

[From the Charleston Evening News, June 24.]  
Executive Committee Kansas Association.  
CHARLESTON, JUNE 22, 1856.

To the People of Charleston:

The following interesting communication has been made to the Committee by Maj. Warren D. Wilkes, lately returned from the Territory of Kansas, as a plenipotentiary from the emigrants to raise men and money for the great cause in which he is engaged.

The Committee have directed that this communication be offered to the papers of Charleston for publication. We wish to bring home to the people of Charleston the fact, that the battle-field of slavery has been selected—it is Kansas! Whether the field has been well chosen or not, is no longer a matter for question; it is enough that the ground is laid out. The communication of Major Wilkes is plain, clear and distinct.

Men and money are wanted for the work; money more than men—money is wanted to support those who are there already, for the reason plainly set forth by Major Wilkes. Men are wanted to multiply their numbers as bona fide settlers, to direct and regulate a wholesome condition of public feeling; to interest themselves in the soil and to secure the fruits of a well founded public opinion, in their voice at the ballot box in October next. Hence it follows, that if the men who are there need money, and you send more men, additional supplies of money will be required for the work. The Committee do not intend to argue the cause to the public of Charleston; the cause has argued itself already; they are pledged to it, by all that a people hold most dear, by their interests, by their character, by their lives, by their religion, by their honor. The Committee pledge themselves to use their best endeavors to ensure the effective and judicious disposition of the contributions of the people, and they will call on every inhabitant whom they can reach, and receive his contributions. Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,  
JAMES SIMONS, Chairman, &c.

COMMERCIAL HOUSE, June 22nd, 1856.

Hon. James Simons:

Dear Sir:—Matters of a personal nature, and the condition of our South Carolina Emigrants, compel me to hasten my departure for the Territory of Kansas. In view of this fact, and with the hope of securing a concert of action upon the part of the people of our State, I deem it best to leave for Orangeburg to-night, to address a public meeting on to-morrow, and proceed thence through the upper Districts. It will be impossible for me, therefore, to attend the meeting of your Committee on to-morrow evening, and I submit herewith a brief statement of facts with regard to that Territory, the recent troubles and the wants of our Emigrants.

Far away in the sun-set regions of the West, distant some 1700 miles from this point, lies the Territory of Kansas, fronting East upon the Missouri River; bounded West by the Rocky Mountains, North by the Territory of Nebraska, and South by the Indian Territory. Its length due East and West is 800 miles, and mean breadth 250 miles, with an area of over 117,000 square miles; you will observe that it is four times as large as the State of South Carolina. It is an inclined plain, declining gradually from the Mountains to the Missouri river, whose rolling prairies, grass-carpeted plains, and lovely wood-fringed streams, are peculiarly inviting to the eye, and profitable to the herdsman and agriculturist.

This immense Territory, disintegrated from the Louisiana purchase of 1803, by the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, is of immense value to the slaveholding States South and West in an agricultural and political point of view. As an agricultural region it is equal to any upon the continent, and I affirm that slave labor will be more profitable there than in South Carolina. With an intermediate climate and fertile soil, and navigable rivers leading to the great commercial marts of the South, West and East, it offers a prospect of reward to the slaveholder equal to the Rice and Sea Island Cotton regions of the South. In travelling over two hundred miles of the Territory in company with gentlemen of experience, I became satisfied that it was equally adapted to slave labor with the border counties of Missouri.—In soil, climate and topography it corresponds with the border counties; in those counties Hemp, Grain and Stock are principally raised, and raised by slave labor; for in them will be found the largest slave population of Missouri; hence you will readily conclude that slavery should be extended into Kansas, and if carried there will be profitable.

The objection often urged against that Territory, that it is deficient in timber for purposes of building and enclosure is not well founded; it is interspersed with numerous streams, each of which are heavily timbered, and, as yet, the inhabitants have suffered no inconvenience from a want of lumber. Indeed they have an inexhaustible supply of limestone rock, prepared almost for buildings by the Great Architect of Nature, while fences can be readily constructed with turf. So much for its climate, productions, etc.

The Northern boundary of Kansas lies along the 40th parallel of North latitude, and I believe that no Southerner ever thought of attempting to carry slavery into any territory north of that line. But while the South has voluntarily surrendered Nebraska, Oregon and Washington Territories, she did not feel disposed to surrender Kansas to free-soilism. She saw that its climate, soil and products, fitted it for slave labor, and hence has made and is still making, an effort to appropriate it. The North, however, with a vindictiveness and avarice quite characteristic, is moving heaven and earth to oust her. Not content with that large portion of our country guaranteed her by the laws of geography, climatology and political economy, she seeks to deprive the South of Kansas, guaranteed to slavery by the same unchangeable laws. Enraged by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, which opened that Territory to settlement by the South, the North is attempting to determine its political character and domestic institutions by means of aid societies. States remote from that territory, and in no way concerned in the character of its institutions, are attempting to impose upon it a political character ruinous to States adjoining. This is all done to paralyze the quiet action of the Kansas bill, and annul the simple act of justice done the South by that act.

