Affairs of Kansas.

GOVERNOR SHANNON'S ACCOUNT OF HIS GUBERNATORIAL LABORS.

The ex Governor of Kansas, finding himself of little or no account with the people of that region, now turns his eyes imploringly on the "American public." He has, with "sober second thought" deemed it advisable to stand as straight and as fair upon the record as he can, and to have a little talk with any one who has time to listen to him. We will hold on to him for a few moments, and here is what he says:—"On the 10th day of August, 1855, I was appointed Governor of the Territory of Kansas, an office I did not solicit." It is true that for the first time in my life "I applied to the President for an office," and I "unexpectedly got this."

> But I accepted the appointment, and entered on the duties of the office with a fixed determination to discharge the duties with fidelity and impartiality. How far I have succeeded, I submit to the decision of the American people.

The submission is well enough, but the American people have already decided that the Governor was no more nor less than a nincompoop, and this appears to have been the opinion of the administration that appointed him. On the 28th of July last, he was unceremoniously kicked out of office, and as relates to the cause of his removal he admits that he is an ignoramus. About this there is no great difference of opinion.

> On the 28th day of July last I was removed by the President, and my successor appointed and confirmed by the Senate. No complaint was ever made to me by the Cabinet at Washington, of any act of mine, from the day I was appointed up to this hour. I was removed without the slightest notice or intimation from any quarter that my course as Governor of the Territory had not been satisfactory, and without being advised of any cause, or charge of any kind, and I still remain ignorant of the reasons for my removal.

His position was not a very pleasant one. To whip the devil round the stump requires some agility and some skill. The Governor had neither, and he complains that his office "was one full of perplexities and difficulties, and had been so from the time he entered the Territory; more so, it must be conceded, than any other in the government." It was certainly a poor place for a small politician. Small salary, much labor, and nothing very good to drink.

It was natural therefore, that he wished to resign; he wrote a letter of resignation, but unluckily the mail did not go, and his letter could not go. Between mails therefore, he had a chance for another sober second thought, and his friends, seizing the opportunity told him to hold on. He thus describes his perplexity:—

> As early as the latter part of June last I had written my resignation, and directed it to the President, and actually wrote to Col Buford, at Westport, that I had resigned; but the mail not going out for some time, the letter containing my resignation was not sent, and in the meantime the substantial men of all parties, hearing of my determination, called, and urged me in the strongest terms, not to resign.

And he did not. But such were the assaults made on him that he had to go. And what is worse, the President himself was his enemy!

> These charges and calumnies have been virtually endorsed by the President, in the act of my removal, and I owe it to myself and family, as well as the country, to vindicate my character, thus most unjustly assailed.

But the public mind of the whole country revolts, says Gov. Shannon. At what? At the outrages in Kansas, at border ruffianism, at bloody statute laws, at the villanies perpetrated in the name of liberty? Oh no. It revolts at the idea of the Governor's being so badly used by the President! Hear him:—

> The public mind of the whole country revolts at the idea of trying and condemning a man in secret, without giving him notice of the cause of complaint, and a fair chance of being heard in his own defence. Had the President hunted up every charge that has been made against me, either in the public papers or otherwise, by political opponents, for political purposes, I now fearlessly say that I could have successfully and triumphantly repelled every one. Under existing circumstances, I am very sure I need make no apology to the public for appearing before them at this time. I should have done so at an earlier period, but have been prevented by a severe attack of fever, from the effects of which I have not yet fully recovered.

The Governor will, we hope, recover from the fever, but he will never recover his reputation. The President used up part of it, and this letter has used up the rest.

He next proceeds to charge the President with duplicity in his instructions. To preserve law and order he was to make a requisition for troops, but before he could use the troops he was to read the proclamation of the President. "How could I," says the innocent-hearted man, "read a proclamation in the din of battle and amid the roar of cannon?" Unquestionably it was a tight place to read anything:—

> Now, under these instructions, although Gen. Lane, with his whole force, may be firing on the town of Franklin, or sacking the town of Tecumseh, or battering down the house of Col. Titus with his artillery, yet the military force cannot be used by the Governor, on any occasion, until he causes to be read the President's proclamation. It would have been necessary, under the instructions, to have read, or caused to be read, to the belligerents, in the din of battle and amidst the roar of cannon the President's proclamation.

The Governor then proceeds to explain the philosophy of his position, under the conflicting instructions of the President on the one hand, and the local difficulties on the other; his duties as a Governor, a militia officer, and a commander of the United States forces. The mystification of his responsibilities is only surpassed by the explanation he has given of them. He adds that everybody knew that Lane was going to pitch in. Gerrit Smith knew it—the President knew it. Who is responsible for all the consequent disorder?

> I submit now to a just and intelligent public to determine who is reponsible for the late and present disturbances in Kansas—the man who requested to be furnished with an additional force to enable him to meet this threatened danger—the man who requested that Gen Lane and his forces should be met and dispersed by the United States troops—or those who disregarded these requests, and silently stood by and saw the approaching storm without making the slightest effort to shield the country from the dire calamity of civil war. It has been said that the President has done all he could do to keep down the difficulties and disturbances in Kansas. This may be so; but of this an impartial public will judge.

Of course they will judge for themselves, and their opinion is pretty well made up, that President Pierce is to blame for all the mischief in Kansas, and he found tools like Shannon to carry out his views. The conclusion of the letter is a vindication of his private character from the charge of intemperance. We are glad to see it. It is not applejack or Monongahela that has stolen away his brains. It is the President's duplicity has befuddled him. Therefore the Governor appeals to the public for a verdict in his favor, and when he gets it we will make a note of it for his benefit.

Accident to the Hamburg Steamer Borussia.

The steamship Borussia arrived at this port at 1 o'clock on Thursday afternoon from Hamburg, after a passage of fifteen days and seventeen hours. Her cargo, which consisted of general merchandise, was not large, but she had on board no less than 439 steerage and 46 cabin passengers. On the morning of the 15th inst., when she was a little over two hundred miles from this port, it was discovered that she had sprung a leak at the stern, and that the water was flowing in with great rapidity. It is supposed that the leakage was caused by the giving way of a portion of the socket in which the shaft of the screw works, but it will be impossible to tell with any accuracy how it originated until the vessel is put in the dry dock.

Shortly after the leak was discovered it was found that there were seven feet of water in the hold and that it was rising still faster. The three steam pumps were immediately set in operation, and gangs were organized among the passengers and crew to work on the hand pumps. These were relieved every ten minutes, and the pumps were kept in operation from the moment they were started till the arrival of the Borussia, which was about twenty-eight hours altogether. At first the greatest alarm prevailed among the passengers, but their confidence returned when they were made aware that there was no actual danger of the vessel sinking, and that her hull was divided into four water tight compartments. With all their exertions, however, it was found impossible to keep the water below seven feet in the hold, and to prevent some of the goods in the express room from being damaged. But the damage, we were informed, was, after all, comparatively trifling, the cargo having been all placed in the fore part of the ship. A portion of the passengers' baggage was saturated, and the mail bags were also wet; but the loss will not exceed a few hundred dollars. The value of water-tight compartments was never more fully realized than in this instance, for had the Borussia not been provided with them there is every reason to fear that she would have foundered at sea, like the ill-fated Arctic.

The Borussia will be taken into the dry dock some time to day. Meantime the steam pumps are put in constant operation.