Affairs of Kansas.

ELY. MR. NUTE A PRISONER IN THE HANDS OF THE RUFFIANS—MURDER OF BIMBER.

[From the Chicago Tribune, 19th inst.]

By a gentleman who left Leavenworth on Saturday we have late and important news from Kansas.

On Thursday last, an escort of one hundred mounted men left Lawrence for Leavenworth, to insure the safety of Mrs. Hoppe, the widow of the gentleman who was murdered near the latter place about two weeks ago. In the party was Mr. Nute, of the Herald of Freedom, a resident of Lawrence, the brother-in-law of Mrs Hoppe, who accompanied her for the purpose of looking after the murdered man's effects, and securing his sister's property in the territory. The escort remained with them until they arrived at a point about six miles from Leavenworth, when, supposing the road from there to be clear, the mounted men returned. Just before parting with Mr. Nute, the escort captured three men of the ruffians, who were observed hanging upon their rear. One of these had on a white hat, and over the band, in front, these words were written: "Free State men!" were written in black ink. They were examined as to their intentions, and disarmed and released. Though in reality for the nearest settlement of the settlers' determination that no act of theirs which looks like revenge shall be urged against them by their enemies, caused their discharge. Our informant says that their fears, as expressed in actions and words, were almost ludicrous. Their gratitude, when told that they might go, was unbounded. Mr. Nute and Mrs. Hoppe were soon after besset by one of the marauding gangs while ascending the country in all directions, and were carried to Leavenworth and held as prisoners. Mrs. Hoppe was denied the privilege of visiting her murdered husband's grave, was denied all opportunity of collecting property which had been stolen at the time of his death, and finally was denied permission to leave the Territory. The next morning, the latter decision was reversed, and she was unceremoniously hustled aboard the boat, with only one dollar in money, and sent down stream, with as little care for her grief or her wrongs as if she had been a dumb beast. Mr. Nute, at the latest intelligence, was still in their hands, and the ruffians were threatening him with death. Inasmuch as he is a man of pure character and blameless life, it is hard to imagine that he has, before this time, paid the common penalty for daring to be a free State man.

Just previous to our informant's leaving Leavenworth, a German, from the neighborhood of Hickory Point, had been taken a prisoner, on his way in with a team, in company with others on the same errand, wrung himself out of the hands of his captors, and escaped with only a few overtaken by a bullet from a revolver, which killed him dead. The unfortunate man's name was Bimber; he was a farmer, and was guilty of no offence except of daring to come to Leavenworth to the purchase of such as were expected, however, as are all the other Germans in the Territory, of entertaining opinions adverse to making Kansas a slave State. The other members of the party were set at their teams had been "confiscated" to the use of the border ruffians; While Bimber's body was yet lying in the street, (it lay there for hours, exposed to the sun,) a free State man, moved by the sight, exclaimed, "My God, how long are these things to last?" This was thought to be treasonable, and without any difficulty that he escaped the fate of the murdered man lying stark and stiff at his feet.

Mr. Hopp's murderer, a well known ruffian, named Forest, was still in the neighborhood, and, though he had publicly exhibited his victim's scalp, which he carries around in his pocket, wrapped in a piece of newspaper, (the Missouri Republican,) no attempt had been made to have him arrested and punished. Such is pro-slavery justice in Kansas. To this day, no man has ever been punished, by law, for offences committed against individuals of the free State party in Kansas.

All our previous reports in regard to the invasion are confirmed. Our information thinks there are at least three thousand Missourians in the Territory, from different points, and more are going in daily from various places along the border—all swearing vengeance against the d——ned abolitionists. A large party of Georgians, he also said, have backed out, convinced that they have been deceived in regard to the alleged criminality of the free State men. They found that the inflammatory appeals which had aroused them were based upon imaginary occurrences, and that really they had no cause for war. Twice before they have been misled, and this time they find themselves in the same trap. The report is hardly worthy of credit.

