

From Our Kansas Correspondent.

Late and Important.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, May 27.

Messrs. Editors:

The war which has been inaugurated in Kansas by the Administration, is producing its legitimate and most deplorable results. It is scarcely in human nature, in unregenerate human nature, to endure, as we in this Territory have endured, of tyranny and oppression, a thousand fold worse than that which is universally considered ample justification for the American Revolution, endured for the sake of peace, because the oppression came from the political bad, and from our brothers, of this noble Republic, which we all love; one like of which, from any foreign power, would have called forth the execration, awe, the blood and treasure of the whole country—it is scarcely in human nature to endure to such length without, at least, a spasmodic effort of retaliation and revenge. The Free State men of Kansas, against whom is challenged the production of one single clear, or even probable, case of outrage against human rights and law and order, notwithstanding their provocations, who have stood together, shoulder to shoulder, in the successful effort to suffer with patience, hoping that finally the dawn would break, and the morning sun of our glorious day would arise in mildness and peace from out the darkness which surrounded us—are now in confusion and tumult. The patient camel's back was finally broken by the last straw laid upon it; so with the patience of the Free State men of Kansas. Not that the parallel holds good as to the last weight imposed, for upon us came down, with immense weight and crushing force, an avalanche of Herculean evils—the disarming of the people, the destruction of the press, the murder and robbery of individuals and communities, the execution of law upon the finding of indictments by Grand Juries, without trial or conviction, the announcement to us that although we might be permitted to enjoy our own opinions, (because they could not prevent it,) we must not express them or exercise the right of suffrage—all this, and more, like the last pound of the camel's load, has "crushed out" the last remains of patience and endurance in many of our people, and now has come the desperation of the stag at bay.

And although thousands of our friends in the Free States will, with me, lament and condemn the course which some of our people have determined upon—have felt themselves driven to by oppressors—and which is manifested in the developments of to-day and recently, which I will relate, still it is hoped that in judging them, the monster evil causes will be borne in mind, and that the judgment will be tempered accordingly. I am aware that there are those who will approve any extreme measures that may be adopted after the unparalleled outrages which have been recently committed in this town, and who, even now, are disposed to censure the people for having submitted to the extent they have, and who can see nothing but cowardice in their thus humbling themselves; but there is a heroic lotter than physical courage, and a victory is often won more complete, more enduring, more elevating, than that upon the battle field. Patience often conquers when impetuosity and ill advised, unreasoning impulse will dash its head against the rocks and spill its own brains.

A rumor came into town a few days since, since confirmed, that a portion of the Free State men in the Southern part of the Territory, are forming themselves into companies and parties, which they compare to Marion's and for similar purposes. They organize and unite to protect themselves and their property from these ruthless invaders; and in doing so, it is said, they intend driving them, and all who aid and abet them, from the Territory, or perish in the attempt. Considering the resident pro-Slavery men as not only culpable but as able to do them more harm than others, and as having been the instruments through which, and by means of which, their persons and property have been pointed out to the invaders, and they have consequently been murdered, arrested, robbed and outraged in almost every conceivable manner—they intend to make them furnish the means of subsistence, locomotion, &c. Guerilla Bands are forming, and the watchword is death or extermination, for Freedom and Slavery cannot exist together. It is either the exclusion of negro slavery or the imposition of white slavery. In this movement they but follow the example set them by our invaders, who have long since declared for the extermination of all Free State men, and who have stolen, plundered and slain.

This movement must not be confounded with the one on foot for a complete organization of the Free State party in the territory into companies for protection and defence only. It is thought best to pursue, as far as possible, the quiet, submissive policy thus far pursued, and which has made our cause so strong, and which, if persevered in, will certainly ensure our final success.

There is said to be a party or company of the kind first named—perhaps the word "guerilla" expresses too much—but for want of a better that is used—formed in the vicinity of Ossawatimie and Pottawattomie, and another on the Wakarusa, with whom some of our young bloods are connected. Having had their horses killed by the other party, they mount themselves by taking theirs in return, not always being careful to take from those who have taken from them. But I do not want to apologize for them, although many of them have been made entirely destitute by these means, and are driven to desperation.—We want still to be strictly defensive, not aggressive, and the great body of our people, and the wisest amongst us, disclaim all connection with, or responsibility for this movement.

