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Epaphroditus Randoin
30 March

Confidential

Washington D. C., March 30, 1857

Gen. S. Cass
Secy of State
Washington
D. C.

Dear Sir

I cannot adequately express to you, the gratification I feel on learning that you had consented to accept the charge of the State Department, the office of first importance in our government next to that of President. And my feelings of satisfaction are shared with every true loveing man at least in Kansas & I have no doubt in any other Country - And a wise & prudent administration of the affairs of that department is most especially important to the people of this Territory at the present juncture - We are again threatened with disturbances, such as so grievously afflicted the people of the Territory, & so fearfully convulsed our whole Country last year - The notorious "old Prover" is again in the field instigating the band of marauders under his control to deeds of violence - Henry Sherman, known here as "Dutch Henry" a quiet, unoffending man, who has been in this Country some ten years engaged in the Indian trade, was a short

Utterance, uttered in open day - He was an
account & uncomproising demoralized possessor of a
good property & had become particularly obnoxious
to the Missouri Black Republican crew of "Old
Brown" - He had determined to leave the country & had
sold his property with that view & rec'd. the money for
it - He was set upon, surrounded, & all the money
found upon his person taken from him, not believing
they had not obtained all the money worth of
himself, the next day shot him dead, in the street
This occurred at Kawallerie in the Territory of
Franklin, the scene of many of Brown's murders
& predatory exploits of last year - The ~~murder of Sherman~~
murder of Sherman is believed to be now concealed
in Lawrence, the well known head-quarters of the
Black Republicans in Kansas -

Robinson appearing to be governor of this Territory
under the Poplar Constitution has returned here & is
advising & stimulating his deluded Coadjutors to
reacquire him as Governor of the State of Kansas
& to resist the authorities appointed & elected & can
created in accordance with an organic Act.

A Convention of the malcontents had been called
& was held at Poplar on the day following Robinson's
return to the Territory - He attended, & it is said, made
a violent, incendiary speech, exhorting the Black
Republican party to adhere to the Poplar organization
to disregard the laws of the Territorial Legislature -
to abstain from voting under them - to refuse pay

payment of taxes, in short, to set them & all territorial authority, entirely at defiance - Resolutions were adopted by the Com^{tee} ~~with~~ in concurrence with the honorable Council & almost immediately thereupon "Dr. H. H. H. H." was robbed & murdered at Arawattomin - The enumeration of the people & a valuation of their property which were provided for by the late territorial legislature & which were commenced by the proper officers have been systematically resisted in Franklin County & the officers compelled to abandon their duty & the enumeration & valuation in that Co. have been entirely broken up & prevented.

The informant "Fire Law" has also returned to the Territory & on the first night after his arrival, made a speech at Lawrence said to have been highly inflammatory & like in purpose to the one delivered by Robinson at Topeka - Law addressed a public meeting at Topeka, on Friday last, in the same tone & spirit advocating the same line of policy, previously urged upon their party by Robinson.

Robinson I hear, publicly avows a determination to call a session of their legislature in June.

Surrounded as we are with exciting dangers & menaces with those, we have reason to fear, will follow, we are dismayed to hear that the military force now in the Territory, already too small, is about to be, all or nearly all, withdrawn - We earnestly hope this measure if determined on may be reconsidered & ~~reversed~~ the order

to withdraw the troops, if made, General ordered
The number of troops now here, surely is not too
large & in my judgment should not be reduced by
the detachment of a single man; on the contrary, I
think the emergency demands an increase, rather.

