

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE TERRITORY—FREE-STATE EMIGRANTS DRIVEN OFF—ATTACK ON THE WISCONSIN EMIGRANTS—MURDER—THE GOVERNOR AND HIS CONFEDERATES—SOUTH KANSAS LEFT TO THE MERCY OF MISSOURI.

From Our Special Correspondent.

MIDDLE OTTAWA CREEK, Nov. 3, 1856.

The outrages now transpiring in the southern portion of the Territory are of startling importance, whether they are regarded for their direct results or the consequences that may flow from them. Peace cannot be said to exist in the region immediately south of this; and even here the molestation of the Pro-Slavery Ruffians gives a fatal and fearful insecurity to the settlers. Missouri, and her confederates now in the Territory, have evidently determined that the Free-State settlers on the Osage, the Potawatamie, Sugar Creek, and indeed all the settlements down to the Neosho, shall be driven out, and their places taken by Pro-Slavery men. The most determined effort is now making to consummate this result.

A ceaseless persecution of the Free-State settlers has been going on for weeks, indeed, ever since Gov. Geary's arrival. Parties of armed Pro-Slavery men ride about the country to plunder and intimidate. Written and verbal intimidations "to leave" have been served on the Free-State settlers, while the armed bands in question ride about the houses of the parties thus notified and intimidate them. Thus intimidated, plundered of much which they could ill afford to lose, a large number of the Free-State settlers in the region to which I refer have been obliged to forsake the homes they were making and flee from Kansas. In their places Pro-Slavery men are moving in. In one settlement a few miles from this, four families, each with a number of slaves, have moved in. Indeed, from all I have seen and heard, I have every reason to fear that nothing can prevent the fine portion of the Territory to which I refer from becoming a Pro-Slavery region, unless matters take a sudden turn. Armed bands from Missouri are continually coming up. On Sunday week a band of them rode toward Sugar Creek, and after threatening and bullying all the Free-State settlers they could find, finished by stealing some horses and going back. This was while Gov. Geary and his dragoons were in the neighborhood, or only a few miles off. On Friday last a party of seventy armed and mounted Missourians entered the Territory, and after rummaging about the Potawatamie and Little Sugar, got scared by the report that Capt. Brown was coming (who, by the by, was not thereabouts), and retreated precipitately to Missouri.

Immediately after the emigrant train that was stopped and plundered by the dragoons under Geary got into Lawrence, some fifty of these who were from Wisconsin, started down toward Osawatamie to locate in that section. Their guide, or superintendent, was Capt. C. E. Redfield, recently a member of the Wisconsin Legislature. I have seen the Captain and conversed with him on his squatter experience. The design of this party was to select claims as near each other as possible so as to secure safety to themselves, if possible, during the present crisis. They had been in the Osawatamie neighborhood for a few days, and as only a part of them had got claims and none had time to have houses built, they were in camp, in the same order as they had traveled. Such was their position when they were attacked one night by a large party who commenced firing upon them. As soon as they could get their arms they returned the fire as briskly as possible, and their assailants retreated taking two horses with them. Luckily none of the emigrants were hurt, whether any of the others got hit, they had no means of ascertaining. A few hours after daylight next morning, one of the horses that had been stolen returned, having got away from its captors. This furious and lawless attack was resumed next evening, and ended pretty much in the same way. Since then they have not been attacked, but the effect of these attacks was, of course, to impede their progress in making claims. Capt. Redfield said that the emigrants in question were poorly armed, and had little or no ammunition, and he was desirous to secure more of these, if possible, before another attack, the probabilities of which appear to be very good as Gov. Geary has left that portion of the Territory completely exposed to the mercy of the enemy.

On Bull Creek, some miles south-east of this, and toward Battiesville, there is a Pro-Slavery settler named Rogers, whose establishment is and has been a sort of Guerilla headquarters for roving Missourian Georgian or Carolinians. There is a lot of Georgians who make their headquarters there now. Some teamsters who were going to Westport one day last week, found a man lying near Bull Creek, who had been shot. He was not dead. They put him on their wagons and took him with them to Westport. He told them that he had been going to Westport with his team, after provisions, when he was attacked by the Georgians close to Bull Creek. They demanded his money, when he raised his gun; just at that moment one of them shot him, the ball entering his abdomen and lodging in his side. They robbed him and left him lying on the road, where the teamsters found him. He died when he got to Westport. On Saturday last a Free-State settler named Sutton, started from a few miles below this to go to Westport for provisions. He had got close to Bull Creek, when he saw a party of armed men approaching the road as if to intercept him. He immediately turned back and fled; they pursued him but he escaped. These incidents will illustrate the "peace and security" bestowed by Gov. Geary.

