

KANSAS.

WHOLESALE PRISON, LEICOMPTON, KANSAS,
Monday, October 27, 1856.

To the Editor of the National Era:

The process of "crushing out" still continues. This horrible prison is yet full to overflowing, and the terrible suffering within its walls remains unabated.

One week ago, Friday night, ten or fifteen United States soldiers came into town from their camp, and remained until quite late, when they started for home, pretty well intoxicated. At a short distance from town, they fired off their revolvers. The reports were heard in town and in the camp of the militia, and then ensued such a scene of confusion and disgrace as I never before witnessed. "Lane's coming, Lane's coming," resounded from one end of the town to the other. Titus ran through the streets like a lunatic, screaming out orders to his men, as though the safety of the Union itself depended upon the capacity of his lungs. The two cannons, of which I have before spoken, were drawn nearer to the prison, and freshly loaded. The guns' crew stood by with match in hand, all ready for a gallant defence—of what? We shall see, if we have not already seen. Titus gave orders, that if another gun were heard, both cannons should be discharged against the prison. He also sent messengers to the people residing in the adjoining buildings, requesting them to go into their cellars, or to some other place of safety, to avoid injury, at the same time informing them of the orders he had given. This disgraceful drama consumed three or four hours. After the militia were all formed in line of battle, some became suspicious of having to fight somebody beside defenceless prisoners, and it soon became observable that many of them had important business in camp, for Titus was heard ordering his captains to "place a guard over the cowards, to keep them from running." In this strain he continued for some time. But, luckily for us, the drunken soldiers, who had so alarmed the invincible army, had discharged all their pistols, and were too drunk to reload them; for Captain Donaldson, son of the Marshal, who had command of the artillery, has since told us, in conversation about the matter, that his duty would have been to "obey orders." But as the regulars went home, the militia, as some call them, did the same, laying down to pleasant sleep and dreams of glory. On the following morning, a note, stating the particulars of the affair, and signed by several prisoners, was sent to the Governor. He called shortly afterwards, but, in reference to it, only remarked that the militia were not United States troops, and that we should know enough of military discipline not to be alarmed at anything of that kind.

During this visit, the Governor said that the Grand Inquest would probably be discharged that day, and that he had left strict orders that all against whom no bills were found should be immediately released, and the remainder provided with bedding and whatever else was necessary to our comfort. But what was the result? The Governor left the same day with 150 dragoons, and has since been scouring the country about Prairie city and Ossawatimic, telling sweet stories to the people, while Deputy Marshal Tebb, who accompanied him, was arresting them for political offences. The Grand Jury is still in session, and may still be for weeks—will surely be as long as there is a Free State man in the Territory not under indictment. All our original number except three have been indicted, and are probably only in the beginning of their sufferings.

The following Sunday morning, one of our number died, and was freed forever from the hands of tyranny. He was a young man named William Bowles, formerly from St. Charles, Missouri. We tried to get a place of quiet for him, but could not. Only one of the officers seemed to take any notice of his danger or our wishes, except Sergeant Stansell, who did all in his power, but he had his superiors. The night previous to the death of Bowles, no physician could be got. Dr. Brooks was playing "poker," and said he "would not leave the game to save all the Good-d—d Abolitionists in Kansas." The reply of the others sent for was similar to this. Physicians from Lawrence now visit us every day or two, and we shall not pretend to call upon any of the heathen hereafter. It is a miracle to me, why more have not died. The whole air is filled with disease—sickness is seen in every corner. Our prison before our entrance was used as a barrack for the militia, and the men were here, &c., &c., of every kind, which have so increased, on account of our having no opportunities for preserving cleanliness, until now all is a mass of vermin.

That day was deemed appropriate for sending forth an appeal to the American people. It was written in great haste, read to all the prisoners, gathered in the lower room, each of which attached his own name to the memorial. But one copy was written; this was sent to the New York Tribune, and will probably be published in the daily edition of that paper, so that others will get it through that quite early.

During the past week, eighty six of Harvey's company were indicted under two bills—one for murder, and the other for manslaughter, at Hickory Point. One of the enemy who was wounded at that place has since died, which is the origin of this last bill. The other two—for there are eighty six of Harvey's men still here imprisoned—have been passed over, whether intentionally or not, I am unable to tell. Four prisoners from the Grasshopper Creek country, and M. J. Mitchell, of Topeka, who was arrested by a mob at Weston, Missouri, were indicted under another bill, for assault upon Hickory Point with intent to kill—whom, it has not yet been ascertained—on the day Lane first attacked that place. Three of them were tried on Friday, and acquitted, but immediately arrested on another charge—they have not yet been told what. A bill has been found against one other prisoner for the Osawkie affair. Two were indicted for this, but one of them, F. C. Whipple, has since been found to be the wrong man. These two, Ritchey and Kagi, will be brought up to day for trial, but both will ask for a continuance, as the only witnesses by whom they can disprove some untrue charges in the indictment are absent in the States. Charles Sexton, who was committed with the others charged with being at Osawkie, is yet here. Perhaps no bill will be found against him. The charge against him is his offering to pay for some oats, taken by Lane's men on his return from Hickory Point. Two others are held subject to indictment—one for being at the sacking of Tecumseh, the other for robbing the Santa Fe train. On Friday, the District Attorney entered a *nolle prosequi* in the case of William Breyman, one of the eighty six, indicted for murder and manslaughter. He had been very sick, and I think it was mostly owing to this that he was released, although some think they intend to use him as evidence for the prosecution. This will be of no injury to the defendants, for they will prove by him, as well as by some of the enemy themselves, that they did not commence the fight.

One new prisoner was brought in on Friday, and four others yesterday. The former was Elias Roak, a Kentuckian, now a resident of the bogus county of Doniphan. He has been indicted for an assault, with intent to kill, upon one Rogers, a member of the Grand Jury now in session. In a dispute about political matters, Rogers drew a revolver upon Roak, who, seeing his danger, immediately fired at his antagonist, slightly wounding him. The four brought in yesterday, are Eliza Hill, from Sylvester, Wisconsin; James McAlester and Washington Buchanan, from Philadelphia, and John Wilson, from Urbana, New York. All are old residents of Kansas. They were brought in by thirty of the troops who went out with Geary. The Deputy Marshal had writs, he said, for all the Free State men in and around Prairie city. Geary is trying to find old Captain Brown; when he gets him, I will let you know. Neither of those four men know for what they have been arrested, and probably will not for weeks.

Marshal Donaldson has written a letter to Carey B. Whitehead, of Doniphan, telling him that six or seven of us would be hung, and the rest sent to the penitentiary.

Another of the Deputy Marshals says, upon high authority, that Governor Geary has made requisition upon Governor Price, of Missouri, for the penitentiary of that State to keep us in the coming winter. I give you this as his word only.

I have neither time nor room, nor have I the opportunities for learning the particulars of all the outrages still going on without, entirely unnoticed by the officials, and hardly hinted at by our Free State friends. The house of a prisoner from Topeka, and the saw mill of a Free State man in Tecumseh, have lately been torn down, and the same course is being carried out over

the whole Territory; yet all is quiet, say our enemies, and our friends, through fear and stupor, are almost led to believe it themselves. When shall this reign of terror cease? Dark tyranny and deep wrong seem to have crushed us out forever.

K.