We hear that Mrs. Hopp is now in this city. The captain of the Missouri river boat Polar Star, moved by sympathy and utterly penniless, gave her a free passage to St. Louis, and the passengers, commiserating her condition, made up a purse of $35, for her use on the road to Rock Island, her former home. Of course her tale, when she tells it, will be characterized as "a d—d abolition lie!"

A BORDER RUFFIAN REPUDIATED AND DRIVEN OUT OF MISSOURI.

[From the Lexington, Mo; Express, Aug. 30.]

The treatment received by the old man Van Horbecke, at the hands of Hiram Owens, has given rise to the organization of the citizens of Lexington, and we are taken the trouble to inquire diligently into the affair. In common with our fellow citizens generally, we are determined that it shall never be said that any one party, and though a stranger, cannot be protected in his rights in this city. We have laws which the high moral sense of our community will require to be faithfully and impartially executed. We want no self constituted, extra legal guardians of our welfare as a slaveholding community, and all such men, whether stragglers in our midst, or resident citizens, will be rebuked as was Owens on Saturday last.

The facts in regard to Van Hoorbeke are in detail as follows—About four weeks ago, a man calling himself Fallas, and who said he was from Kentucky, came in with two horses, which he sold to Mr. Johnson, a livery stable keeper in this city. On Friday of last week, Van Hoorbeke, accompanied by Johnson, started out in a two horse wagon. In a conversation with some of our citizens, the old man said that he formerly lived in Cole county, Missouri, but had recently resided in Kansas Territory, where, he said, everything he possessed had been stolen from him, except his wagon and horses, which were not at home at the time of the robbery, or they would have been taken also. He could speak about town all day, trying to sell his wagon and horses, but as he was a stranger, he did not meet with a purchaser. The next day, Saturday, as one of Johnson's hands was along the street, drawn by the horses he had purchased from Fallas, the old man exclaimed. "There's my horses that were stolen from me in Kansas!" Upon which the old man was insisting upon his property, Hiram Owens fell upon him and gave him several hard blows with the back of his sword, denouncing him as an abolitionist, and ordered him to leave town immediately. Several were about to interfere, but were prevented by a citizen of Kansas, who advised them to keep hands off and let Owens alone. Owens continued to abuse the old man, and threatened to kill him if he did not leave immediately. Van Hoorbeke immediately left, protesting, however, that he was not an abolitionist, but a pro slavery man. In the afternoon these facts became noised about, and produced almost universal dissatisfaction and condemnation. It was determined that the wrongs of the old man should be redressed, and that he should have a fair chance to reclaim his property. Messengers were accordingly despatched to request him to return, and to assure him that if he could prove his horses he should get them. During night it was ascertained that the messengers had taken the wrong road, and others were immediately despatched on the right road, with like instructions. These men travelled all night, and came up with the old man about daylight. Their message made known, Van Hoorbeke immediately returned to this city, and now here awaiting the receipt of evidence to prove his title to the horses. It is scarcely necessary to add, that if he makes out his case they will cheerfully be given up to him.

On Sunday night last, Fallas returned to our city with another horse for sale, and was immediately recognized and arrested. His trial comes off to-day. He claims to have bought the horse in Kansas, and his trial was put off until to-day, in order to give him time to send for Kansas for his witnesses. We have not yet heard of their arrival. In company with Fallas was a gentleman named Fair, who was also arrested, but being able to give a good account of himself, he was subsequently released.

Owens has been told that our city can prosper without him, and he has prudently left for parts unknown.

These scenes have been enacted in the name of Kansas; and as they are the first that have transpired in our midst, we rejoice that they have been boldly met and frowned down. Our interests in Kansas need no such advocates.

COMMUNICATION WITH KANSAS ENTIRELY CUT OFF.