These aid societies have, in attempting to compass their end, flooded the territory with a low and depraved population. The cities of the North have been ransacked for whisky-drinkers and street bullies, to settle it with; and from what I could see and learn, they went with no other purpose than to fight and vote. This seems to be their only avocation, and all the recent strife and bloodshed in the territory, is justly attributable to them.

Our emigrants went there with no expectation of fighting—it was their purpose to settle down, go to work, improve the country and their condition, and at the October elections decide the question of slavery at the ballot box. But this they were not permitted to do—the attempted assassination of S. J. Jones, the Sheriff of Douglas county, in the town of Lawrence, while executing the duties of his office in the presence of A. H. Reeder and Charles Robinson, and during the session of the Congressional Committee; the resolutions of an abolition meeting held at Osawatimie—the insult offered Judge Cato at the same place, and the dispersion of his Court by an armed band—their refusal to pay taxes, and the incendiary speeches of Robinson and Reeder, all warned the pro-slavery party that the laws were to be set at defiance, and a conflict of arms invited. And such was the result. Reeder and Robinson contended that there was no legally constituted Legislature—that the members of the Legislature of last fall were elected by votes from Missouri, which made them irresponsible agents for the people, and that all laws passed by them were unconstitutional, and not binding. They instructed their followers that there were no territorial laws excepted by a competent Legislature—that the first Legislature, elected and convened by Governor Reeder himself, had no right to legislate for them, and that they should resist to “a bloody issue” all attempts to enforce its laws.—Hence followed all the outrages enumerated above. We endeavored to avoid a conflict by appealing to Gov. Shannon. Among others I waited upon him, as a committee from the pro-slavery party, and called upon him to call out the U. S. troops or the Kansas militia to repress these outrages, and force obedience to the laws. He did not conceive that he had such power, under the instructions of the President, and did not do it. Soon after, indictments for high treason were issued against Reeder, Robinson and others, and the officer was resisted in attempting to arrest the parties indicted. On the 12th May, J. B. Donaldson, U. S. Marshal, issued a proclamation, summoning all law-abiding citizens to aid him in making arrests. We did so, and also carried out the judgment of the Court by destroying certain incendiary presses and free State property. Since then, a fierce civil war has raged, and is likely to rage, until one or the other of the parties is exterminated. As a consequence all business has been suspended, agricultural operations stopped, and I may safely assert that not a half crop will be raised in the Territory this year. Hence our emigrants must receive material aid to support them, or they will be forced to leave the Territory. Some of them were preparing to merchandise, others were surveying, and a large portion of them were about settling on the Big Blue, and erecting a Palmetto city when they were summoned to arms. The Government furnished no ammunition and but a half supply of provisions for the campaign, and hence our emigrants from the South had to contribute money to purchase them. This, together with the cost of subsistence, before and after the campaign, has well nigh exhausted their purses. They now appeal to the South for money to sustain them until the contest is decided by arms or at the ballot box. I may safely affirm that Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Ohio are sending a reinforcement of men and a supply of money to the abolition party in the Territory; and hence a speedy assistance is rendered the pro-slavery party, in the way of men and money, it will be vanquished upon the field and at the polls.

The importance of securing Kansas for the South, may be briefly set forth in a positive and negative form:

First. By consent of parties the present contest in Kansas, is made the turning point in the destinies of Slavery and Abolitionism. If the South triumphs, Abolitionism will be defeated; and shorn of its power for all time. If she is defeated, Abolitionism will grow more insolent and aggressive, until the utter ruin of the South is consummated.

Second. If the South secures Kansas, she will extend slavery into all Territory South of the 40 deg. parallel of North Latitude to the Rio Grande, and this of course will secure for her pent up institutions of Slavery an ample outlet, and restore her power in Congress. If the North secures Kansas, the power of the South in Congress will be gradually diminished;—the States of Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Texas, together with the adjacent Territories will gradually become abolitionized and the slave population confined to the States East of the Mississippi, will become valueless. All depend upon the action of the present moment.

Excuse this brief report; owing to a press of engagements since my arrival in the State, I have been unable to arrange a logical statement of facts with regard to the affairs of Kansas; hence this report is disconnected and incomplete. The substantial facts, however, are contained in it. If you deem a Public Meeting necessary, I will attend it upon notice.

I design returning to Kansas the last of July, and will convey thither any funds committed to my charge.

Respectfully,  
WARREN D. WILKES.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE KANSAS ASSOCIATION,  
CHARLESTON, June 24, 1856.

NOTICE.—The Executive Committee will call on the inhabitants of the city of Charleston, commencing with Ward No. 1, for contributions for Kansas, on and after Thursday, the 26th inst.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

JAMES SIMONS. W. HENRY HEYWARD.  
NELSON MITCHELL. JAMES CONNER.  
W. MCK PARKER. J. W. R. POPE.  
C. K. HUGER. P. J. BARBOT.  
W. C. COURTENAY. THOMAS FROST.