

*Camp at Leecompton, K. T., Oct. 5, 1856* —

There is little to write you this week of public import. Our company is stationed here for the present to guard 106 prisoners, captured recently at different times and places. One portion of them, to the number of 89, was yesterday committed to stand a trial on the charge of murder in the first degree. These were a part of Harvy's men, who attacked Hickory Point, and were in turn attacked by the U. S. troops. Out of 250 men, 110 were on that occasion made prisoners—some 20 having since escaped by the connivance of the free State troopers. They seemed to be impressed with the idea, however, that it is useless to attempt an escape from our company. For although they are well treated they are neither hand-cuffed nor locked in, yet they are guarded with the most military vigilance.

I am sitting in the door of my marquee, on the slope of a beautiful hill, overlooking the building in which these prisoners are incarcerated, not one hundred yards off. In front of the encampment, and bearing upon the prisoners' house, is the bronze six pounder, taken with the prisoners. This old piece is one of the battery captured at Sacramento by Doniphan's Regiment, and brought from Mexico by them. It was subsequently presented to the Franklin Company in this county, and is the same piece that was taken by the abolitionists in their night attack upon Franklin some six weeks ago. Its caisson is pretty well provided with lead and type-metal balls, and canisters filled with slugs. Something like a hundred Sharp's rifles, muskets and carbines are lying in the marquee.

Harvy, with a small part of his forces, made his escape, and has not since been heard from. It is pretty certain that he and Lane have left the Territory. Capt. Walker was here yesterday, under the Governor's protection. He was arrested by the Marshal's deputy, and afterwards released by the Governor. I do not think that the Executive can claim such a high prerogative, although I do not know but that it is the best policy to frighten Walker away, instead of arresting him. He remarked to Col. Titus yesterday, that he had no further interest in this Territory, and that he intended to leave immediately. He is a brave man and a noble enemy, and active as he has been in the Free State cause, he has ever set his face sternly against their prevailing mode of warfare—horse-stealing and house-burning.

Judge Cato is still engaged in the investigation of these cases, and it is probable that nearly all will be committed, as our prosecuting attorney is a legal giant who sweeps all before him. I do not think any will be admitted to bail, as the laws of the Territory declare such cases notailable. Their trial will come off in three weeks.

Winter is coming on already here. We had three or four very heavy frosts a week ago, and plenty of ice has been seen; notwithstanding, the people are ill-prepared for the season. Comparatively few buildings were put up this summer, on account of the feeble tenure on property of that kind, and all that were built are mere thin summer houses. The young crops have been destroyed throughout the country, horses and cattle stolen, or rather pressed, merchants broken up, credit lost and creditors swindled, and the better portion of the population fast deserting the country, leaving behind a swarm of vampires, who batten upon the ruin of the fair young land. These are the dire consequences of the first blush of war. This state of affairs I looked forward to before I left home, and yet I deliberately came to meet it. Much worse than this, I fear, will visit the territory, and yet I say the time is not at hand for the South to draw off her hosts. Let her rally on the little band of patriots who are sacrificing their all in the contest, and one more struggle—stern, vigorous, destructive—and the contest is ended—the victory won.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. P.

[*Abbeville Banner.*]