Travellers who have just arrived in this city from Kansas, says the Chicago Press of the 5th inst., report that the cordon of the ruffians on the borders of Kansas is now complete, and that persons desiring ingress through Iowa and Nebraska are liable to be stopped at every point. This news, however, is not very alarming. If Gov. Geary really undertakes to restore order in the Territory on his arrival, he will at once dismiss the predatory bands on the borders as well as elsewhere by calling the United States forces to his aid; and if he should determine not to interfere between the people and their enemies, it would not require a very large detachment from the free State forces assembled in the neighborhood of Lawrence, to keep the overland communication open. We believe a hundred resolute men could open Kansas Territory at any desirable point. It would require an army of a good many thousand ruffians to effectually guard the whole frontier.

THE LAST BORDER RUFFIAN MANIFESTO.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MISSOURI:—

A report has been circulated with great assiduity through this State that the citizens in Kansas are settled. This report has been circulated by the basest of men—those who wish some excuse for not assisting their friends in Kansas by their presence, and those who are too cowardly to aid with their money. We take pleasure in saying, that Kansas affairs are daily growing worse—that we do not intend to abandon our friends in Kansas until Lane's bandits are made to respect the laws of the Territory.

The law and order men now under arms in the Territory, determined that the laws shall be obeyed, amount to 1,000 men, and must have 500 more within one week, or all will be lost, and Kansas must be abandoned to the bandits.

D. R. ATCHISON.
A. W. DONIPHAN.
OLIVER ANDERSON,
JAMES CHILES.
JOHN W. REID,
S. A. MACLEAN.

KANSAS TERRITORY, Aug. 29, 1856.

BORDER RUFFIANS OFF FOR THE WAR.

The Howard county, Missouri, Banner, of the 23d ult. says:—

A company of 100 well armed and mounted men, conducted by Col. Congrave Jackson, started to Kansas yesterday morning, at an early hour, for the purpose of offering their services to sustain the laws of Kansas and to dislodge the marauding forces of General Lane, the abolition traitor and murderer!

The company is composed of young men of energy and nerve.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION.

[From the Washington Union, Sept. 6.]

In order to correct the false and exaggerated statements regarding the condition of things in the Territory of Kansas, and the acts and purposes of the government of the United States, and to show the spurious truth in both respects, we have obtained and now publish the following official correspondence:—

[The letters published under the telegraphic head in the HERALD of Sept. 6 is of course omitted.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, K. T., Aug. 22, 1856.

COLONEL—Late in the evening of the 18th instant I received from Major Sedgwick and from Gov. Shannon the letters of which I enclose copies.

I had heard previously various rumors of outrages committed by bands of armed men about the neighborhood of Lawrence, and had seen handbills published in other towns purporting to give an account of them, but my messengers came to me on two occasions to relate what they had seen of an attack on Lecompton on the morning of the 16th inst; but as all this must have happened near some of Major Sedgwick's forces, and I received no information from him, and, as much of the information I had received I knew to be false, I attached no confidence in it whatever, supposing that, up to the 17th, no attack at all had even been made on Lecompton. Major Sedgwick alludes in his despatch, enclosed, to an attack on Franklin. This may be the occasion referred to in the report that is authentic—the date and particulars are as yet unknown. But on the assurance of both the Governor and Major Sedgwick that there are no armed men assembled in Lawrence, who can be increased in twelve hours to 1,200, and that it is expected they would attack and destroy the capital of the Territory unprovoked, I have ordered Lieutenant Colonel Johnston's Second Cavalry to go there, with all the troops at his post except a small company, and have ordered all the men from Fort Riley except a small garrison to the same place. I have sent down to have all the troops, recruits and others at Jefferson barracks to be sent here, and will send them and any companies of the 6th that may arrive to relieve companies in the Kansas if necessary. A large force may prevent any violence—a small one might tempt to the commission of it.

I enclose my instructions to the officer who may have command of the troops. He is to confine his action to the cases specified in the constitution, and provided for by the act of Congress of February 28, 1795, and March 3, 1857. I could not tell that Congress had this session restricted the action of the troops as far as was in their power—that is, to the constitutional provision.

