

The Recent Fights in Kansas—Shannon's Second Treaty of Peace—Free State Men Murdered and Scalped.

Mail accounts from Kansas give us a reliable history of events down to the 20th. At that date the ruffian forces from Missouri were still concentrating at Doniphan and Leavenworth, and were enrolled as territorial militia by Gen Richardson, who had given out word that they would not commence active movements till they numbered 4000. He had summoned the Cherokee and Creek Indians to assist, but it was doubtful whether they would consent. Nothing had been done towards collecting and organizing the free state forces. Their successful movements against the ruffian forts had been conducted by small parties collected on the spur of the moment, under the exasperation of some new murder or robbery. Col Titus's ruffian camp was attacked, and himself and nineteen others taken prisoners, in order to rescue eight recent emigrants from Illinois, seized while passing peaceably on the road, whom he held and threatened to hang. Some thirty rifles and muskets were taken from this fort, a portion of them identified as stolen from Lawrence. Captain Shombre of Indiana, was mortally wounded and Col Titus had a thumb and finger shot off. Upon Titus was found a letter addressed to a friend at the South, detailing the plan of the projected campaign, which was that the ruffians should excite the free state men to resistance, and then Gen Smith, the U. S. dragoons and ruffians would drive the whole abolition crew from the territory and leave a clean field for the South. The prisoners were taken to Lawrence and confined in the office of the late Herald of Freedom. Col Shombre died soon after his arrival in the town, and his last words were: "Tell my friends that I offer up my life a willing sacrifice to freedom in Kansas." He was buried with military honors by the side of the murdered Barber. Col Shombre was a popular lawyer at Richmond, Indiana, and emigrated to Kansas out of patriotic love of the cause in whose defense he has fallen.

On Sunday, the 17th, Gov Shannon surprised the people of Lawrence by appearing among them and asking for a conference with the free state leaders. The conference was held for six hours with closed doors, and then Gov Shannon addressed the people outside, informing them of his great anxiety to arrest the difficulties in the territory, and that for this purpose he had just assented to an agreement, with these conditions: he would deliver up the five prisoners arrested a few days before at Franklin by marshal Fain under writs for having attacked the ruffian fort there; he would use the U. S. forces to repel any armed body found in the territory for other than peaceful purposes; and he would deliver up the cannon taken from Lawrence at the time the hotel was destroyed. On their part the Lawrence men were to release Capt Titus and his nineteen men held as prisoners. This arrangement was carried out promptly, so far as the prisoners and guns were concerned, and it was most satisfactory to the free state men, for the prisoners released by Shannon were not taken in battle, but by due process of bogus law, and by their discharge Shannon virtually declared the laws invalid. His promise to use the dragoons to drive out the ruffian forces he did not fulfill.

Col Titus's block house was about a mile from Lecompton, and the people of the town expected an attack from the free state men. It was then that Atchison and others, who were at Lecompton, issued their false and exciting accounts of murders and other outrages by the free state men. The free state men did not however contemplate an attack upon Lecompton, their sole object being the release of the men threatened with death by Col Titus.

The Mr Hopps, who was shot and scalped by the ruffians near Leavenworth, is said by the N. Y. Tribune's correspondent to have been a brother-in-law of Rev Mr Nute, his wife being Mr Nute's sister. He had just emigrated to the territory from Ohio, and had left his wife at Lawrence, while he went to Leavenworth for his goods. Another Lawrence man named Jennison, a teamster, was afterwards murdered and scalped while taking a load from Kansas City to Lawrence. His goods were confiscated to the use of the ruffian forces. His scalp the murderer exhibited in the ruffian camp as an honorable trophy of his prowess! This scalping of their victims by the ruffians tells more than volumes of description as to their real character—brutal, cruel, remorseless. The free state settlers are men of peace, who have only been driven by a long course of most insufferable injuries to exercise the natural right and duty of self-defence. And yet we have men in Massachusetts base enough to defame our own citizens who have gone to Kansas to make honest homes, and defend the scoundrels who murder and scalp them—imitating the ferocity, without the courage of the savage.