

KANSAS.

Our correspondent in Leocompton prison keeps us well-posted as to affairs in Kansas. Two very interesting letters from him, may be found in this week's Era.

From our exchanges we learn that a Delegate Convention of the Free State men held at Topeka, October 16, decided against any attempt to choose Presidential electors.

A mass Convention was to be held at Big Spring, on the 28th October, for the purpose of providing for a Delegate to Congress, the election of Whitfield being regarded as null and void.

Two hundred and fifty emigrants from the free States, men, women, and children, headed by Col. Eldridge, left Mount Pleasant, Iowa, on the 20th September, and after a march of twenty-one days through Iowa and Nebraska, reached the Kansas line October 10th. Proceeding on their way, about three miles south of the line they were arrested by Col. Cook, at the head of six hundred United States troops, with six pieces of artillery, acting as a posse to United States deputy marshal Preston. Col. Eldridge protested against the arrest, as a violation of the rights of American citizens, and presented a letter from Governor Geary, which he had taken the precaution to procure in advance, of which the following is a copy:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Leocompton, K. T., September 30, 1856.

To all whom it may concern:

The bearer of this note, Robert Morrow, represents himself as the agent of certain peaceful and bona fide emigrants, about entering this Territory, through Nebraska, under the escort of Col. Eldridge, assisted by General Pomeroy and Col. Perry.

I welcome all such accessions to the population of this Territory, coming from whatever quarter, and I request all good citizens to afford shelter and protection to every person entering this Territory for peaceful and lawful purposes.

If the party under Colonel Eldridge come in this way, without threats or a hostile attitude, I hereby request all military officers in this Territory to give them a safe conduct, and so to permit them to pass without interruption.

J. W. GEARY, Governor of Kansas Territory.

Colonel Eldridge, in a letter to the Chicago Tribune, dated midnight, October 10th, giving a full account of the outrage, writes:

"This letter of Governor Geary was sent by a special messenger to the train, while at Nebraska. We protested against any detention or search, as a violation of our constitutional rights, and of the spirit of Governor Geary's letter. We admitted that we were thoroughly armed, and stated that Governor Geary had been so informed by the bearer of the letter, and he had distinctly admitted our right to come armed into the Territory. The train was ordered to start, but was immediately forcibly stopped, neither our protest nor Governor Geary's letter being respected. The wagons were then searched, and all arms found in them taken away. During the search, trunks and valises were torn and broken open, the beds of families were thrown out in the rain and trampled in the mud—the ladies being treated with unexcusable rudeness.

"After this was done, they offered to escort us to Governor Geary, on condition that the leaders pledged themselves to keep every man with the train. This, having neither right nor power to do, they refused, telling them that when they had taken from us all that they wanted, we would take care of ourselves. We were then informed that we were prisoners of war—our entire train, numbering some 250 men, women, and children, being surrounded by United States troops, and marched into camp, where we are to-night, under a strong military guard, who have orders to shoot down any man who attempts to leave."

The above statement is signed by 140 emigrants, among whom are the following from New York: A. H. Shurtleff, John Metcalf, P. A. ...

CHICAGO, October 23.—Advices from Lawrence, Kansas Territory, on the 14th, state that the emigrants arrested at Plymouth have been released. Governor Geary ordered them to disperse or leave the Territory; whereupon, they retired to different settlements. The arms found in the wagons were restored.

The following official despatch appeared a few days since, in the Washington Union:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Leocompton, K. T., Oct. 10, 1856.

SIR: Your letter of the 23d ultimo, in reply to mine of the 9th, and your telegraphic despatch of the 27th ultimo, in reply to my letter of the 16th, were both received on the evening of the 8th instant.

Despatches forwarded since the dates of those acknowledged have informed you that peace and quiet have been restored to the Territory. Not only have all large armed bodies of men been dispersed, but the smaller bands of marauders been driven off. The roads are travelled with safety, and dwellings are secure from intrusion. For upwards of two weeks, no outrages have been authentically reported. Many notorious and troublesome agitators, claiming to belong to all parties, have left the Territory, and the beneficent influence of their absence is being already very sensibly felt.

