

Interesting Letter from Capt. Walker—His Reply to Col. Titus.

From the Missouri Democrat.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Saturday, Oct. 26, 1850.

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. This, 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 reward 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 a 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 interdict 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. No person knows better than Col. Titus, the grounds of the exasperation I was made to feel. We never acted but in self-defence, 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 towards them. He had an inebriate Governor to countenance him in it, and it was done with impunity.

When Col. Titus' horse was attacked, it was with the full determination of taking his life. Information had been first received that Mrs. Titus had gone to the States. His house, although it was the home of twenty or thirty, who were then those of the most characterless men in the Territory, was attacked and successfully. After some fighting, in which both parties suffered, Col. Titus' 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 lost 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 unflinching in their determination. I succeeded in getting him from amongst them, and took him to the stable, where I quieted his apprehensions by my promise that I would protect him. Whilst 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. Here he was tried by a committee appointed for that purpose, and after a careful investigation into his previous conduct, he was sentenced to die, and he knows 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 chain 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 all 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 what is not right—right in the sense of the strictest morals. But in self-defence, for the protection of my home, I will bear me as stoutly as a right arm, nerve 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 him on an equality with me. If that attempt were likely to be successful, I would 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 Niagara. Should he, however, remain, and the Union 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 amongst those with whom I 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 defence against a personal attack that it has given publicity to.

Your obedient servant,
SAMUEL WALKER.

From the Missouri Republican, Oct. 16.

LECOMPTON, KANSAS TERRITORY,
Thursday, Oct. 9, 1850.

Messrs. Editors: In a communication over the signature of "The Constitution," contained in your paper of the 2d inst., I am most foully misrepresented, and hurt of you, as you value personal honor, to correct the slander.

It is true that a robber, incendiary, and horse thief, who is called Captain WALKER, was in company of his fellow thieves at the cowardly and disgraceful assault upon my house. It is true that he and his party robbed me of money, household furniture, horses, and other valuables, to the amount of \$12,000, and burned my house, a very comfortable one, with four rooms, a parlor, and other conveniences, although I told him that they had shot me in three places, asked my horse, and asked him not to burn it, but let it stand. He replied, "God d—n you, and God d—n your house. Men, bring on the hay," and when it was in flames, he took me, dripping with blood from my wounds, pitched me into an uncovered wagon, and dragged me through the blazing sun to their great den of thieves—Lawrence. This fellow, WALKER, saw and participated in these acts, and insulted me when wounded and disabled. Perhaps his little charity, which he had desired in order to become an assassin, was afterwards burned down during his absence by some thoughtless person. Of this I know nothing.

I did meet WALKER in the "Executive Chamber," and through courtesy to Governor GRAY, when introduced, spoke to him. I am wounded and disabled, and could not have struck the dastard down if I had been so inclined, but I ask if this is any excuse for a correspondent to place me upon an equality with such a man. Our party is composed of honorable men, and we are unwilling to be placed upon a level with thieves, assassins and robbers. We are not in the habit of "wringing manly tears" with tears from the eyelids of thieves. Honorable men are not in the habit of "pledging eternal friendship" to robbers and murderers—to men who have been reared in the sink of iniquity, and in the moral cess-pools of Hell. I am.

I am willing to submit to anything to keep peace and heal the wide breach which now exists between our friends and our Abolition leaders, except upon being placed upon an equality with them; and I trust that no honorable man will ever, even for the sake of peace, demand such a sacrifice from honorable men.

Governor GRAY is doing his duty to all. He is a firm, resolute and commanding patriot, and skilled elder executive, and if any man could bring together these discorded elements, he might; but he knows the impossibility of such a thing, and will never undertake it.

Your obedt. servt.,
H. T. TITUS.