

OSAWATOMIE, Kansas Ter., Aug. 14.

L. INGALLS, Esq.

Dear Sir.—An intelligent neighbor of mine of the Society of Friends, who has lived seven or eight years in this territory and is acquainted in Missouri, says that from almost every foray into Kansas, men return disgusted, saying that the state of things had been misrepresented to them, and that they will never come again. I have no doubt that many believe Free State men to be all negro-thieves. Every Northern man knows better. Yet it is true, that, goaded to desperation, the Free State men of Kansas, have sometimes killed those who had shown themselves to be enemies and have sometimes taken from pro-slavery men horses to replace those which had been stolen from themselves. It is also true, that, having no redress for wrongs in the Courts, they have followed the example set them long ago by the other party, and driven off by threats and force troublesome neighbors. This seems now to be the order of the day and to be the only way to be even with Missouri for setting a gill-net in the Missouri river to catch Free State men. In my last I mentioned that a company of Georgians had encamped near Osawatamie. I have been told that but few of them even pretended to take claims and some said they were hired to come and stay till after the next election. Some of them found they were engaged in a worse business than they supposed and left, others found themselves in need of more money and stole some horses. One Free State man was arrested without any process. On Friday evening, Aug. 8, their encampment was broken up, the people driven off, their provisions taken or destroyed and their fort burnt. So far as I know, no person was hurt. Some of the Georgians, anticipating an attack, had already left— On Monday following, it was said that a company of two or three hundred Missourians was seen on the prairie over the Osage. For some days the people of Osawatamie held themselves in readiness to defend themselves, but no attack was made. Since then we have had rumors of fighting near Lawrence, full accounts of which will no doubt reach you through other channels. Report says that the U. S. Dragoons rode in between the parties, but that they continued shooting on each side of the Dragoons, and that the officers, finding their efforts useless, had called all the troops into Fort Leavenworth. This week we had no mail from Kansas city. All our letters and papers from the East come by this mail, which comes only once a week. The carrier who lives in O., understanding that his life had been threatened, sent another man. He did not return, and now the carrier has been gone himself three or four days and has not returned. Some neighbors, formerly from Missouri, who did not consider their horses safe here went this week to take them back. One of them has returned and reports two or three thousand men marching into the territory from Westport. Part of them it is said, are designed for Osawatamie. Probably there are not quite so many. Rumor also says that the Free State men intend to take Lecompton. Gen. Lane is said to be in the territory and I think there is to be more fighting than ever.

Those whom I mentioned in my last as being sick are recovering. The health of myself and family has been uninterruptedly good, with an exception heretofore mentioned.

Yours truly,

J. H. C.

OSAWATOMIE, Aug. 27, 1856.

L. INGALLS, Esq.,

Dear Sir,—My last is still by me, for we are cut off from all direct communication with the East, our mail-carrier being, as we understand, a prisoner in Westport or Kansas city, and the man he sent "gone down the river," which may mean on a log as well as on a steamboat, or it may mean—gone to the bottom. I intend to send both letters through Nebraska. Gen. Lane is in the territory. He brought in through Iowa some five or six hundred, including some of those whom the Missourians sent back. There are now in Kansas, about fifteen hundred Free State men well armed. Night before last we had a hundred of them within forty rods of us—two of them in our tent. Last week they broke up three "hornet's nests." They gave us some particulars. A Col. Titus, who received his appointment from the bogus legislature, had, near Lecompton, a fort or block-house, and about forty men, who got their living by stealing horses &c., from Free State men. About forty of the Free State men in advance of the main body, fell in with his scouts, and without waiting for the main body to come up, pursued them to the fort. Here they were fired upon, and every fourth man wounded and their captain killed. When the main body came up with a cannon, they began to put the balls into and through the fort, knocking out the logs from the back side. In about two hours the men within cried for quarters.— About twenty prisoners were taken, including Col. Titus, who was badly wounded, and Clark, the Potawatamie Indian agent. Shannon came to plead for the lives of the prisoners. They told him they were not barbarians. They exchanged the prisoners for five Free State men and a cannon.

