

TROUBLE ON SUGAR CREEK—THE GOVERNOR AND THE MILITIA—THE MISSISSIPPI COMPANY.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Oct. 21, 1856.

Yesterday witnessed a sad spectacle in Lawrence. The body of a young man named Bowles, who emigrated to the Territory from Wisconsin last Summer, was brought from the prison camp in Leecompton, and interred in the Lawrence Cemetery. He was of the company of one hundred and upward who were taken by the United States dragoons, under orders of Gov. Geary, and who have been confined ignominiously under the ruffian Titus and his "militia" at Leecompton. Although the deceased has been confined for weeks, it is altogether uncertain whether there would be any indictment found against him, as it is also doubtful whether a particle of testimony can be found against the larger portion of his companions. Like those companions, he endured much, and in his case exhausted nature sank beneath its sufferings. No medical attendant waited on him to alleviate his miseries, or give hope to the young life which sunk under a cloud. No communication as to his condition was made by the wild and reckless guard of the unfortunate prisoners. The brother of the deceased—a young daguerrean artist of this city, and the only relative that the deceased had in the Territory—received in the startling intelligence of his death the first intimation of his illness.

Recently the crowd of prisoners, (numbering still well nigh a hundred,) have been huddled in a small building at Leecompton. Human nature may endure much with the fresh breezes of Kansas blowing around even such a prison, but memory recalls the frightful story of the Black Hole of Calcutta, and hard facts insist on drawing a parallel. The wild history of unhappy Kansas has recorded many a more startling and horrifying death than this, but there is something in its peculiar character which writes "DESOTISM," in letters of fire, upon the crime. It out-Jesuits Jesuitism in refinement of cruelty with the affectation of innocence; and in becoming familiarized with such sad fate of the Free settlers of Kansas, we forget that we live in Republican America, or that freedom or civil rights are the national inheritance.

For some time back, the settlements toward Sugar Creek and the Potawatami have been infested by bands of "Law and Order" scoundrels, who have been committing all kinds of outrages, but whose chief object appears to be to root out the Free-State settlements and prevent other Free State emigrants from settling on that locality. For weeks back, complaints of these outrages have been made to Gov. Geary, the complainants receiving no satisfaction. As the Governor has issued a proclamation requiring the enrollment of militia, a company of the settlers near the vicinity of Osawattamie and Potawatamie, reported themselves to the Governor, but were not received. Only one company of Free-State men have been enrolled by the Governor, under Capt. Walker, at Lawrence, and this was unquestionably done for effect. There are about three hundred of these volunteer "militia" at Leecompton, clothed and rationed by the Government, a considerable portion of whom are, and claim to be, Missourians, "in to see the difficulties through," and the remainder are recently-imported Southerners. At every Pro-Slavery point there is a nest of them. The following from *The Leecompton Union* will show what the Pro-Slavery party think of it:

"KANSAS MILITIA.—This feature in the policy of our new Governor is much to be admired. It more effectually and speedily tends to secure peace, and afford protection to our citizens than any single course formerly adopted. He calls upon the citizens for volunteers for three months, forming infantry, cavalry and artillery companies. He now has about 300 volunteers, under the command of H. T. Titus. They are a noble set of boys, the very pick of our Territory, and cannot by any means be called raw recruits, for under their efficient leaders they are well drilled. We have several times witnessed their drilling, and although we are no military tactician, we can plainly see when a soldier knows his work. Our young friend Capt. Jack. Donelson is commanding one company. Jack's red-shirts will never be found wanting. Under such leaders as Col. Titus, Anderson and Cook—Capts. Donelson and Wallace, who can keep from learning to be a soldier and fighting bravely when their country calls!

Those who remember the sacking of Lawrence will know who the "Red Shirts" are. The policy of arming, equipping and sustaining large bodies of these Pro-Slavery Ruffian forces is, I believe, a pre-concerted and deliberate plan of the Oligarchy. The acceptance of Walker's Company of eighty-four was merely designed to shut the mouths of the Free-State men as to this dangerous arraying of a hostile power. This view of the case is rendered more conclusive by the fact that the Governor took a great deal of pains to get up the Lawrence Company, and get it under the command of Walker, who was known throughout the country as an active Free-State man. The main difficulty which the Free-State men experienced in enrolling themselves as militia under Governor Geary, was a well grounded fear that they might be called on to serve under the bogus Generals and Colonels appointed under authority of the Missouri Kansas Legislature (Gen. Richardson and Col. Stringfellow, for instance); or, as the Governor had declared that the bogus laws and officers must be sustained, that they would be called on, under persecuting political writs, to arrest their friends. While Governor Geary was exhausting his eloquence in endeavoring to persuade the Company to form under Walker, these important matters came on the tapis, of course. When the men were enrolled by Geary the oath was, beside the usual formula, simply to be subject to the orders of the Governor. It was understood, however, that before the men were raised some private pledges passed between the Governor and Capt. Walker, and others, and on the faith of these the men were raised. Every qualifying proviso, however, is strictly secret, and therefore in the hands of the Governor.

