

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Sept. 6, 1856.

Events come upon us so thick and fast that it is quite difficult to keep track of them in the order in which they occur. The destruction by arson and pillage of the houses and other property of Free-State settlers in the vicinity of Leecompton, on the nights of Monday and Tuesday last, which I noticed incidentally in my letter of the 3d inst., has had an effect upon some of the Pro-Slavery Volunteers from Missouri, as unexpectedly to the great Gen. Stringfellow as it was fortunate for the Free-State Army. It seems that a Col. Robinson of St. Joseph's, Mo., so far forgot his allegiance to Border Ruffianism and Bully Stringfellow as to "file exceptions" to this barbarous mode of warfare, and said so to the leaders in the Pro-Slavery camp at Leecompton, in a manner which indicated not only his sincerity, but his extreme disgust of such proceedings. He told them that he came there with his men to fight for a principle, and to stop the burnings and the outrages upon actual settlers, and now he had discovered that these very acts were perpetrated by the men of the "Law-and-Order" army. He said, too, that if the game was to shoot into houses, where there were nothing but a few women and children; if this was the game to be played, he, Col. Robinson, was to be counted out. It is further reported that Gen. Stringfellow sent the Colonel a challenge, and that the Colonel replied that he fought deals only with gentlemen, and that he pulled up the stakes of his tents, and with his 150 men, marched the same day in the direction of St. Joseph. The news had reached the Pro-Slavery camp at Leecompton that Gen. Lane had routed the Southern Division of the "Kansas Militia," and they had retreated to Westport, Mo., and were fortifying the town, expecting that Lane would follow them there. But as we understand this was to be one of defense, instead of aggression, there were no fears of Lane and his army entering the town. The Kansas militia was probably, as thought, that Lane had as good a right to invade Missouri as they had to invade Kansas. Hence they fortified their stronghold. News had also reached the Ruffian army at Leecompton, by dispatches from New Santa Fe, of the battle of Osawattimie and its results, which prove to have been far worse to the Ruffians than I anticipated in my letter of the 1st inst. They report thirty of their men killed, and many more wounded, while it is known that but five Free-State men were killed, with none wounded. The difference between the strength of the respective forces is not so great as was at first reported. There were but thirty Free-State men against three hundred Ruffians, ten to one, instead of twelve to one, as at first reported. It is believed that if the Free-State men had had a sufficient quantity of ammunition and some extra side-arms, the victory would have been theirs, even with such a disadvantage. The battle of Osawattimie was the decisive battle of this war, not only from its material results, but from its moral effect upon both parties. It demonstrates to the country that the Free-State men now in Kansas are superior to the Ruffians now or then in Kansas, both in courage and in the use of arms. In speaking thus, I have made no invidious comparison, for I believe if there is any circumstance calculated to call out a man's bravery, it is the defense of his home against a heartless and blood-thirsty invader.

Nothing was known in Lawrence of the disaffection in the Pro-Slavery camp, on Wednesday. On Thursday morning, a man came over the ferry from the direction of Leavenworth, and stated, as well as he was able, that he and two other Free-State men had started from Leavenworth on Monday, to join the Free-State army in defense of Lawrence; that they had been taken prisoners of war and had the banditti taken into the woods, and all three were shot. He fell, insensible, and when he recovered he found that the ball (from an eight-inch revolver) had lodged in the muscles of the neck. The pistol must have been held quite close up to his face, because numerous particles of powder had penetrated the skin, making black spots. One side of his face was awfully mangled. He says he knows one of the party. An Indian came up here from the Delaware Reservation, and made the statement. The unfortunate man is in the hospital and will probably recover. When he can talk without pain, he will give more particulars. The bodies of his companions were found yesterday.

