

AFFAIRS IN KANSAS.

Official and Authentic History of Recent Events.

THE SACK OF LAWRENCE.

Statement of the Affair sent to President Pierce
by Citizens of Kansas.

LATE CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAWRENCE.

Continued Proceedings of the Congressional Committee.

The following document has been sent to Washington and placed in the hands of the President of the United States, to whom it is addressed. It is a detailed statement of the recent proceedings of the Territorial Government of Kansas, aided by the mob of border ruffians whom Governor SHANNON and the Federal Marshal had enlisted in its service. It is authenticated by the signatures of several of the most respectable and influential citizens of the Territory, and may safely be received as a perfectly accurate history of the whole affair. Although many of the official documents embraced in it have already been published in the TIMES, we repeat them in their present connection in order to make the narrative complete:

MEMORIAL.

To His Excellency Franklin Pierce, President of the United States:

SIR: The undersigned, residents of Kansas Territory, are a Committee of the citizens of the town of Lawrence and vicinity, appointed to represent to your Excellency the insufferable wrongs which they are called upon to endure at the hands of Territorial officials, and to petition for redress and prevention of the same. The statements made in this communication are of facts mostly within our personal knowledge, and all of them we are prepared at any time to substantiate by testimony conclusive and unimpeachable.

The first of the recent great outrages on the town of Lawrence, of which we complain is the following Proclamation of the United States Marshal of Kansas Territory:

PROCLAMATION.

To the People of Kansas Territory:

Whereas, Certain judicial writs of arrest have been directed to me by the First District Court of the United States, &c., to be executed within the County of Douglas; and whereas an attempt to execute them by the United States Deputy Marshal, was violently resisted by a large number of the citizens of Lawrence, and as there is every reason to believe that any attempt to execute these writs will be resisted by a large body of armed men; now, therefore, the law-abiding citizens of the Territory are commanded to be, and appear at Lecompton, as soon as practicable, and in numbers sufficient for the proper execution of the law.

Given under my hand this 11th day of May, 1856.

I. B. DONELSON,

United States Marshal for Kansas Territory.

The allegations contained in this Proclamation are untrue in fact, as well as grossly unjust in effect to the people of Lawrence. A demonstration had been made by the Deputy Marshal towards the arrest of Ex-Gov. REEDER, while here in attendance on the Congressional Committee; but as the latter demurred to the legality of the process, and denied the jurisdiction, the attempt was not made. This was a circumstance involving no violence on the part of the citizens of Lawrence; and as no posse was called for by the official, it is clear that they can in no way be held accountable for any of its results. No actual effort to arrest any person in Lawrence had been made by the Marshal previous to this Proclamation.

At this time there were in the Territory many hundreds of men who had entered it in organized companies from Southern States, actuated by an avowed political purpose, and proclaiming a deadly hostility to the town of Lawrence. These men were immediately enrolled in the Marshal's posse, and supplied by the Governor with arms belonging to the United States, and intended for the use of the Territorial militia. All the facts warrant the belief that it was the intention of the Marshal, by this Proclamation, to justify this misuse of these national arms, and to give so far as possible to the outrages being perpetrated by these companies the sacred sanction of the law. Without this sanction it was known that these outrages would be resisted by any and all means of defence, in the power of an indignant and not yet enslaved people.

This posse of the Marshal was further increased by accessions from the neighboring State of Missouri, and supplied from some source with several pieces of artillery. Camps were formed at different points along the highways and on the Kansas River, and peaceful travelers subjected to detention, robbery and insult. Men were stopped in the streets and on the open prairie, and bidden to stand and deliver their purses, at peril of their lives. Cattle, provisions, arms, and all other property were taken wherever found, without consent of the owners. Men were choked from their horses, which were seized by the marauders; and houses were broken open and pillaged of their contents. Resistance to these outrages was followed by further violence, and in some cases by the most wanton and brutal sacrifice of life. The passage of the United States mail was frequently interrupted, and examinations made in defiance of law. In the border counties of Missouri, citizens of Lawrence were seized without warrant, conveyed to the various camps, and there subjected to detention and unlawful trial, accompanied by threats of immediate death.