When the company raised near Osawattamie sent their report by Mr. James Holmes, First Lieutenant of the Company, they naturally wished to have some assurance on the same points, but the moment Mr. Holmes touched the subject, the Governor vulgarly replied: "You can't come it;" and when the messenger spoke of the dangers of the locality he came from, and the absolute necessity of the people having some legal means of protecting themselves, the Governor told him that "if he found any of them under arms that he would hang them." I have been thus particular in these details, in order that the reader may fully understand this "militia" business. In an article in *The Leecompton Union*, referring to Col. Titus, who commands the four Companies of "Militia" at Leecompton, it is freely avowed that "he is at his post, and ready to lead his 'boys' against the Free-State men."

Last Sunday Gov. Geary started down with several Companies of dragoons toward Sugar Creek. What are the true objects of his mission I am at a loss to determine. He avowed that he was going down to settle the difficulties on Sugar Creek. Of

one thing I feel very confident, and that is that they will return without making arrest of a single Pro-Slavery man. Neither will such an irregular and temporary foray afford any real security to the community in question. The expedition is either intended for effect, or means something still worse for Free-State men.

The returns have not been all received from the late Pro-Slavery election held in the Territory, but enough has been obtained to show that the vote will not be so large as the "Law-and-Order" party expected. They had counted on getting a considerable vote in the back settlements, at points where there was no invasion, this being their calculation on the supposed legitimate vote. From all of such quarters the vote is nothing, or next to nothing. At Franklin, and many other points where they have formerly polled votes, not a vote was polled. But for the invasion, the vote would have been a miserable farce.

There are a few items relative to the armed company of emigrants who came to Leecompton recently from the State of Mississippi. In order to illustrate their designs, I clip again from the last *Leecompton Union*;

"This company has received marked attention from the people wherever they have gone.

"In Westport, Mo., the citizens gave them a public welcome, at which there was much enthusiasm expressed. Several of the company made speeches bespeaking for Aberdeen and Mississippi several shares in Kansas stock. They asked for a place in the ranks, alongside Missouri, in the common cause of the South."

This candid admission of volunteer aid to "Missouri" has not much hypocrisy in it. This company, numbering (I know correctly) twenty-seven, instead of twenty-three men, came armed to Leecompton, and have lived there as an armed body, stacking their arms in front of their quarters at night, and being under guard. In order to illustrate the different reception given to the "chivalry," from that afforded to a peaceable emigrant train from the North, who were insulted, robbed and kept prisoners several days without redress, I will again quote from the above article:

"The day after their arrival here, as a company of emigrants, they called upon Gov. Geary, and tendered their services to assist in enforcing the laws and restoring peace. The Governor received them in the kindest manner, and 'thrice welcomed' them to the Territory. The company was charmed with the Governor, both as a man and an Executive."

I am happy to be able to state that the greater portion of the recent emigrant train have found employment, or gone to take claims. Out of a company of sixty from Wisconsin, all but two are at work in town. Some have gone south, toward Prairie City and Osawattamie.

No inconsiderable number of those emigrants who have come here within the last few months have gone back. That some should be discontented with their location in a new country, and especially with one so troubled as Kansas, is a result for which we must be prepared. Too much pains, however, cannot be taken by those organizations which propose aiding emigrants into the Territory to encourage and aid none but those whose character and antecedents will warrant their making good and permanent settlers. Let those only who desire to come be aided, if aid be given at all. The opposite course is not only injudicious, but a sheer waste of money.

While on this subject, I would urge another point on the friends of Kansas. There is a large class of settlers here who have suffered so much by Border-Ruffian violence that they have been reduced from good circumstances to want. Some of them are scarcely able to remain for want of the means of subsistence. Let me put it to those who sympathize with the struggle and the sufferings of the people here, if it would not be better and cheaper to aid those here who really need it to sustain themselves than to aid untried men hither. Again, the Territory is, unfortunately, living from "hand to mouth." An invasion, or the sudden closing of the avenues by which supplies can reach us, would leave the Territory in a truly deplorable condition. As an assistance to private enterprise, which has been severely tried here, I would suggest that several thousand dollars be immediately appropriated to form a store of flour and other provisions at Lawrence and Topeka, which might be a fund in case of invasion. As I think further invasions are far from improbable, this suggestion is worth the profound consideration of every friend of Kansas. The flour could be purchased near this locality now much cheaper than elsewhere.