It will be born in mind that during the
months of May & June there are to be sales of
large tracts of public lands, in different places in
the Territory, where men will necessarily be assembling
to & about those places with large sums of money
in possession, & unless protected by a competent armed
force, stationed at or near the place of such sales
they will surely fall victims more or less of them,
to the desperate rascals that infest this Country,
robbing & murdering under pretence of persecuting
& punishing political wrongs -

We are to have exciting elections in June &
October, when, if there be no U. States ~~troop~~ troops in
the Territory, or not a small force, & that at Fort
Leavenworth, the most fearful results may well
be apprehended - Should Robinson secure his
Black Republican henchmen & they organize as a
legislature, they undoubtedly should be dispersed, or
if they commit treason arrested - An efficient
military force might & probably, would be necessary
to do either - We have no Sanitary & no sufficient
Jails in Kansas, all ~~our~~ prisoners, as well as convicts, as
those charged with crime, are in custody of a
"Master of Convicts" & generally entirely at large, around
towns & among the people - A Company of Dragoons
has been stationed here, which has kept them in
awe & quiet subjection - The Dragoons have been
ordered to Fort L - & marched for that destination

on Saturday ²last. I have great fears that the

Councils will now throw off all restraint & subordination & set their Keper & the laws, entirely at defiance. They are, ^{most of them} indeed perpetrators for crimes perpetrated, during the disturbances of last year & are, a large part of them, ultra Republicans.

In my judgment there should be kept in Kansas for the next twelve months, at the very least - a full Regiment of well appointed Troops - Mounted men would be far the ^{most} efficient for the service here.

They should be distributed thro' the Territory as the Executive might from time to time require. At present there should be placed here two Companies to remain, at least, till the Land sales & Elections are over. There should also be two Companies in the south part of the Territory, at Anawtonia & Fort Scott & two at each other point where the land sales are to be held - And two at Fort Leavenworth subject to the Governor's requisition.

It may be deemed arrogant in me to offer suggestions of my own, touching these important matters of governmental policy and I trust you will pardon me at least for stating such facts as have fallen within my knowledge.

Our difficulties at this juncture are now daily felt, for the reason that we are without an Executive head. The departure & subsequent resignation of Gov. Geary, surprised us very much. He did not, I am told, hint to his most intimate friends, his

intention of leaving, up to the very hour of going and he did not even inform the Secretary of the Territory of his purpose until just as he was about to start.

The conduct of Gov. G. after his departure, in ^{his} ^{own} ^{particulars}, universally condemned here - His volitional address was well received by all, & had he gone no further, would have left him strong in the affection & confidence of a great majority of the people of Kansas but the charges he preferred against the national administration - the Officers of the Army & of this Territory & against the Citizens of Kansas & more especially those of this town whom he had misled, & among those all, giving pub^l to his grievances thro' the St. Louis Democrat, a vile filthy vehicle of abolition falsehood & abuse, gave our great offense - I have not heard one man attempt to justify or excuse it -

I exceedingly regret the Governor's Course - I have from my arrival here, believed him a true Union loving Democrat, sincerely attached to his party & to the Country & earnestly desirous of doing that which would best promote the interests of Kansas - I always thought he erred in the affair with Fredk. Sumner & I think he mistook his true line of policy duty as well as of policy in his difficulty with Sherman but his most fatal error was, in my judgment, in anxiety & feebly endeavoring to conciliate the latter for his party & of the Union - the whole Republicans.

The leading men of that party have been much around here, even Robinson called to see him

when on his way to the Peoples Meeting the other day - This I have regretted to do, as I have believed it injurious to his own reputation & knew it to be very distasteful to his dear friends -

But Gov. G. has had much to contend with here - much to annoy & agitate him - The leading men of his party, in this town, with the Surveyor General at their head, early took ground against him - the organ of the party here - the Leconteian Union - took the same position - the entire Dem. Pops of the Territory, with a single exception, soon followed & in a few weeks after his advent, a great majority of the leading Democrats of Kansas, rank & file, were openly arrayed against his administration -

He is a very nervous, excitable man & every thing was done & said that well could w. to irritate & perplex him - The Territorial Conv^o held on the 12th Inst. last was loud in denunciation of the Gov. & his policy, & the Legislature which assembled on the same day, came together with like feeling towards the Executive, & most palpably acted under its influence throughout the session - They kept Gov. G. ~~down~~ constantly upon the rack - in unremitted torture.

