

LAWRENCE, K. T., Thursday, Oct. 25, 1856.

To the Editor of the Missouri Democrat:

SIR: In *The Republican* of the 16th inst. is a communication, over the signature of "H. T. Titus," in which my name is made to figure. If Col. Titus had not placed himself as the undoubted author of this letter, I should never have supposed it was written by him.

I have but little cause to respect Col. Titus as a man of honor, or as one entertaining generous sentiments, but I had supposed that his desire to appear as a man occupying a reputable position would have restrained him from putting his name to a communication like that. Thus however, I will leave to him and his friends. It does me no harm. With those who know me, it will appear worse than folly, and with those who do not know me, I leave them with a few explanations, to the exercise of their judgments.

I have been raised an humble farmer, and have known no other life than that of industry. My habits were formed among the farmers of Pennsylvania. I lived a farmer in Ohio, and came to Kansas Territory as one, and settled down with my family on a claim about four miles from Leocompton. I built me a house, in which my family lived, and had under cultivation about twenty acres of land. I had but little to commence on, and looked with hope to the future for a competency for myself and family, from a fertile soil and the ample rewards therefrom, to industry and frugality, peace and quiet to me were everything.

When the question arose, as to whether this should be a Free State or Slave State, I, as a matter of course, being a laboring man, preferred the former. I was opposed to the manner in which the Legislature was chosen here and was opposed to the laws passed by it, but I am unconscious of ever having violated any of those laws, except those which inderdict the freedom of speech—a right guaranteed to me by the Constitution of the United States.

During the excitement in this country, every person was forced to take sides. My choice was with the Free-State party and I do not intend to speak here of the causes of this necessity. It is sufficient that it existed. No person knows better than Col. Titus, the grounds of the exasperation I was made to feel. We never acted but in self-defense, and that we banded together for this purpose, was in consequence of the organized bands on the other side. That we ever attacked, was with the sole view of warding off an attack—by trying to disperse those who had assembled to do us mischief. That Col. Titus was especially offensive to the Free-State party, was attributable to his brutal inhumanity toward them. He had an inebriate Governor to countenance him in it, and it was done with impunity.

When Col. Titus's house was attacked, it was with the full determination of taking his life—information having been first received that Mrs. Titus had gone to the States. His house, although it was the home of twenty or thirty of the most characterless men in the Territory, who were then there, was attacked successfully. After some firing, in which both parties suffered, Col. Titus's party surrendered. Col. Titus was found concealed in a closet; he was brought out, and seeing me, he appealed to me for protection. Although he had less right to appeal to me for protection—as he had offered \$500 for my head prior to this—than any other man in the crowd, still he did so. I could not see any man, wounded and bloody as he was, appeal to me under such circumstances without aiding him, if I could. I took Col. Titus under my charge at an imminent risk to myself. The Free-State party seemed unrelenting in their determination. I succeeded in getting him from among them, and took him to the stable, where I quieted his apprehensions by my promise that I would protect him. While I was thus engaged, his house was set on fire, and if he does not know that it was against my wish, he knows that it was without my agency. He was taken to Lawrence as a prisoner in the only vehicle we had at our command. He was tried by a Committee appointed for the purpose, and after a careful investigation into his previous conduct, he was sentenced to die, and he knows that it was through my earnest efforts in his favor that his life was spared, and that he was restored to liberty. So much for the relations between Col. Titus and myself.

The charm, he thinks, most potent to injure me, is to denounce me as an Abolitionist. This is generally successful. If Slavery is never interfered with until I trouble myself about it, it bids fair to endure for time. In Kansas, where I expect to live, and my children after me, I shall do what I can to make it a Free State; but to do that I will never lend a hand to do what is not right—right in the sense of the strictest morals. But in self-defense, for the protection of my home, I will bear me as stoutly as a right arm, nerved by labor, will permit. My home has been invaded, and indignities thrust upon me that would justify any man in pursuing the course I have pursued. I am satisfied with what I have done, and I will do the same again when the same causes excite me to it.

I trust Col. Titus will not give himself too much uneasiness about the attempt of any person to put himself on an equality with me. If that attempt were likely to be successful, I would here enter a solemn protest myself. Col. Titus should be careful how he attacks private character. He is not above reproach himself, and the life of adventure that he has led ought to make him very forbearing. I have too much self-respect to bandy epithets with him. I understand he is on the eve of departure for Nicaragua. Should he, however, remain, and the times should make it necessary, I would be happy to treat him again as I have treated him, not as he has treated me.

Col. Titus' free use of dirty epithets, he is welcome to. They were not thought to be gentle among those with whom he was raised.

I beg you will give this letter an insertion in *The Missouri Democrat*, together with the letter of Col. Titus. *The Republican* is so unreasonable and one-sided in its representations of matters in this Territory that I doubt if it would publish my letter, although it is simply in defense against a personal attack that it has given publicity to.

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL WALKER.