

*Quaker Mission plundered and broken up—  
— The recent skirmishes — Treaty with  
Gov. Shannon— Warlike threats of Missouri.*

From the Chicago Tribune.

Kansas City, Aug. 23, '56.

A party of Georgians, some fifteen in number attacked the Quaker Mission, which is situated on the Shawnee Reserve, some six miles up the California road from Westport, on yesterday. They robbed the Mission of what horses they could find, and used the most violent and insulting language, even offering threats and insults to some of the ladies. Intimidated by this violence and the threats of further violence, the occupants of that peaceful, religious house fled from the Mission to seek some place where they might find greater security.

As they were leaving, Mr. Wm. Russell, Westport, Mo., urged them to remain, and expressed great regret that they should be driven away. He said they had a lot of these fellows about them, whom it was altogether impossible to control.

This Mr. Russell is agent for the Southern Armed Aid Society.

Men are crossing the Missouri river at this point to go into the territory. It is reported by the Border Ruffian leaders that there will be some twenty two hundred men ready to march into the territory in a few days.

The rumors of the threatened invasion have reached the people of Lawrence and they were beginning to make preparations for it. No fortifications, however, had then been made, unless they were made by Captain Brown, who was acting with what few men he had independent of the others.

The skirmish at Franklin, and the march on Washington Creek, were on the same night, the free State volunteers having gone towards Washington Creek as soon as they took the cannon and other arms from the Fort at Franklin. The Georgians on Washington Creek heard of their approach and fled without making a show of resistance.

The only attack was made on a camp of Southerners from Georgia, Alabama and Florida, camped near the house of Col. Titus.— This Titus has been one of the most violent and dangerous of the Southerners who emigrated to the territory this summer. Only a few weeks ago he burned the house of a Free State settler in open day, and when the owner, a Mr. Smith, attempted to resist, he was cruelly maltreated and beaten. He assembled around him a band of young Southerners, as stated and these have been engaged in horse-stealing and other depredations. They had built a log fort close to the house, and were prepared to defend themselves. As there was no remedy in law against the outrages of these men, and as the troops refused to interfere, their dispersion was indispensable.

Being strongly entrenched they resisted, and there was a pretty hot fight. At last the cannon taken at Franklin was brought to bear on and after two discharges they hung out to surrender the white flag. The Free State men ceased to fire, and advanced at surrender when they were again fired on from the fort, and several of them wounded. This would have justified an extermination of the whole band, but Col. Titus, who was wounded, and eighteen others were taken prisoners to Lawrence, where they were detained, the wounded of this number being well cared for.

The day after, being the 16th, Gov. Shannon, with an escort of United States troops, entered Lawrence, and had a conference with the Committee of Citizens, which was held in the Cincinnati House. Here he proposed to negotiate. The Pro-Slavery men held five Free State prisoners, who had been taken prisoners, at Franklin. As is usually the case, these men, although taken irregularly and by violence, were held under the Territorial officers, by form of law which is flexible and convenient, when the Pro-Slavery interests are concerned. In spite of this air of *legality*, Gov. Shannon proposed to deliver them in exchange for the nineteen prisoners taken in the storming of the fort at Col. Titus'.

This the Free State people of Lawrence more fully objected to on account of the unfairness of the proposed bargain; it not being fair to give nineteen men for five. They said they would comply with the proposal if Shannon and the Pro-Slavery men would give up the cannon taken at Lawrence in May last, and still held in Leecompton. This Shannon agreed to, and the terms of agreement were carried out by both parties in good faith. The five prisoners and the gun were regularly given in charge to Major Sedgwick, in his camp of U. S. Dragoons, who also received the nineteen prisoners from the Free State men, the exchanges being thus made, Major Sedgwick being the intermediate or impartial third party.

There is something supremely ridiculous in all this, and more than all other things shows the state of affairs existing in the Territory.