The troops sent to the north have not yet returned. It is my purpose to leave on the northern frontier a considerable force for its protection, and the remainder of the troops will be employed to guard such other points as may seem to require it. I shall shortly proceed in person, with a small body of men, to the southern portion of the Territory, in pursuit of a gang of thieves, who are said to be pillaging that region.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, JOHN W. GEARY, Governor of Kansas.

To the Hon. William L. Marcy, Secretary of State, Washington.

If Governor Geary, who is a friend of Mr. Buchanan, can succeed in enforcing peace till the Presidential struggle is over, Mr. B. will be under great obligations to him. But, recollect, the cause of the controversy is not removed. Withdraw the United States troops, and the Territory will again be involved in civil war. The authority of the spurious Legislature, and the validity of its acts, are recognised by the Administration, but repudiated by the Free State settlers.

Had they recognised these, and submitted to them, when Atchison and Buford dictated submission at the point of the bayonet, there would have been peace, just as there is now, when United States troops take the place of Buford's regiment, and compel submission.

DEATH OF JUDGE BURRELL, OF KANSAS.—Philadelphia, October 23.—Hon. Jeremiah M. Burrell, Judge of the Supreme Court of Kansas Territory, died at Greensburg, Pennsylvania, a few days since.

PRISON OF THE HUNDRED AT LEACOMPTON, Saturday, October 11, 1856.

To the Editor of the National Era:

Every day it is becoming more difficult for any information to pass through the guard which surrounds us. Positive and peremptory orders have been given by Colonel Titus, that no letters shall pass to or from the prisoners, without first being read by him or the officer of the day. This is equivalent to a positive refusal, as any one who knows anything of their management of affairs, knows also that no letter of a character which all those we write or receive are sure to possess, would, after seeing their hands, ever see any other. No one except our attorneys is granted admission. Nearly all the prisoners have letters, which they have for several days been endeavoring to pass out, but without success. I have been fortunate enough, thus far, to get out all I have written, but probably many have been less successful in reaching their destination. When I am unable to send out letters, I shall go myself.

On account of the sickness of his Private Secretary, the Governor has not visited us for several days. None has missed his visits more than Thomas Porterfield, once an officer under General Jackson, and now seventy six years

old. A small corner of the prison is set apart expressly for him, and in this he has fitted up a bed which his daughter has sent him, together with a chair and several other little articles of comfort, and now informs everybody that he is ready for a siege. He lately resided in Ohio, but in June last, learning of the calamities of his friends and the danger of Freedom in Kansas, he shouldered his rifle and knapsack, and came to the seat of civil strife, and that, too, old as he is, on foot. Governor Geary expressed his surprise at finding a man of his age so ready to fight in a cause which seemed to promise nothing but hardships and suffering. The old man replied, "Governor, I was educated in the unpolluted school of the Revolution, and raised up to manhood under the great Jackson; I was taught to defend Liberty and the rights of man while I had the power to do so; and I will, so help me God, as long as I can pull a trigger." The Governor now looked at his watch, and, finding that the time set apart for his visit had expired, hastily took his leave.

Yesterday an artist, who, I believe, resides here in Leocompton, took a daguerreotype of the prison and its inmates, who were grouped before it. He will doubtless take it to the South, and make money out of the operation. Many in the slaveholding States would give all the money they have been able to accumulate in the corners of their cotton handkerchiefs for months, if they could but see a picture of "a hundred live Abolition papers." Just as the daguerreotypist closed the tube of his camera, a waggon prisoner remarked, in plain hearing of the Southerners standing about, "Well, boys, that's the first time the Border Ruffians have ever been able to take us."

About nine o'clock, on Wednesday night, the whole town was thrown into an intense excitement by the report that Lane was encamped just across the river, with an army of three thousand men. Fires, supposed to be in his camp, were plainly seen. "Le jour de gloire est arrivé!" thought the sturdy Ruffians, as some got their muskets and others got drunk. But see the course the cowardly devils took. Instead of drawing up their forces on the bank of the river, and taking possession of the ferry, to prevent the crossing of Lane, they drew their men and a cannon—the latter freshly charged and primed—never to the prison, and prepared to have a gallant fight with a hundred unarmed, defenceless, and half sick prisoners! Who, after this, will say that the Border Ruffians are not chivalric and courageous men? After long search, one man—but one, "in all this gay and busy capital"—was found with enough of daring to go across the river, and reconnoitre the camp of the "impudent rebel." In a short time, the scout returned with the information that "Jim's Lane's immense cut-throat army" consisted of two men, three women, and four or five children! They were moving, and being unable to reach town, or the house of a settler, had camped here for the night.

