

reservation. In the first place, the autocrat's dismissal of the Secretary of State and Chief Justice of the Federal Courts in the Territory, is a little beyond the powers delegated to Gov. Geary, and would be a usurpation of authority to which the two individuals in question would not be likely to accede very cheerfully. As for the dissolution of the Pro-Slavery militia, I shall not believe it until they disband and disperse. That Gov. Geary has been very much shocked by the proceedings at Leecompton recently, or rather that he has found them to be of so aggravated and flagrant a character as to justify him in appearing indignant, is highly probable. That we are about to receive another Free-Soil gubernatorial convert into the fold, convinced and converted by the iniquities of the other side, is, I still think, doubtful. The conversion of a politician is an uncertain matter at any time, unless there chance to be sufficient motive-power behind to deepen conviction into a lively faith. Yet many Free-State men have anxiously and somewhat confidently looked for this result ever since the arrival of Gov. Geary in the Territory. A certain vague rumor that Gov. Geary and the ex-Hon. Davy Atchison would represent the Slave State of Kansas in the United States Senate, may, perhaps, have been merely one of the wiles of the enemy, and a very wily proposal at that, seeing that Surveyor-General Calhoun is to be rewarded for his distinguished Pro-Slavery services by the same Senatorship (there being only one Senatorship with which to buy Northern doughfaces, as it is understood that Atchison will certainly have the other) I would not insinuate that his Excellency, Gov. Geary, would be at all influenced by such considerations. Perhaps he now means to act after the spontaneous, natural plan, so beautifully illustrated in the Arabian tales. As he has no longer a Presidential candidate to carry, we may perhaps look for a more independent course. Perhaps conscience may rise and assert its power over even a Governor. This would be rather romantic, and a decided departure from the mathematical usage which rules by fixed principles, that is, party principles, beside being almost incredible. I have known instances, however, where politicians have had a conscience, and the thing is not improbable. Enough that the present indications suggest a possible change of policy, an idea eagerly grasped at by the settlers, although still, I fear, rather doubtful. For a day or two the Free-State people have been vibrating between hope and fear, as the electric telegraph has brought forward them the conflicting reports of the election, on which so many of their hopes have rested. Perhaps a few more throbbings of that mutely eloquent wire may determine the Governor's purposes, as it will even more important matters, but we will not bewilder ourselves.

Nineteen of the Free-State prisoners at Leecompton have been convicted of "shooting with intent to kill," or "manslaughter," and have been sentenced to five or six years in the penitentiary, or to hard labor with chain and iron ball attached to them. They are to be sent to Tecumseh, to be kept there in the mean time. It is worthy of remark that only one of these has been identified by any witness as having been at the place of battle; the remainder were convicted, I presume, on the *supposition* that they were there. There is another incident worth relating in regard to these prisoners. When fifteen of them were convicted at once, and condemned to five years' ignominious imprisonment, they were then conducted back to their wretched prison under the guard of Titus's militia. On the way they evinced their indomitable courage and devotion to the cause of Freedom by giving "three cheers for Freedom and John C. Fremont." This may appear a trifling incident to the unreflecting, or it may look like levity or thoughtlessness. It was neither. It was the calm, determined earnestness of men who had suffered much for Freedom, and who had a dreary prospect of suffering before them, but in whose bosoms the fire of liberty burned unabated. In the midst of political corruption that makes us tremble for our Republican institutions, it is refreshing to meet with such a spirit. There was no fearful clinging to the Pro-Slavery power in that hearty cheer. For weeks, aye, months, they had been confined in a loathsome den, into which death had entered among them. They had suffered insult from a guard of impachable enemies. They were returning to that prison, condemned *filions*—aye, the *filions of Liberty!* with a fearful sentence in expectancy; and yet, in the ardor of undimmed devotion to the cause, they could exclaim, "Three cheers for Freedom and Fremont!"

One of the most remarkable circumstances I have to record is the arrest of Hays, the murderer of Buffum. He was arrested a few days ago. The murder was a very atrocious one. Hays, who is one of the infamous Kickapoo Rangers, shot Mr. Buffum and then cruelly choked him, while retiring from the late expedition against Lawrence. The murder was committed almost under the Governor's nose, he having ridden up the road shortly after, in company with Judge Cato. Judge Cato took the affidavit of the dying man, who had not yet expired, and the Governor issued a proclamation, offering a reward of \$500 for the arrest of the murderer. Something must have been added to this, for the Governor states that the arrest of Hays cost him \$700. How he ever came to be arrested, even thus, is not very clear. The impossibility of arresting Pro-Slavery men by Pro-Slavery officers had been so well demonstrated as to have become almost certainty. I suspect there is some trick in it to get the reward, under the conviction that there would be no danger of the prisoner being either confined or punished. I do not consider it at all impossible that the prisoner might be a party to the transaction. Be that as it may, he was arrested, the reward paid, and he handed over to the tender mercies of Judge Leecompte, who considerably (the prisoner being a Law-and-Order man) admitted him to bail, and the murderer went on his way to Kickapoo rejoicing. The extreme propriety of this proceeding on the part of Leecompte, was rendered still more striking from the fact that a large number of the Free-State prisoners had been ignominiously confined for weeks, even while the worst charges that their enemies pretended to bring against them were only third and fourth rate offenses. Now, Gov. Geary had taken great praise to himself for the arrest of this Pro-Slavery murderer. The arrest had cost the Government \$700, and it was meet that the Executive should get the worth of his money in reputation for impartiality. Gov. Geary was just congratulating himself in the Executive Chamber, and stating the fact of the arrest of Hays, and the amount it cost, as instances of his impartiality, when he was informed that Leecompte had admitted Hays to bail, and that Samuel J. Jones, "Sheriff of Douglas County," where the murder was committed, was one of the bondsmen. This was rather too glaring and barefaced. The Governor got in a rage, and sent off a lot of dragoons and a deputy Marshal to re-arrest him and bring

him back. This was rather a funny extra-judicial proceeding over the head of the Supreme Chief Justice. Meanwhile, Hays, the dragoon, and the deputy Marshal, have not been heard from, and I consider it doubtful if they will be heard from as being in company.

I have one sad story to tell. One of the prisoners the Governor took while on Middle Ottawa Creek was a man named Wilson. Since his arrest his wife has died—killed, it is said, by alarm and fears for her husband. Messengers came up to get Wilson liberated on bail, so that he could go to his wife's funeral, but all the eloquence of the sad story failed to move the obdurate hearts of the authorities who held the agonized prisoner. One neighbor offered to remain in the prisoner's place and let dragoons accompany the prisoner to his bereaved home, but the appeal fell on dull ears, rendered implacable by party hate.

THE DREARY TALE OF WRONG.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Nov. 13, 1856.

Gov. Geary is here, having arrived last night on his way to Leavenworth. It appears that he has had some kind of a difficulty with Judge Leecompte and Secretary Woodson, and the current report is that he has "dismissed" both of them from office, and also, that the rupture between him and the Pro-Slavery men on this account has been so aggravated and so general, that they threaten to hang him if he returns to Leecompton. Another statement is that he has dismissed the whole of Col. Titus's militia. All of these rumors and statements have to be received with a great deal of