A horrible affair occurred in the vicinity of Ossawatimie last Saturday. I will give you the Free State version of the affair, as it has been given by different persons. There is a pro-slavery neighborhood between Ossawatimie and Pottawattomie, about forty miles south of this place, in the midst of which has resided a Free State man, whose life had been repeatedly threatened by the other party. After the destruction in Lawrence, the Wakarusa bridge was threatened with destruction by the sheriff and his posse, in consequence of an indictment against it as a nuisance, because the Deputy-Sheriff was charged toll. A company was formed to protect it. A company had been previously formed at the place south, above named, under Capt. Brown, who will be recollected as the man who came to Lawrence in December with so large a family of boys, all ready to enlist for the war. On Saturday last this company started to come to Wakarusa to relieve the company there, as I understand it, when, taking occasion of their absence, the pro-slavery men took this Free State man whom they had threatened so long, and proceeded to hang him. There were five of them, among whom was Judge Wilkeson, a member of the bogus Legislature. They took their prisoner to a tree, put a rope around his neck, threw it over a limb, and were on the point of stringing him up, when they were attacked by a party of Free State men and all shot on the spot. A messenger came into town to-day from Capt. Brown with the news, and a request for Col. Topfiff to go there immediately, but the Col. has gone to Topeka. Capt. Brown saw the bodies after they were shot. Whether or not it was his company who returned and saved the man's life, I did not learn.

The account from the opposite party, as reported to Shannon at Lecompton to-day, was, that a company of Free State men, some say 150, others 20 or 30, entered the houses of these five men in the night, took them out and literally cut and hacked them to pieces, cutting off their ears and their faces, and mangling them in the most shocking manner. The account is its own refutation. Besides the greater reliability of Free State reports, the transaction is in no wise characteristic of the men or the party. The past is a criterion by which to judge of the present and future.

Marshal Donelson left Lecompton to-day for Leavenworth, it is said for protection. Governor Shannon leaves to-morrow. He told Mrs. G. W. Brown to-day that his daughter is sick in Ohio, and as his first duty is to his family, he shall go there. He is afraid for his life. He is very much alarmed at the guerilla organizations of both sides, fearing a general civil war. One word from him would have saved him his apprehensions, and probably the country the evils and horrors of a fraternal war.

Yesterday a company of U. S. dragoons went down to Ossawatimie to disperse the Company there organized.

The Lecompton Union, a pro-slavery paper, has a report that 150 Missourians had come into the neighborhood of Ossawatimie, and a battle was feared. Shannon has called upon Col. Sumner for two more companies of troops. Shannon declines calling Sumner into the field to take charge of the military operations, by which both parties would be protected, and a police force, in detached parties, stationed throughout the Territory for the preservation of peace; but calls out companies under the control of the Marshal and Sheriff.

On the receipt of the report from Ossawatimie yesterday, Shannon immediately ordered the prisoners in Lecompton removed to the camp of the U. S. troops for protection. Lecompton is about entirely deserted. A gloomy foreboding of the awful retribution which may result from the exasperation of the Free State men of the country, seems to have settled down upon them, from Shannon up to the highest private, and the Lecompton Union, in fear and trembling anticipation of suffering the fate of our presses, cries out in agony, with emphasis "We have done what we have done, and will do no more of let alone." The italics are his own. Well may he tremble, for I discern the hand-writing on the wall. However much I may disapprove of the means contemplated, I am satisfied that the fate of the Babylonian King and empire is to be almost literally visited upon the Slave power and its officials here.

Sheriff Jones said in the streets of this town, after the destruction, that that was the happiest day of his life, and he was then willing to die.—It is said he intends to resign, or has already resigned his office. He has had his revenge upon the "J—d Abolitionists."

While G. W. Brown was sitting at a window yesterday, conversing with the Lieutenant in command of the guard, a ball was fired from the woods near by, and struck the side of the window. Whether it was intentionally fired or not is not known.

It is rather a singular coincidence that among the four prisoners there under arrest for treason, three of them are named "George Washington," viz. G. W. Brown, G. W. Deitzler and G. W. Smith. Has the name, or have the men fallen upon evil times? Which, if either, is disgraced? I think neither.

On Sunday last the posse of the Marshal and Sheriff—500 men according to the Lecompton Union—was paid for their services, 22 days, at \$1.00 per day each, making the snug little sum of \$17,500, besides rations, for tearing down the best Hotel west of St. Louis, and furnished, as I heard Mr. Oliver of the Kansas Committee himself say, equal to any Hotel in that city, opened to the public on the day of its destruction, with a public dinner, at which the Marshal and his posse of eight, who first entered the town, were invited guests; and throwing the printing presses into the river, the liberty of which is guaranteed by the Constitution of the U. S., the driving out of the women and children, and the sacking and plundering of the town. For this service the people of Wisconsin will have to assist in paying. How do they like it? Let them reply in November. I.