Speaking of the Delaware Indian Reserve, reminds me of a very important item. It seems that the Ruffians in and around Leavenworth have been engaged in stealing horses from the Delaware, and that they would not bear it any longer, in short the Indian element, in their manhood, called for redress or revenge, and that too, immediately. Accordingly, on Wednesday last, a delegation headed by Barcozie, their chief, visited Gov. Woodson, and, after stating their grievances, told him that unless immediate measures were taken for their protection, they would raise five hundred braves and offer themselves to Gen. Lane at Lawrence, to assist in clearing the Territory of their enemies, the white Missouri horse-thieves. Gov. Woodson told him that they would be protected, and immediately sent a company of United States dragoons to the rescue. The Delaware do not believe in the peculiar institution.

On Thursday, Sept. 4, in the afternoon, the citizens of Lawrence were again delighted with a visit from Marshal Donaldson, some dragoons, and four companies of United States dragoons. He had with him Gen. Lane's high treason writ against Gen. Lane, Col. Walker, Mr. Grover and others, but as nobody knew where these gentlemen were, the doughty Marshal, after perambulating the streets, and observing to his satisfaction, or dissatisfaction, the forts and so-forth of the city, quietly returned with Uncle Sam to Leecompton, probably to write another postscript.

On the same day a regiment of the Free-State Volunteers were ordered to cross the Kansas River, and march up on its north side as far as Leecompton. The object of this force was to cut off any retreat in the direction of Leavenworth of the Pro-Slavery force at Leecompton. This Free-State force, numbering one hundred and fifty men, armed mostly with rifles, arrived at a point about a mile north of Leecompton about dark. Col. Harvey, who is in command of 1st Regiment of Volunteers, disposed of his men in such a manner as to cover the road for a considerable distance, thereby making it impossible for a body of men numbering even five times that of his party to retreat. Here they lay on their arms all day, under one of the most violent thunder and rain storms of the season. In the meantime, Gen. Lane, with the balance of the Free-State army, was to have marched upon Leecompton that night, and attack the place at day-break, if the Ruffians refused to surrender. As was already remarked, nothing was known of either wing of the Free-State army about the disaffection in the Pro-Slavery army, because the messengers sent to find out had been taken prisoners.

Owing to the dreaching rain and the severe thunderstorm, Gen. Lane failed to march at the appointed time, and about 10 o'clock on Friday, the 1st Regiment, after making prisoners of a few stragglers of the Ruffian army, took up their line of march back to Lawrence. Within a mile of the city, they were met by a messenger telling them that Gen. Lane had marched upon Leecompton that morning, and expected them to cut off the retreat of the Ruffians who might attempt to cross the river on their way to Leavenworth. But the messenger was too late—the men were fatigued and hungry—and it was thought best to march forward to Lawrence to get some refreshments and rest.

About two o'clock p. m. a messenger came from Gen. Lane, directing that if the 1st Regiment had returned, to let them rest; and, if required, to be ready to march to his assistance at a moment's notice. But no assistance was necessary; for Lane had taken possession of a hill overlooking the entire city, and had planted two pieces of artillery, without any attempted resistance on the part of the Ruffians whatever. This was about 4 p. m. on Friday. Gen. Lane then deployed two companies to go into the Ruffian camp, and make a demand of the Free-State prisoners taken at Leavenworth and other places. He also gave them the necessary in-

structions how to proceed. One of these men was Chas. H. Branch, son of Lawrence. The other was Captain James B. Child of Osawattimie, the same who was held a prisoner in a Missouri jail and who a week ago commanded conjointly with Capt. John Brown, senr., at the battle of Osawattimie. These gentlemen, bearing a flag of truce, rode into Leecompton, and halted before the unfinished State Capitol, which was for the time being used as a Border-Ruffian fort. The Ruffians were drawn up in line of battle, and were mostly armed with United States muskets. The following is a verbatim report of the interview:

Mr. Branch—"Who has command of the forces here assembled?"  
 Several Voices—"General Richardson."  
 Mr. Branch—"Can I see General Richardson?"

Here General Richardson stepped forward and bowed.  
 Mr. Branch—"General Richardson, are you in command of the forces here assembled?"  
 General Richardson—"Well, I don't know as I am."

An individual here stepped forward and inquired as follows:  
 "General Richardson, do you still retain the command?"  
 "No, I suppose not, I resigned this morning," was the reply.

