

LETTER FROM KANSAS.

COUNCIL CITY, May 29, 1856.

Editors Cleveland Leader :

As one of the Western Reserve party, who left your vicinity on the 8th of April, in company with S. N. Wood, Esq., for Kansas, it seems highly proper that, through the worthy columns of your paper, (if you will grant the favor,) those who were interested in that party should know something of the progress of affairs, and the perilous circumstances of the Free State party here.

The assassination of Jones, (a matter wholly without the control or countenance in the least of the free state men of Kansas,) has been the signal for a renewal of cowardly murders, wanton destruction of property, the pillaging and robbery of houses, and gross outrages upon honorable and unoffending citizens.

Almost immediately after this unfortunate occurrence, some three or four hundred Kickapoo Rangers, stationed themselves on the opposite side of the Kansas river, from Lawrence, swearing to revenge the attack on Jones. Gangs poured in from other points in Missouri, and the Southern States generally; and Lawrence was again invaded by *Ruffians*. Passengers were stopped and searched, arms taken, and all sorts of outrages perpetrated.

Information was repeatedly given to Governor Shannon, and requests made for protection; but, instead of protection, insults and abuse were the only rewards, and it is reported that Colonel Sumner was insulted, and dismissed with his forces, for being the bearer of such a request.— Meanwhile, a Grand Jury, under Judge Le-compte, finds bills of treason against Governors Robinson, Reeder, and about all the free state leaders.

Robinson is arrested at Lexington by a mob; Brown, of the *Herald of Freedom*, is taken near Westport; and the United States Marshal (the soldiers having been sent away lest they should interfere) goes into Lawrence, and asks a pledge that he, a *United States officer*, shall not be resisted in making arrests. That pledge is given, as the people are unwilling to contend with United States authorities. He then takes from four to seven hundred *Ruffians*, enters Lawrence, and makes arrests of all the chief men that can be found. Then, unknown to the people, he dismisses the mob, who, led on by Atchison and Jones, under color of United States authority, tear down the Free State Hotel, destroy and throw the printing presses into the river, and commit such other horrors and barbarities as are found in the sacking of cities in time of war.

The free state men, taken by surprise, and destitute of leaders, offer no resistance; and, while the banditti are robbing houses, not only of arms, but of jewelry and everything desirable, Atchison enters Governor Robinson's house, and, taking a seat, coolly remarks that it is a fine place, and perhaps he should some time come there to live. After enjoying it awhile, he goes out, and the house, with all its contents, is burned to the ground, and there is hardly a handful left of all the Governor's papers. On the day following Atchison marched the Platte county riflemen through Lawrence in triumph, thus showing that the threat of Douglas, in the Senate, was not without meaning.

Such is the beginning of the programme in the subjugation of Kansas, and the *Ruffians* boldly proclaim that the remainder is to spread over the Territory, and enact similar scenes wherever free state men can be found, until we are swept from the Territory, and if we do not submit, we are found guilty of treason, and the United States authority is brought to bear upon us.

Such is our position, and although we might resist the *Ruffians*, yet is it to be expected that a handful of us scattered, as we are, can resist the black minions of Frank Pierce, the Tyrant? I rejoice for Kansas, that the reign is shortly to end; and our hope is that we can (by what help may be given from the North) hold out till a republican President is elected. If that cannot be, I know not what we can hope for. We are not idle; companies are forming in all quarters, and it is reported that a large number are collected at Topeka, and also at Hickory Point. What we shall come to no one knows; but a struggle is expected, and, men of the North, where are you, while Missouri and other Southern States are sending in their forces? Let us have your aid or we are gone. Come by hundreds and by thousands. Is Kansas to be saved or lost?—

There is no time to lose.

L. R.