

To THE EDITOR OF THE ATLAS

In this Territory, at this time, speculation is at a high pitch. For the first time in Kansas, have the poor $\frac{3}{4}$ sections been able to secure a sure title to their homes. The hardships through which they have passed, in retaining their claims, are unaccountable, and can never be compensated for by the nominal price, by which they come in possession of their lands. The Free State settlers, harassed with such unrelenting cruelty, have been barely able to protect themselves from the Border Ruffians, while they have neglected the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. Not having funds to purchase their quarter sections, they are obliged to apply to the speculators for money, for which they pay as high a rate as 40 per cent. But give these men peace, and they will wipe these embarrassments out, and thrive in the ratio of their disasters.

This week, the speculators have been more compromising among themselves. It is understood that they have held their secret congress, to arrange their bids for the following day. Today, Col. Titus's companies of Infantry and cavalry have been paid off and disbanded. Titus, and Capt. John Donelson, have received appointments under Gen. Walker, and will soon leave for Nicaragua, to engage in filibustering for the slave propaganda. Gov. Geary is said to have expressed great satisfaction in being relieved of these troublesome and unmanageable fellows.

Before leaving Tecumseh, Titus invited the prisoners to join him in Nicaragua, and released some of them on that condition. The boys, however, now say they shall wait till the peace of Kansas is permanently restored.

It is well understood here, that the pro-slavery men connived at the escape of the prisoners, in order to bring Geary into trouble with the free State men. Thursday night nine more prisoners escaped from Leocopton, and made their appearance in Lawrence. Their sufferings in prison have been very great. Rumor is still that Geary will soon muster his forces to recapture them. Also that Judge Leocopte is to be removed by the President.

Lawrence presents an improving aspect. Buildings are being pushed up and fitted, for dwellings and warehouses. The Free State Hotel is slowly progressing. The foundations are carefully relaid. We visited a fine quarry in Franklin, where the workmen are preparing the material for the hotel. It will be a more substantial structure than the previous one.

The forts and barricades surrounding the town still remaining, give a very warlike appearance. But for these simple and rude protections, the peaceful inhabitants of this beautiful town, must before now have been destroyed by their enemies.

The great question of slavery is still debated—Shall Kansas be free? The citizens of K. regard its ultimate freedom as certain, whatever may be the policy of the incoming administration.

FREEMAN.