men, armed with muskets and bayonets. They proceeded to the Hotel, and Jones called for Gen. Pomeroy. He came to the door. Jones stated he had several times been resisted in that place—attempt had been made to assassinate him—and he now declared that he was "determined to execute the law if he lost his life." And now, said he, I, as United States Marshal and Sheriff of the county of Douglas, demand of you, as the most prominent man in the place, the surrender of all the cannon and Sharpe's rifles that you have, and I give you five minutes to decide whether you will give them up, taking out his watch, and noting the time. The General went up to the Committee room, and returned in a few minutes, and replied that the cannon would given be up; but that there were no Sharpe's rifles in the place, except such as were private property, and that those could not be surrendered. Jones seemed to think that they had rifles which were not private property, and requested him to stack all they had in the street, and said that such as could be proved to be private property would be returned. By this time the whole posse, variously estimated at from five to eight hundred men, were marching down the hill, and coming into town on the south side.

The cannon (four pieces) were produced and carried through the streets. One was a brass six-pounder; the others little pop guns, which a man could comfortably carry on his shoulders. No rifles were delivered up. Jones now told Col. Eldridge, who occupied the hotel and owned the furniture, that the hotel must be destroyed; that he was acting strictly under orders. The grand jury at Leocompton had declared the hotel and presses at Lawrence a nuisance, and ordered him to destroy them. He would give Col. Eldridge an opportunity to remove his furniture, and for that purpose he might have until five o'clock. It was then fifteen minutes past three. Col. Eldridge replied that the furniture could not be removed in less time than half a day, and desired a longer time. Jones refused. Then said Eldridge, give me time to remove my family, that is all I ask. A part of the furniture was afterwards removed by the posse as plunder, but most of it was burned with the house. By this time the "law and order" mob was pouring into the streets, and the residents, men, women and children, sought shelter in the adjoining woods.

The first property destroyed was the press of the Kansas Free State, which was thrown into the river, and everything pertaining to the office, with exchanges, paper, and a large quantity of miscellaneous books, was thrown into the street, mutilated and destroyed. The flag of the lone star ("S. Carolina and Southern Rights") was hoisted first upon the house of G. W. Brown, of the Herald of Freedom, and afterwards upon the Hotel. Brown's press and everything in the office shared the same fate as the other, and a wagon load of books and papers was trampled in the streets.

Jones promised in the commencement that no private property should be destroyed. But houses were broken open and rifled of whatever suited the fancy of the mob. Locks, bolts or bars, were no security. Windows and doors were broken and destroyed, and money and valuables to a large amount are missing. It was currently reported, and uncontradicted, that eight thousand dollars, chiefly in money, was lost from one house.

About five o'clock, three cannon were placed in the street, twelve or fifteen rods east of the hotel, and some thirty shots were fired, shattering the wall considerably, but proving altogether too slow a method of destruction for these "law and order" men. They then set fire to the building in different places, and put several kegs of powder under it. The flames and smoke soon burst out at the windows, and the whole building was in a blaze. The walls trembled and fell, and the shouts and yells of the mob proclaimed the triumph of law and order in Lawrence. While the hotel was burning, the house of G. W. Brown was twice set on fire. The floor was burned through. The fire was finally extinguished by some young men of Lawrence. The mob threatened to shoot them, but they were not deterred. If his house had burned, several others must certainly have been destroyed, and there would have been danger of burning nearly half the town. Many of the mob were bent on destroying every house in the place, and speeches were made urging the destruction of the whole town.

Atchison, it is said, advised moderation. Col. Jackson, of Georgia, with many others, were opposed to the burning of the hotel. A tender-hearted man from Missouri, who had come out to exterminate the d--d abolitionists, shed tears at the sight of the destruction of the property of innocent, unoffending men, as he found them to be. The mob began to disperse an hour before sunset, and at sundown most of them had left the town. A few, overcome by excitement or stupefied by liquor, lay insensible in the street. They were unharmed by the people of Lawrence.

In the evening Gov. Robinson's house was set on fire and burned to the ground. And thus ended, for that day, the execution of the "law" in Lawrence.

The women and children of Lawrence slept that night either beneath the friendly sheltering trees along the banks of the Kansas, or huddled together in small houses and cabins on the outskirts of the town.

One man of the posse was killed by the falling of a brick from the Hotel.

The report that a free State man was killed at Lawrence, on the 21st, I think a mistake. I think it has reference to a most cold-blooded murder committed by them on the 19th inst., at Blanton's Bridge, three miles south of Lawrence, where a man named John Jones was shot after he had delivered up his revolver. The man who shot him saying as he did it, "I have shot one God d--d abolitionist, and I'll shoot another." Jones was from Illinois. He died the next night.

From the numbers whom I have seen returning, and from credible information, I am of opinion that there were three men from Missouri to one from the Territory engaged in the invasion.

The free State men had made no preparations for defence, and no resistance was attempted. Men from all parts of the Territory would have come to assist them, but they did not desire it. So long as there was hope in peaceful measures they would resort to no other. I greatly fear that that time is past, and that the scenes of the 21st will prove to be the commencement of a civil war in Kansas.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE—A WOMAN SHOT.

In addition to the foregoing we have been furnished with the subjoined letter just received by a gentleman in St. Louis, which throws additional light upon the fearful state of license and disorder now existing in Kansas:—

TOPEKA, May 22.

DEAR BROTHER—Your wife is very unwell. She was injured in traveling the other day from here to my house. A party fired upon us, and a ball passed through her arm. Come here immediately. I will send this by Mr. Dunn, as there is no dependence to be placed in the mails. Yours affectionately,

GEO. H. WOODS.

There are five hundred men here in arms. Free State men.

KANSAS CITY, May 22.