In the meantime, these alarming demonstrations had excited apprehensions in the community, and a letter was sent to the Governor, as follows:

LAWRENCE CITY, May 11, 1856

To His Excellency Wilson Shannon, Governor of Kansas Territory:

DEAR SIR: The undersigned are charged with the duty of communicating to your Excellency the following preamble and resolution, adopted at a public meeting of citizens of this place, at 7 o'clock last evening, viz.:

Whereas, We have the most reliable information from various parts of the Territory, and the adjoining State of Missouri, of the organization of guerrilla bands, who threaten the destruction of our town and its citizens, therefore,

Resolved, That Messrs. TOPLIFF, HUTCHINSON and ROBERTS, constitute a Committee to inform His Excellency Governor SHANNON of these facts, and to call upon him, in the name of the people of Lawrence, for protection against such bands, by the United States troops, at his disposal.

All of which is respectfully submitted. Very truly, &c.,
C. W. TOPLIFF,
W. Y. ROBERTS,
JOHN HUTCHINSON.

This letter drew forth the following reply:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, LECOMPTON, K. T., May 13, 1856.

GENTLEMEN: Your note of the 11th inst. is received, and in reply I have to state that there is no force around or approaching Lawrence, except the legally constituted posse of the United States Marshal and Sheriff of Douglas County, each of whom, I am informed, have a number of writs in their hands for execution against persons now in Lawrence. I shall in no way interfere with either of these officers in the discharge of their official duties.

If the citizens of Lawrence submit themselves to the Territorial laws, and aid and assist the Marshal and Sheriff in the execution of process in their hands, as all good citizens are bound to do when called on, they, or all such, will entitle themselves to the protection of the law. But so long as they keep up a military or armed organization to resist the Territorial laws and the officers charged with their execution, I shall not interpose to save them from the legitimate consequences of their illegal acts.

I have the honor to be yours with great respect.

WILSON SHANNON.

Messrs. C. W. TOPLIFF, JOHN HUTCHINSON, W. Y. ROBERTS.

In comment upon this letter, we have only to say that the implied charge upon the citizens of Lawrence of keeping up "a military or armed organization to resist the Territorial laws and the officers charged with their execution," is utterly untrue; and that Gov. SHANNON must have been fully aware of its falsity, or ignorant to a degree of criminality.

The Proclamation of the Marshal was not made public by him in Lawrence; but a copy having by chance reached the town, another meeting of citizens was called on the 13th of May, and the following preamble and resolutions adopted:

Whereas, by a Proclamation to the people of Kansas Territory, by I. B. DONALDSON, United States Marshal for said Territory, issued on the 11th day of May, 1856, it is alleged that certain "Judicial writs of arrest have been directed to him by the First District Court of the United States, &c., to be executed within the County of Douglas, and that an attempt to execute them by the United States Deputy Marshal was violently resisted by a large number of the citizens of Lawrence, and that there is every reason to believe that any attempt to execute these writs, will be resisted by a large body of armed men." Therefore,

Resolved, By this public meeting of the citizens of Lawrence, held this 13th day of May, 1856, that the allegations and charges against us contained in the aforesaid proclamation, are wholly untrue in fact, and the conclusion entirely false which is drawn therefrom. The aforesaid Deputy Marshal was resisted in no manner whatsoever, nor by any person whatever, in the execution of said writs, except by him whose arrest the said Deputy Marshal was seeking to make. And that we now, as we have done heretofore, declare our willingness and determination, without resistance, to acquiesce in the service upon us of any judicial writs against us by the United States Marshal for Kansas Territory, and will furnish him a posse for that purpose, if so requested, but that we are ready to resist, if need be, unto death, the ravages and desolation of an invading mob.

J. A. WAKEFIELD, President.

JOHN HUTCHINSON, Secretary.

The indications of an intended attack upon the town continuing to increase, on the 14th instant another meeting of citizens was called, and the following letter prepared and sent to the United States Marshal:

LAWRENCE, May 14, 1856.

I. B. DONALDSON, U. S. Marshal for K. T.:

DEAR SIR: We have seen a proclamation issued by yourself, dated 11th May, inst., and also have reliable information this morning that large bodies of armed men,