Court will sit on Monday next, and our cases will come up, I think, on Tuesday or Wednesday. I shall not be at all surprised if the eighty-eight Lawrence boys, who were arrested while returning from Hickory Point, are, by some manoeuvre, discharged before coming to a trial. If the case goes on, some things will probably leak out, which the enemy is not over-anxious to have brought to light. So the affair may end something like the one in which "Sheriff Fulton" was concerned, which I mentioned a week or two ago.

This morning the militia guard around the prison was relieved by the U. S. troops. It is said that the militia will take their place again on Monday. They have just got their uniforms, tents, &c., and to-day and to-morrow will be devoted to their dedication. The ceremonies are commenced by the Governor, I suppose, who is now, while I write, making a speech to them at their camp, just back of the prison. I am not able to distinguish his words, but suppose that "law and order" is the burden of his remarks. How is it that his words so well please both parties? The Missourians say that he is right; that he will answer their purpose in every respect. We know that he talks well to us. Now, the greatest fool living knows that the same kind of talk would not please both parties. Gov. Geary well knows that not one-fourth of the so-called militia are residents of the Territory. Something is wrong. The militia say, that if we pitch into them now, the United States troops will be after us, on account of their uniforms. Is not that funny? Many of the militia have told us that the arms which they receive from the Federal Government, with that from the Blue Lodge, and donations from other sources, in all amount to fifty two dollars per month. Their duties consist in fighting, voting, and attending Court.

I wrote you, in my last letter, that Governor Geary had sent a company of troops down to Leavenworth, to demand the release of Mr. Miles Moore. I have since learned that this demand has been complied with, and that Moore has, in return, caused to be arrested two men who figured principally in his seizure. I also learn, from high authority, that these men have endeavored to buy off Moore, and have offered heavy bribes to the Governor, if he would procure their discharge.

The Governor has offered a reward of \$500 for the apprehension and conviction of the murderer of David Buffon. These two cases, and the protection of Captain Walker under a safe conduct, are the only cases where Governor Geary has interposed against a Pro-Slavery man, or for the protection of a Free State man. I am willing to give him all due credit, but it seems to me that these favors, if such they can be called, but poorly balance the injuries he has done us. But let him go on a little while yet.

The State Central Committee have determined to hold the election for Delegate to Congress on the day of the Presidential election. Breder will be the nominee; but he has saved himself only by his late letter. His former silence on the Presidential question has not met with very general approval here. It was generally believed that his influence in Pennsylvania and New Jersey would secure them for Republicanism, which would be pretty sure to render triumphant the only party which has a disposition to aid and protect us. Had he published his letter sooner, it would have resulted in great benefit both to himself and the cause.

P. S.—C. W. Babcock, postmaster at Lawrence, and one Fays, have just been brought in here as prisoners. They went to Topeka yesterday on business, and were there seized early this morning, while yet in bed, by a deputy marshal, (every third Pro-Slavery man in Kansas is a deputy marshal,) backed up by a company of U. S. dragoons. After some difficulty, Babcock got a hearing before John P. Wood, bogus Judge of Probate. There was but one witness for the prosecution. He swore that a company of men some time during the summer had stolen a horse from him, and that he had heard that there was a man in the company of the name of Babcock. He did not recognise C. W. Babcock as having been engaged in this affair at all. Names, it seems, are dangerous things. One of the prisoners, Justice Ketcham, says he begins to feel that he is in some danger now. Mr. Babcock was held to bail in the sum of \$500.