Gov. Geary has left this region and returned to Leocompton. The chief results of his expedition are the arrests of several Free-State men, whom he took at the instance of the Pro-Slavery cicerones, to whose guidance he lent himself while down in this quarter. One of the arrests is amusing: A Free-State settler of the selfish type, who has refused to assist in the defense of his own neighborhood, and who, even during the war of last summer, stayed at home and raised his crop, and allowed his neighbors to defend themselves when attacked as best they might, is one of those arrested by the Governor, at the instigation of his friends. What he has been arrested for it would be difficult to guess. The secret of the Pro-Slavery hostility to him is doubtless the fact that he has raised a good crop, and is *staking deep root*.

For weeks before Gov. Geary came down south with the dragoons complaints were carried to him by the settlers of the outrages perpetrated on them. With that insidious and snake-like subtlety which never misses an opportunity of advancing the true ends it means to serve, the Governor suggested that he could do nothing unless they would get "writs" out against the parties, in which case he

would see that they were arrested. That is, they must so far submit to the bogus officers and bogus law as to apply for writs and endeavor to get justice through that slimy and corrupt medium. Repulsive although this step is to every Free-State man, and one that few of them would take, still *this step was taken*. Among the most active and lawless of the Pro-Slavery men around and below Osawatamie is Martin White, and another who has acted as leader to these Pro-Slavery bands, a man named Capt. Brown. Further south, beyond the Sugar Creek, a man named Fox has been very conspicuous; having led several parties to grievous acts of violence, and who makes a business of notifying Free-State men to leave. Among the other crimes, Martin White is charged with the murder of Frederick Brown, of which there is no doubt that he is guilty. As there was abundant evidence against these three, the Free-State settlers contrived to get writs for their arrest. Under the circumstances, these could not be very well refused, especially as those who gave them knew that they would amount to nothing. Mark how Gov. Geary *sees these writs!* During his sojourn in their respective neighborhoods, the Governor made each of these men his companion. They rode with him and his dragoons, *explaining* the state of the country, &c. I need not say that not one of the writs was served. Not one of them was arrested, although there is little doubt that several Free-State men were arrested at their instance.

During the Governor's stay at Osawatamie another attempt was made to get him to enroll a company of Free-State militia to defend that region. This was made by different parties from those who first made it, but the application was refused. This terminates the Governor's expedition south, which leaves that neighborhood at the mercy of the Pro-Slavery men.

LAWRENCE, Morning, Nov. 4, 1856.

Yesterday afternoon the snow fell drearily on Kansas, and this morning there is a sharp frost and nature wears a white and wintry aspect. I hope and think that this is merely one of the first early storms that brush ahead of Winter to warn of its coming, and that we will have fine weather and sunshine yet. The Kaw River has been quite high, and if the Platte River is also as high the Missouri may get into good navigable stage for a week or two before navigation closes.

I have just heard a report, which there is too much reason to fear is true, and which threatens the peace which Lawrence and vicinity has enjoyed for the few past weeks. Indeed, the signs of the times admonish us of a general renewal of the war by the restless Pro-Slavery men. Marshal Fain, who undertook to arrest Capt. Walker and Lieut Harvey of the militia has not done it yet; but it appears he has not been idle. He states that he has applied to the regular troops for assistance to make the arrests, and that they would not give him the desired assistance. This statement I have reason to believe is false. He has, it appears, called on Col. Titus, commander of the Pro-Slavery "militia" at Leocompton, and the call has met with a hearty response. Col. Titus is willing to come down to Lawrence with one or more of his companies and assist in the arrest of Walker. As the "militia" here had learned that Titus had actually been making preparations to come down yesterday, and as an attack was expected on the camp of Capt. Walker's militia last night, all the men were on the *qui vive*; and if the attack had been made, there would have been a fight. The night passed peaceably, and this morning all is still quiet enough, but there is no doubt but Fain, and all the rest of the Pro-Slavery confederates, are bent on mischief. Nothing could demonstrate the fallacy of the whole of this "militia" movement clearer than this, and I fear we have not seen the worst of it yet. The Pro-Slavery party and the Border Ruffians are evidently bent on war.

I hear of nothing new in the progress of the political trials. Court is dragging along as usual.