At another place they found a fort so strong, that had resistance been made they could not have taken it, but the men fled on their approach. On entering, they found a breakfast table set most temptingly. They thought there might be medicine with the food, and preferred to take only one at a time. They tore up the floor and found underneath, a colored man. They found some women in houses near, and asked them about a Free State man who had been murdered near there a short time before. The women at first, knew nothing about it! After being threatened, they knew all about it, and told where the man was buried. On going to the place, they found the body pierced with several shot holes, the skull broken in and the face blackened, to prevent recognition. The body was covered only with a few sods. After another job of this kind, hearing that Osawatamie was threatened with an attack they marched this way, and arrived on Saturday or Sunday. Here there was nothing to do, there being no enemy near, and the worst of our pro-slavery men having fled. It was reported that on Sugar Creek, twenty miles north, the pro-slavery men to the number of eighty, were determined to destroy a Free State store which was defended by about forty. They started towards evening, intending to travel all night. Missing their way, they came near us and halted, and finally concluded to wait till morning. The next day about noon, they found a camp of pro-slavery men, about eighty in number, just beyond Middle Creek, four or five miles from here. The advance guard of the Free State men first surprised and took the scouts of the other party, and then fell in with a detachment who were returning from Potawatamie, 8 miles west of Osawatamie with a prisoner, a Mr. Partridge, whom they had taken sick from his bed. The free state men only six in number gave charge and followed them to the camp, and the pro-slavery men left their dinner and fled. About fourteen prisoners were taken, including a young lawyer from Fort Scott who had his leg badly broken. Whether any of the pro-slavery men were killed is not known. The free state men went on to Sugar Creek but found nothing to do. The prominent pro-slavery men from both Middle Creek and Sugar Creek have fled.

Yours truly,

J. H. C.

L. INGALLS, Esq.,

DEAR SIR:—My last two are still in my hands, but I have matter to write, and matter that rests not on hearsay. I have stood on the hill near our tent and seen the smoke and flames rise from house after house until Osawatamie is not much but ashes. I have helped to bury the dead and take care of the wounded. I have helped to extinguish the flames of our house, which has escaped with only a large hole burned through the floor. Ten or twelve houses, two stores, one grocery, a law office, a block house, a house built for a school-house and place of worship, and several other houses have been burned; the post office plundered, the letters examined and scattered over the prairie, most of the provisions of the place burned, loads of plunder carried off, and, more than all, four men, and perhaps more, killed and three wounded. This has been done not without loss to the Missourians. They carried away three wagon loads of dead and wounded. But to resume the thread of my narrative.— The men who went to Sugar Creek returned, and most of those who lived in and about Lawrence, went on home. Besides the arrived free-state men of the place, a few others remained with Capt. John Brown sen., whose name is a terror to Missourians. His house, and that of his son Jason were burned to the ground. His son, John Brown jr., was taken and has been kept a prisoner at Lecompton all summer, though the proof is abundant that he was many miles from the place at the time.— He recently met one of our pro-slavery neighbors who was fleeing to Missouri and told him that he was John Brown, and told him to go to Missouri "and tell the Missourians, he was ready for them. The poor fellow shook till, as a boy said, he almost shook his breeches off. But Capt. Brown like other men, was rendered too confident by success. My Quaker neighbor met him last Friday and told him he must be careful or the Missourians would be upon him. "Oh no," he said, he had scoured all the country and could not find any." The men of Osawatamie, though they had had a watch most or all of the nights since the irruption in June, and had built a black house, had no organized military company. On Friday night Mr. Yeltor, the mail carrier, returned after a detention of two weeks by the Missourians. He brought news of the approach of a large body of Missourians. Osawatamie is most favorably situated for defense against small arms, it is between two streams, both of which are deep and have high steep banks. There is a ford across the Osage river to the north and one across the Potawatamie on the north, with no other means of crossing except by swimming, or in two or three dug-outs. There is not another ford on the Osage till you get up four or five miles. Both streams are skirted with timber and the village was in the prairie between. The Missourians were expected by way of the lower ford on the Osage. Capt. Brown, with a part of the men, who were not more than thirty in all crossed the Osage on Friday night to meet them. On Saturday morning about six o'clock the Missourians made their appearance between the streams west of the town, having crossed the ford above.— They were led by Rev. Mr. White an invalid Baptist preacher, who lives somewhere between here and Lawrence. Some who counted them as they passed made the number about three hundred and twenty-five. They were mounted and had a cannon. Three young men, Fred. Brown, son of Captain Brown, Garrison, and Cutter had come with dispatches from Lawrence, and were staying a mile west of the village. Cutter stepped out and addressed their advance scouts. They fired on him, and he fired and then fled to the bushes with Garrison.— They pursued. He being on foot and they on horseback, he saw no chance of saving himself but by throwing himself down in the bushes and appearing to be dead. They came up and fired two charges of buckshot and a bullet into his thigh, breaking it in the middle. They then pursued and killed Garrison. Returning, one of them dismounted, kicked Cutter, turned him over, and said "He breathes. I wish my gun was loaded, and I would put a bullet through his head." "Let him rip," said another, "he'll die fast enough," and away they went.