I learn from Mr. Babcock, that Captain Mitchell, of Topeka, formerly from Kentucky, who has been an active Free State man, doing great service in the cause, although he has been but little engaged in late difficulties, was on Tuesday taken prisoner at Weston, Missouri. The Governor has sent two officers to Weston, with instructions to bring him here, where he will be taught an apprenticeship at imprisonment, and tried, as soon as a charge can be trumped up against him. So we see Governor Geary following the precedents of Shannon, in the case of the seizure of Robinson and others. The nights are getting cold; they are always much colder than in the same latitude farther east, although the days are warm, and nearly all the prisoners have thin clothing. Many have no blankets; all, except the sick, sleep on the bare floor, the planks of which are so loose as to admit the cold, damp air from a most filthy cellar, and but few pass a night without extreme suffering. Yet Governor Geary would have us believe that this, and much more that I cannot relate, is necessary to the protection of ourselves and other citizens of Kansas. K.

Despatch from Governor Geary.

Washington, Oct. 27.—Among the official despatches received here to-day from Governor Geary, of Kansas, is one dated Leocompton, October 15th, in which he details the circumstances attending the arrest of an organized band consisting of about 240 persons, among whom were a very few women and children, comprising seven families. This party was regularly formed in military order, under the command of General Pomeroy, Colonels Eldridge and Perry, and others. They had with them twenty wagons, in which were a supply

of new arms, mostly muskets, with bayonets, and sabres, and a lot of saddles, &c., sufficient to equip a battalion consisting one-fourth of cavalry, and the remainder of infantry. Besides these, were arms which Governor Geary says were evidently intended for military purposes, and which were in the wagons, the number of which was strongly objected to. The immigrants were provided with shot guns, rifles, pistols, knives, &c., sufficient for the ordinary uses of persons travelling in Kansas or any other of the Western Territories. From the reports of the officers, it appears they had with them neither oxen, household furniture, mechanics' tools, agricultural implements, nor any of the necessary appurtenances of peaceful settlers.

They were permitted to pursue their journey under the escort of a squadron of dragoons, and subsequently Governor Geary, according to promise, met them near Topeka. They apologized for their evident and undeniable disregard of his proclamation, which apology, though plausible, was far from being satisfactory. After welcoming them as peaceful emigrants, and assuring them that he would positively enforce his proclamation, and suffer no party of men to enter or travel through the Territory with a warlike or hostile appearance, to the terror of peaceable citizens, and the danger of renewing the disgraceful and alarming scenes which the inhabitants had so recently passed through, Governor Geary insisted upon the immediate disbandment of the emigration, which was agreed to with alacrity.

The majority of the men were evidently gratified to learn that they had been deceived in relation to Kansas affairs, and that peace and quiet instead of strife and contention were reigning there. His remarks were received with frequent demonstrations of approbation, and at their close, the organization was broken up and the members dispersed in various directions. After they had been dismissed from custody, and the fact announced by Major Sibley, their thankfulness for his kind treatment toward them, during the time he held them under arrest, was expressed by giving him three hearty cheers.

In conclusion, Governor Geary expressed his regret that societies exist in some of the States, whose object is to fit out such parties as the one just discharged, and send them to Kansas, to their own injury and the destruction of the general welfare of the country. He says: "Very many persons are induced to come out here, under flattering promises which are never fulfilled, and having neither money to purchase food and clothing, nor trades or occupations at which to earn an honest livelihood, are driven to the necessity of becoming either paupers or thieves; and such are the unfortunate men who have aided materially in filling up the measure of crimes that have so seriously affected the prosperity of Kansas."

"It is high time this fact should be clearly and generally understood. This Territory at the present season of the year, and especially under existing circumstances, offers no inducement for the immigration of the poor tradesman or laborer. The country is overrun with hundreds who are unable to obtain employment, who live upon charity, and who are exposed to all the evils of privation, destitution, and want."

Among the documents, is the report of the immigrants to Governor Geary, complaining of the rough treatment they received from the troops, acting, as they understood, under the orders of Mr. Preston, the deputy United States Marshal, declaring their mission to Kansas to be peaceful, having no organization save one of police for their own regulation and defence on the way. And, coming in that spirit to the Territory, they claimed the right of American citizens to bear arms and be exempt from any lawful search or seizure. Captain Sibley, who had them in charge, says they were never for one moment made to feel the restraints of military discipline, but were, on the contrary, relieved from the onerous duty and necessity of nightly guards, and assisted rather than retarded in their journey. The captain, agreeably to Governor Geary's instructions, restored such of the arms as were claimed as individual property.