

## THE OUTRAGES IN KANSAS.

From the accounts of the late acts of violence in Kansas which are coming to us by the mails it appears that, whatever may have been the folly of any attempt to resist the law by the people of Kansas—if any such attempt were made in the present case—the Marshal's posse converted themselves into a mob rather than a body of conservators of the peace. A writer who dates his letter at Leavenworth on the 19th instant briefly recurs to the origin of the present disturbances. He says:

"The first scene in this black tragedy was enacted in Judge Lecompt's Court, where very many of our leading men had been indicted, some for treason and some for lesser crimes. The second is the proclamation of the United States Marshal, calling upon all law abiding citizens to assemble at Leecompton to assist him in the arrest of those citizens of Lawrence who resisted the execution of writs in his hands. To refute this false imputation, I would say that the United States Marshal has been resisted in one single instance. The only instance wherein our enemies charge us of resistance is that of Reeder's. Gov. Reeder claimed the protection of the Congressional committee. He took the ground that his position, before that committee secured him from arrest. He did not claim that the United States Marshal was not a legal officer. Upon his refusing to give himself up, the cry of 'rebel,' 'traitor,' 'resistance to law,' was raised, loud and long. The proclamation was issued, and about fifteen or twenty hundred armed desperadoes concentrated around Lawrence. In this array I do not believe there was over one hundred actual residents of the Territory. This force threatens the destruction of Lawrence, and I have no doubt they will carry out their threats."

The writer then proceeds to state why the people of Lawrence would not resist the entrance of the Marshal's posse into their town:

"The people of Kansas (he says) have never intended to take a position against the execution of any law. They claim loyalty and fidelity to the Union; they will not oppose nor resist a United States officer. This they certainly will never do, until revolution becomes the only means of securing their rights. The United States Marshal is an officer of the General Government; he has a right to summon a posse to assist him; but whether he has the power, under the circumstances, to summon fifteen hundred armed men to enter with him a small village of a few hundred quiet citizens, with me is doubtful. This is the dividing point. A majority of the people of Lawrence and of Kansas, fearing that they may take a step in which they would not be supported by the country; fearing they may resist a legal officer; fearing that the entry of this army may legally be considered a posse, have decided to make no resistance, although very many (inasmuch as this army say openly that they intend to destroy Lawrence) believe it should be treated as a mob, and for their own safety resist their entrance to the town."

The events above foreshadowed have come to pass, in part. The Missouri Democrat of the 27th instant has the following letter from an "Eye-Witness," (whose statements are confirmed by other accounts,) giving the particulars of the entrance of the posse into the town of Lawrence, and of their unjustifiable conduct in sacking and destroying a portion of it. Their proceedings in enforcing "law and order," as here related, cannot meet the sanction of the people of any section of the country when passion and prejudice shall have subsided.

FROM THE MISSOURI DEMOCRAT OF MAY 27.

A little before sunrise on Wednesday morning, May 21st, a body of men, armed with United States 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 Leecompton, and also from Franklin. Between eight and nine o'clock part of the troops moved down to the north, by Gov. Robinson's house, to a hill immediately overlooking the town. About eleven o'clock United States Deputy Marshal W. P. FAIR, (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 sixty or thirty men were about the streets. The Marshal and his posse took dinner at the hotel, after which Col. Eldridge went with his back and conveyed the prisoners and a 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, destructive to 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; attempts 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 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 be given 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 be of opinion 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 street. 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 Leecompton 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 burnt 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 every thing pertaining to the office, with exchanges, paper, and a large quantity of miscellaneous books, were thrown into the street, mutilated, and destroyed. The flag of the Lone Star ("South 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 every thing 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 missing.

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 burnt through. The fire was finally extinguished by some young men of Lawrence. The mob threatened to shoot them, but they were not deterred. If this house had burnt 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 damned 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 burnt 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 instant, at Eaton's bridge, three miles south of Lawrence, where a man named John Jones was shot after he had delivered up his revolver.

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 this invasion.

The Free State men had made no preparation 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.

AS EYE WITNESS.

## LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

St. Louis, May 30.—A correspondent of the Republic, writing from Independence on the 26th, says that eight pro-slavery settlers on Potawatamic Creek had been murdered by a party of Free State men, and report says that the deed was committed by an organized band, who had determined to wreak vengeance upon the opponents of their views. The other settlers had petitioned Gov. Shannon for aid to protect themselves and their property.

All was quiet at Leecompton, Lawrence, and Franklin. United States troops had been stationed at each of these places. Dr. Root and Mr. Mitchell, of New Haven, are reported to have been killed by the posse ten miles from Lawrence.