Correspondence of the Missouri Democrat.

I suppose you will have already published the general facts of the sacking of Lawrence before this reaches you. A town given up to desolation and partial destruction—balls whistling in every direction before the women and children had an opportunity to make their escape—children separated from their parents in the dismal confusion—mothers rushing through the streets with infants in their arms—the mining and firing of the Free State Hotel—it is a picture of the miseries and barbarities of war—the worst of all wars, internecine and fratricidal war.

SETTING FIRE TO A LIBRARY.

During the attack upon the Free State printing press, a valuable library of some four or five hundred volumes belonging to Mr. Brown, the editor, was several times set on fire by a portion of the posse, and as often extinguished by the citizens. Had it been destroyed, the flames would have laid in ashes the whole of the eastern part of the town.

Scarcely had the firing on the Free State Hotel commenced, when parties dispersed through the town, breaking open stores and private dwellings indiscriminately, and helping themselves to all they could lay their hands on. On the main street nearly every house was sacked. One man, Mr. Johnson, who kept a boarding house, had the amount of \$2,000 in drafts, checks and land warrants taken from him. Col. Topliffe, a graduate of West Point, and appointed last fall by Gov. Shannon Colonel of militia, was forced into a room at the Free State Hotel by members of the posse, and deprived of his commission, private papers, gold watch, and money to the amount of \$800. His trunk was then broken open with a bayonet, and his clothes taken out and carried off.

THE SHOOTING OF YOUNG JONES.

I am cognizant of facts relative to the murder of the boy Jones, which probably will not reach you so soon from any other quarter. On the Monday previous to the attack on Lawrence, he was proceeding on horseback about two miles from Wakarusa, when he met five or six men who ordered him to stop and deliver up his arms. He replied, "All the arms I have is that little pistol," which he gave up. His assailants then called upon him for the horse he rode, which he refused to surrender, saying he had a mother dependent on himself and his team for support. He then started on, was called to by the captain of the band, who threatened to shoot him. To this he paid no attention. He was then fired upon and shot through the back, the ball lodging in the abdomen. This took place about noon. He died at 11 o'clock that night.

THE DEATH OF STUART.

On the afternoon of that day, a party of five started from Lawrence to see young Jones. On their way they were met by two pro-slavery men from Leocompton going to Franklin. They were commanded to halt and turn back. This they refused to do, saying they were "determined to see young Jones, who was shot on the Wakarusa." On attempting to pursue their course, the two men raised their rifles to fire. The rifles snapped. Instantly the Lawrence party drew up their rifles, which also snapped. One of the two then made a second attempt to discharge his piece, which proved too successful. A young man by the name of Stuart, from Buffalo, N. Y., and Clerk of the Free Topoka Legislature, fell mortally wounded. The ball struck him in the left eye and passed entirely through the head, scattering fragments of the skull over the road. One of the Lawrence party then fired a revolver, the ball of which struck the man that had shot Stuart in the hand. He dropped his rifle and rode off.

WHAT SHANNON INTENDS TO DO.

Some days before the sacking of the town, Shannon said after the attack on Lawrence, he intended to station one hundred United States troops at Lawrence; 100 at Topeka; and 100 on the Wakarusa and at Osawattamis. It is thought that the reason why he did not do this before the attack, was his little confidence in the regular military, who sympathize with the Lawrence people.

A "BORDER RUFFIAN" ACCOUNT.

From the Kansas City (Mo.) Enterprise, May 22.

From the Border Times extra of to-day we make the following extracts, with some additional particulars, which we obtained from Judge Fain, who was on the ground at the time. It is perfectly reliable and correct:—

Early Wednesday morning, the U. S. Marshal's posse took possession of the Mound in front of Lawrence, and between 10 and 11 o'clock the Marshal sent his Deputy, W. P. Fain, Esq., into Lawrence with a posse of eight.

They made four arrests and returned and delivered their prisoners to the Marshal, who then dismissed his entire posse; when Sheriff Jones immediately summoned them all and took about twenty with him into Lawrence.

Jones rode up in front of the Free State Hotel, and calling for Gen. Pomeroy, demanded all the Sharpe's rifles and artillery, giving him five minutes to decide whether he would surrender or not.

Pomeroy said he would surrender all he could get, and fifteen minutes was allowed them to stack their arms in the street.

Sheriff Jones then requested Col. Eldridge to remove his furniture from the Free State Hotel, giving him two hours to do so in. Eldridge declined, when the posse entered and removed most of the furniture into the street.

It was the express orders of Sheriff Jones that no private property should be injured, and particularly that Robinson's house should not be touched, but the crowd had become so highly excited that nothing could be done to restrain them. They then carried the artillery in front of the Free State Hotel, and fired upon it until the walls began to fall; they then set it on fire and left it in ruins.

The printing materials of the Herald of Freedom and Kansas Free State offices, were thrown into the river.

After a portion of the posse had left, Robinson's house was burned.

During the excitement, a man attempted to run, was hailed, he did not stop—he was shot.

A Pro-Slavery man was accidentally killed by the falling of a brick from the Hotel walls.

A receipt was given by Sheriff Jones to Gen. Pomeroy for all the rifles and cannon surrendered by him to the authorities of Douglas county.

KANSAS CITY HOTEL THREATENED.

The Hotel at Kansas City, (Mo.) which is said to belong to the Emigrant Company, is threatened with destruction. The following proclamation: of a meeting of the citizens, called by the Mayor, was for that purpose:—

CITIZENS' MEETING!—A meeting of the citizens of Kansas City will be held at the Mayor's office this evening at 4 o'clock, to consider measures relative to the American Hotel. Let there be a general attendance. M. J. PAYNE, Mayor.

May 21, 1856.