This individual then turned to Messrs. Branch and Child, and said: "I am in command of the forces here assembled, and am ready to receive any proposition."  
 Mr. Branch—"Who are you, Sir?"  
 Individual—"I am General Marshall."

Mr. Branch—"I am directed by Gen. Lane, Commander of the Free-State forces of Kansas, to demand of you the unconditional and immediate release of all Free-State prisoners now in Leecompton."  
 Gen. Marshall—"We wish to make no compromises with Gen. Lane, only that he shall treat his prisoners as kindly and courteously as we treat his."

Mr. Branch—"Do I understand you to refuse to surrender the prisoners demanded?"  
 Gen. Marshall—"Such is the understanding."  
 Messrs. Branch and Child were about to return to Gen. Lane's lines, when Gen. Marshall requested them to wait a few minutes. They did so.

At a private consultation with some others, the General returned to the interview, and gave some strange intelligence that all the prisoners demanded had been released that morning, and that provision had been made to obtain an escort of United States dragoons to attend them to Lawrence the next day! He then told him that he made a demand on Gen. Lane for all the Pro-Slavery prisoners which had been taken, and asked Mr. Branch to state the demand. This ended the interview.

In the mean time, three different messengers, at three different times, during the interview, were sent very short—had been dispatched to the camp of the United States troops about two miles from Leecompton, asking them to come over and save their city from the clutches of Gen. Lane and his army. Col. Cook, the officer in command, finally came with a few of his companies, and he and his staff reached Lane's lines about the time the messengers to Leecompton got back. Col. Cook said to Gen. Lane and his staff: "Gentlemen, you have made a great mistake in coming here to-day. The Territorial militia was dismissed this morning, and some of them have left, some are leaving now, and the rest will leave and go to their homes as soon as they can." Mr. Parrott of Leavenworth City, who was twice sent down the river by the Ruffians, replied to him as follows: "Col. Cook, when we send a man, or two men, or a dozen men to speak with the Territorial authorities, they are arrested and held like fens! How, then, are we to know what is going on in Leecompton? Why, we have to come here with an army to find out what is going on. How else could we know?" To this Col. Cook made no reply.

An incident occurred here worthy of record. Deputy Marshal Cramer rode up to Lane's lines, encouraged to perform this act of bravery, doubtless, by seeing the United States troops; but his object was not apparent. He was immediately taken prisoner by our scouts, and as he was passing Col. Cook he appealed to that gentleman for protection. Col. Cook did not interfere in his behalf, and the bogus process-server was led to the rear. He was shortly afterwards released, and was the recipient of some good advice from one of the boys.

Some more conversation of an unimportant character took place between Col. Cook and Gen. Lane and his staff, and the Free-State forces took their line of march to Lawrence, where they arrived about 9 o'clock last night. There are a number of interesting incidents connected with this Leecompton affair, but want of time prevents me from writing them. The mail runs regularly to Westport three times a week, but whether you get these letters or not I cannot tell. THE TRIBUNE comes "once in a while."  
 The previous here feel sorry that the House recorded, and did nothing for them. They intend to rely upon themselves. POTTER.

P. S.—A report has just reached us that the Topeka Volunteers have taken Tecumseh. No lives lost. No particulars.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Sept. 8, 1856.

We have a hull once more, but it feels like the hull which precedes a second storm. This time the clouds are not so thick, and the few that remain on the Missouri-ward horizon are not so black. The feeling of the people here is this: let the storm come, we have got our umbrellas up!