I enclose also a communication to the officer of the militia on the northern border of the Territory, showing how contradictory and inconsistent are the accounts spread over the country. The nearest force of militia from Iowa is on the northern border and on the Kansas at the same time.

Col. Sumner's regiment cannot now muster 400 men, including Capt. Stuart's company, on its way to Fort Laramie, and a detachment under Lieut. Wheaton, en route for Fort Kearney with the Sioux prisoners. Lieut. Col. Cooke's six companies of dragoons is little more than 100 horses. With respect, your obedient servant,

PERSIFER F. SMITH,
Brevet Major General Commanding Dep't.

Col. S. COOPER, Adjutant General of the army.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

CAMP SEDGWICK, KANSAS T., Aug. 17, 1856.

MAJOR—As the Governor wishes to communicate with the General commanding the department, I avail myself of the opportunity to report that, within the last few days, parties of armed men have been assembling in various places; committing many depredations, and have now become so bold as to attack a house within two miles of this camp. After the attack on Franklin, the free soilers, they attacked the camp, said to contain about forty, who had handed themselves together for protection. Their force rendering them an object of attack, they marched on this town. The Governor requested me to move on with all the disposable force I had, which amounted to only thirty men. After remaining in town till after daylight I returned to my camp, and had just reached it when I heard the report of a six-pounder, and soon ascertained that the house of Col. Titus, in which he had twenty men, was the place attacked. I ordered my command between the house and town, and the Governor soon after joining us, we moved in the direction of the place attacked. When we arrived the house had surrendered, one man killed, Col. Titus and one other dangerously wounded, and the others carried off prisoners.

This morning I received from the Governor a communication requesting me to proceed to Lecompton and demand the prisoners; and, in case of refusal, to take them by force, firing upon the resisting party. I immediately collected my forces, and, however, met the Governor, Col. Roripique, a gentleman of high standing, we proceeded to Lawrence, and had an interview with the persons held as prisoners, and also with those surrounding the house, (which I took no part), the Governor made an arrangement to exchange some that he held, and some other stipulations.

I believe that there are 800 men (armed) in Lawrence, which can be increased in twelve hours to 1,200. They are in a state of high excitement—almost uncontrollable; and I believe they will attack this town and destroy it if they suppose the approach is not carried on with such a force as to fear cannot be done. I think if any troops are needed it will be a larger number than I have at my disposal. At the request of the Governor I ordered Capt. Anderson's company from the Wakerusa, and Capt. Newby's from Palmyra, to this camp. They arrived yesterday. This increases my active force to about ninety.

I should very much like to have the advice of Colonel Johnston for a few days. I would also say that I have received no instruction how to act in a conflict with citizens, further than an officer is authorized to do upon them, except the President's proclamation of February 16, 1856. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN SEDGWICK, Major First Cavalry.

Major GEO. DEAS, Asst Gen. Dep. of the West.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, LECOMPTON, Aug. 17, 1856.

SIR—This place is in a most dangerous and critical situation at this moment. We are threatened with utter extermination by a large party of free State men.

The report of Major Sedgwick, which will accompany this, will give you the particulars of the various outrages which this body of armed men have perpetrated within the last few [days]. I have just returned from Lawrence, where I have been this day, with the view of procuring the release of nineteen prisoners that were taken. I saw in that place at least eight hundred men, who manifested a fixed purpose to demolish this town. I know that they intend an attack—and that, too, in a very short time. I have correct information that they have five hundred men over in the Osawatomie county, some forty miles south; about three hundred in the Valley of the Wakerusa, and a large body above this place, variously estimated at from three to six hundred. They can concentrate at this place in a very short time some fifteen hundred or two thousand men, well armed, with several pieces of artillery. It would seem that the business of "wiping out" an it is called, of the pro-slavery party has been commenced. This heavy force has most unexpectedly sprung into existence, and made its appearance within a few days past. The women and children have been mostly sent across the river, and there is a general panic among the people. The force here is small—say eighty or a hundred dragoons, and some hundred and twenty citizens, poorly armed, and badly supplied with ammunition. Under these circumstances, I have to request you to send from the fort all your disposable force. A few companies of infantry would be very desirable, and some light artillery. Permit me to express the hope that whatever force you can dispatch to the relief of this place will be sent as soon as possible. Delay may be ruinous. Yours with great respect,

WILSON SHANNON.