Fred. Brown was shot while crossing the road. The Missourians came on to the town and as they came against the west end of it the hand full of Free State men fired on them from the timber on the North. It threw them into some disorder, but they soon rallied, a part dismounted, and advanced into the woods, the cannon began to pour in grape shot, and after a contest of fifteen or twenty minutes, the Free State men were obliged to swim across the Osage. One man by the name of Powers, from Ogle Co., Ill., was killed in the river, by a ball through the breast, and two Osawatamie men were wounded, not dangerously, while climbing the opposite bank. Two or three more have not been seen since, and may have been shot in the river. After their victory, the Missourians proceeded to rifle the houses and stores, opened a safe by means of their cannon and carried off its contents, robbed the Post Office, tore off the envelopes of the letters and threw the contents away, saying, it is probable, whatever money there might be. More than a hundred letters were found after their departure and the envelopes of many more. They then began to burn the houses. About an hour was occupied in this business. A white flag was seen on two houses and these were spared. As some of them approached the east end of the village near the woods, a brave old man fired upon them and they withdrew, supposing there might be a considerable force in that quarter. Four or five houses were probably saved in this way. In all there may remain eight or ten including one that burned so slowly that the fire was extinguished an hour or more after the Missourians were out of sight, with only a hole through the floor.

Soon as the Missourians were out of sight two or three neighbors with myself visited the town. We found it desolate enough. The men who were sick with fever and chills had only withdrawn into the woods and came back soon. Two of those who went with me had been sick, and except myself, there was hardly a well man there. Those who had been fighting after crossing the river, succeeded themselves and having no means of ascertaining whether the Missourians had left were slow to leave their hiding places and did not all come in till the afternoon of the next day. On Sabbath, P. M., the four I have mentioned were interred in plain rough boxes just as they had fallen.

Sept. 3d.—Three men of those in the battle, besides those mentioned did not return and we feared that they had been shot in crossing the river. One of them, Mr. Geo. Partridge, who was rescued from the Missourians at Middle Creek, was found in the river and yesterday I assisted in burying him. Another, a Mr. Thomas, of Chemung Co., N. Y., who came out when I did, was sick and was advised not to go out, but he said he would go and do what he could. He was doubtless killed or taken prisoner. The powder flask of the other was found near the river with indentations made by shot. Another, a brave man and a christian, who escaped the Missourians, we very much fear has fallen since by a murderer's hand. He and his wife staid