My last letter brought us down to the surrender, or we may call it the capitulation of Leecompton, and the return to Missouri of the "Kansas militia." Whether they all returned to Missouri is a question of some doubt. It is quite certain, however, that 130 from St. Joseph, under Col. Robinson, did return, as the quarrel mentioned in my last was one that will not be easily healed. The company or regiment which he commands is known among the Ruffians by the awe-inspiring name of the "Tigers," their uniform being supposed to resemble the natural uniform of that humane animal. Their name may be intended to convey to innocent and unsuspecting Free-State men the human-blood-loving, raw-head-and-bloody-bones character of the company. Be this as it may, those who know Col. Robinson, their commander, describe him as a gentleman in every particular, but one who was weak enough to be led by the misrepresentations of Atchison, Stringfellow and company to take part in the raid into the Territory. He did so, with the understanding that his mission was to stop outrage and violence on the part of the Abolitionists. He was, therefore, but ill prepared to see the shoe on the other foot—to see law-and-order men commit the outrages which he was told belonged only to the depraved and desperate Abolitionists; and still worse was he prepared to see it counselled or winked at by the great Stringfellow! Hence their quarrel, followed by a challenge, which was followed by his refusal to fight except with gentlemen; this last event was followed by the Colonel's return to Missouri with his "tigers"—tamed, doubtless, by the news of the battle of Osawattimie. This brings me to speak of Capt. John Brown, sr. It will be remembered that after the retreat of the Free-State men, when their ammunition was expended, Captain Brown was last seen crossing the river with a Sharps rifle in one hand, and a revolver in the other. As he was not seen afterward, he was supposed to have fallen, and the people here mourned him as dead. It was therefore with much pleasure that they welcomed back back, on Sunday last, the venerable hero of Black Jack and Osawattimie. Captain Brown is a tall, gray-haired, blue-eyed man, about 60 years of age, and the expression of his countenance indicates an amount of manliness and ferocious character in which the Border newspapers paint him. He reports that but one Free-State man was killed in the battle, but that two men were murdered (one of them his own son) before the battle, and one after the battle, making four in all. The Border newspapers contain a list of the killed and wounded on the Pro-Slavery side, and their statement is corroborated in part by Captain Brown. They had thirty-three killed and thirty-seven wounded. Captain Brown remained around Osawattimie, taking care of his property and watching with a few of his company

the movements of the Borderers. All is quiet in that part of the Territory.

On Saturday last, according to the terms of the Leecompton settlement of the day before, fourteen Free-State prisoners were escorted by the dragoons to Lawrence. There are two yet held at Leavenworth, not included in the terms, one of whom is Mr. John Wilder, the other is the Rev. Mr. Nute, who was reported to have been sent down the river. The same day, Gen. Richardson, Commander-in-Chief of the "Kansas Militia," had the hardihood to ride into Lawrence alone. He had an interview with the Free-State leaders, and stated that he was on his way to Westport to disperse the parties who were coming into the Territory. Gen. Lane took his statements for what they were worth, treated him kindly and escorted him out of town. Lane is reported to have told him that if he (Richardson) found it difficult to disperse them, to bring them up into the Territory and he (Lane) would do it for him. He is said to have exhibited to Gen. Lane a Irish Heep humility. However, nobody will be deceived by these protestations of peace from such a source. They have been made before with the intention of getting the Free-State men off their guard; and until the great question of Freedom or Slavery for Kansas is settled, the Free-State men will be as vigilant as now in defending their homes against outrage.

To-day was that fated upon for the trial of the Treason prisoners, and a number of our citizens went, unarmed, to attend Court, at Leecompton; but when I left there, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, no Court had appeared. The only United States Territorial officer there was Deputy-Marshal Cramer, of whom mention was made in my last. He commenced using abusive language to M. J. Parrott, esq., one of Gov. Robinson's counsel, until the "Stubbs" (unnamed) entered town, and he then "hushed up" of his own accord. He evidently intended to get up a row, till he saw it would not pay. Mr. Parrott promised him an *in facie* hearing.

It is worthy of remark that although Lane and his men marched close by the now deserted house of Gen. Clark, the Pierce Indian Agent, the murderer of Barber, not a particle of property was destroyed belonging to him except a few melons, thus affording another instance of the prudence of Lane, and the desire to keep an unblemished record. Had Clark been there, it might have been difficult to restrain them.

Nine o'clock at night.—A gentleman has just come from Leecompton, who says that Jeffreys Leacock has arrived, and Court will be opened at 9 o'clock in the morning. Postscriptum Donaldson came with him. I will be there, and keep you posted.

POTTER.