Gen. P. SMITH.

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, K. M.,
Lecompton county, Kansas, Aug. 18, 1856.

SIR—In addition to the extra hereto inclosed, I have received reliable information that a state of actual war exists in Douglas county, and that in other parts of the Territory, within this division, robberies and other flagrant violations of law are daily occurring by armed bodies of men from the Northern States. In the absence of all information from the Governor of the Territory, I have taken the liberty of exercising the authority in me vested in cases of invasion by ordering out the entire strength of the division, to rendezvous at various points in the division to receive further orders.

The object of this is to ask of you as Commandant of this district how far your orders require interference with the militia of the Territory, and whether or not their being thus assembled to repel such invasion is in violation of your instructions?

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. R. RICHARDSON,
Major General First Division K. M.

To Brig. Gen. PERSIFER F. SMITH, Commanding Leavenworth, Kansas Territory.

[Inclosure No. 4.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, Aug. 18, 1856.

SIR—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th inst., and to inform you that Capt. Howe's Company of Artillery and two companies of cavalry will leave this post to-morrow morning to join you, and that all the disposable forces at Fort Riley has been directed to proceed without delay to Lecompton. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. DEAS, Assistant Adjutant General.

Major JOHN SEDGWICK, First Cavalry, Lecompton.

P. S.—Captains De Saussur and Beall have been directed to join you.

[Inclosure No. 5.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, Aug. 19, 1856.

Instructions for the officer in command of the detachment of United States troops ordered to assemble in the neighborhood of Lecompton, the capital of Kansas Territory, on the requisition of the Governor thereof, to repress insurrection.

SIR—The whole of the first regiment of cavalry (except one company at Fort Leavenworth and one at Fort Kearney, with Capt. Howe's company of the Artillery and a squadron of the Second Dragoon and a detachment of dismounted men of the same regiment, will be assembled under your command, and will be reinforced, if necessary, by such detachments of infantry and recruits as may arrive here in time.

This force you will keep concentrated as much as possible, making no detachments, except as scouts and patrols, unless in case of absolute necessity, of which you will be the judge; and all the men, horses and arms will be kept in a perfect state of readiness for instant action at all times.

The Governor of the Territory has required the presence of these troops to aid the civil authority in suppressing insurrection, and protecting the peaceable inhabitants of the Territory from the lawless violence of armed bodies, which he represents as arrayed for that purpose.

That you may have a distinct idea of your powers and duties in this position, the following official instructions from the Executive of the United States are referred to, and you will be governed entirely by the rules therein laid down:—

1st. The proclamation of the President of the United States, dated the 11th day of February last.

2d. The instructions of the Secretary of War to Col. E. V. Sumner and Lieut. Col. Cooke, dated the 15th of February.

3d. A letter from the Adjutant General of the army to Col. Sumner, dated March 26, 1856, in answer to a request of the latter to know the views of the department in relation to the course to be pursued toward armed bodies coming into the Territory, particularly the following paragraph: "It is only when an armed resistance is offered to the laws and against the peace and quiet of the Territory, and when, under such circumstances, a requisition for military force is made upon the commanding officer by the authority specified in his instructions, that he is empowered to act."

And last, to the following extract from the instructions of the Secretary of War to the General commanding the department, dated the 27th of June last:—

"Inclosed you will find a copy of a proclamation of the President of the United States, and a letter of instructions directed to the commanding officers of Forts Leavenworth and Riley, to which you are referred for the views of the Executive and for the government of your conduct in the contingencies therein contemplated; and if in such contingencies you should be called upon to use any portion of the troops under your command to aid the civil authorities in arresting offenders, a detachment of troops for that purpose will be directed to accompany the civil officer charged with the process, and to aid him in the execution of his duties, both in making the arrests and in conducting the prisoners to places where they may be safely kept by the civil authorities. In discharging the delicate functions arising from the peculiar condition of affairs in Kansas, you will carefully abstain from encroaching upon the proper sphere of the civil authorities, and will observe the greatest caution to avoid any conflict between the civil and military power."