For weeks he hardly left his room, he neither enjoyed sleep or food - his nervous system was shattered - his health gave way - he imagined his life to be in danger - he determined to resign his post of duty & leave the Territory & finally, without an hour's notice, came to his household, he left Leconteian in the evening

went to Lawrence, spent the night there, with Walker,
a prominent State Republican & a conspicuous
actor & abettor in the scenes of violence, robbery,
& murder that were enacted, last year, in this
then distracted & unhappy Country - The next day
he passed out of the territory & after embarking on a
steamer for St. Louis, addressed a brief note to Secretary
Woodson, saying he had left the territory for a few
days & desiring him to perform the duties of the
Executive Office - His resignation & farewell address
soon appeared & almost simultaneously with the
latter, came the article in the St. Louis Democrat
of the 18th inst. asserted by its Editor to be, in substance
what Gov. Q. had stated to him in person -

His friends here, it was manifest in the last degree -
They were perfectly astounded by it -

Gov. Q. can justify himself only in one way,
that is by an unqualified denial that he visited
the office of the Democrat - that he saw its Editor
or that he in any way, by word or letter, made
the statements attributed to him in that paper.

His friends can excuse him, only on the ground
that he was insane - His Physicians say, such
was the fact - that he had been aware of it for
two weeks - that it proceeded from the impaired
state of his mind & that he advised him sometime
time to go away & reside - It is charitable
to suppose that he was not in his right mind
if he authorized the publication of the article
in question - Do not suppose, from what I have written
that we are in any way, to have the tragic scene

of last season. warranted this - If a sufficient force of U. States troops be kept here & judiciously posted, the very first daring of a treasonable design may be extinguished - the first outbreak in violation of law & order may be crushed & the quiet & safety of the people preserved

There is a very strong desire for peace, felt & manifested by a large majority of the citizens of the territory, of all classes & of all shades of politics but there are some unscrupulous unprincipled men, that would be not only willing, but glad, to see the "reign of terror" of rapine & of blood, visitated & there are numbers of the abolitionists who openly ~~and~~ avow their determination to oppose it - that is, they advocate a policy & measures that must if adopted inevitably lead to that result - And I religiously believe should the government troops be withdrawn from the territory that no human power can avert the terrible calamity - God in his mercy grant the latter evil may pass over us -

If it is said, the local militia may be called out to maintain the laws & preserve peace it may be answered that that expedient was tried last year & equally failed & must always fail here, it cannot succeed - The reason is obvious - All our citizens would be democrats & usually strong partisans in feeling, the officers would all be democrats & also active party men - all entertain a bitter feeling of hostility

towards the Black Republicans & that feeling is fully reciprocated & with large interest by the latter -

The moment the militia are brought together these mutual feelings of hatred & hate are increased around, all restraint is thrown off & a fratricidal warfare is the inevitable consequence - It was so year, in every instance in which the Kansas or Missouri militia were called into being & it would be infinitely worse than there cannot be a doubt but what to the militia or other domestic forces would prove far worse than useless -

We are looking with great anxiety, to the action of the President in the selection of a successor to Gov. Geary - We hope & believe he will be a sound democrat, & a ~~sound~~ sensible firm & prudent man.

I think the national democracy is decidedly in the ascendant in Kansas Territory & I have no doubt it will hasten down State, whenever admitted into the Union, ~~as~~ ~~the~~ But the abolitionists are making every possible effort, to increase their numbers by emigration from Northern & Eastern States -

I beg you to excuse me for intruding so long a communication upon you - Adieu I remain, dear Sir, most respectfully
your obt. servt

Chas. Richards

Note - I enclose a letter to the Pres^t please say in a note, at the foot of it, to the Pres^t that my statements may be relied on & let the letter go to Mr. Richardson, or to the proper office.
E. R.