As a great responsibility will rest on the officer in command of the troops, he must, in assuming it, act on his own judgment, and on information perfectly satisfactory to his own mind. After the examples we have had daily of late of the gross falsehoods, misrepresentations and exaggerations spread over the country, under what was said to be reliable authority, it will not be safe to trust to any intelligence the source and channel of which are not satisfactorily known to yourself.

You have the entire command and control of the troops, and are in no case to commit them to any other than the regular military authority. Soon, as soon as your command is assembled, and weeded of the smaller, field returns of its strength, even though the commanding general should be absent from Fort Leavenworth. Send, also, topographical sketches of the country around you, with distance marked.

To avoid weakening your command, you will hire such expressmen as you may think necessary, and will keep a constant communication with headquarters.

In conclusion, the General begs and directs you to avoid as long as possible any appeal to arms. Use every endeavor in your power to bring those who are in opposition to the law to a sense of their error; especially avoid small conflicts, and consider the shedding of a fellow citizen's blood as the greatest evil that can happen except the shedding of the blood of your own men and in civil war. But when the necessity of action and the employment of force does unhappily arise, employ it at once with the power and vigor at your command, and continue it only until you have suppressed the insurrection, and then interfere to prevent any cruelty from others. The Governor of the Territory should, if possible, take means to keep the prisoners arrested under his authority, and such as may hereafter be taken. Their custody embarrasses the troops, and diminishes their efficiency. With respect, your obedient servant,

PERSIFER F. SMITH,
Brevet Major General Commanding Department.

[Inclosure No. 6.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, Aug. 18, 1856.

SIR—The General commanding the department directs that you will, with the utmost dispatch, organize a force of one complete squadron of dragoons, to be selected from the most efficient for mounted service, to proceed to the town of Lecompton, the seat of government in this Territory, now threatened with attack and destruction. The remainder of your command, with the exception of the dismounted men of the two weakest companies, who will be left as the guard of the post, will accompany the squadron on foot as riflemen, the officers to be mounted. On arriving at Lecompton, the officer in command will report the presence of the troops to the Executive of the Territory of Kansas, and will then be governed by the instructions which will be sent from these headquarters. The senior officer present, with the forces to be concentrated at or near Lecompton, will command the whole. I am, Colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. DEAS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Lieut. Col. P. ST. GEO. COOKE, 2d Dragoons, Fort Riley, K. T.

[Inclosure No. 7.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST,
FORT LEAVENWORTH, Aug. 19, 1856.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., by Mr. Sedwick's express. I have sent Col. Johnston down to Lecompton with all the troops here except a small company, and have ordered Col. Cooke to march forthwith from Fort Riley with most and except a small garrison. There is no infantry within reach.

I have given to the commanding officer of this force instructions conformable to those of the executive to Col. Sumner, and since to myself.

It will be necessary that you should make some arrangement for the safe keeping of the prisoners, as I will take them out of the hands of the troops. A small guard cannot be left with them safely, a large one cannot be spared, and they cannot be marched with the troops, who must march as they were ordered and with speed.

After the many false reports that have been brought here, under the sanction of the civil officers in the country, I have no reliance on such information, and will only act on official reports from officers, or intelligence from persons I know personally to be reliable; and as my own action and responsibility are to depend on the value of all such information as to its truth, I must have it before me before I can judge of the confidence to be placed in it. With high respect, your obedient servant,

PERSIFER F. SMITH,
Brevet Major-General Commanding Department.

To his Excellency WILSON SHANNON, Governor of the Territory of Kansas.