

The Robberies by Lane's Band in Kansas.

LEXINGTON, KANSAS TERRITORY, }  
September 6, 1856. }

To my friends in Southeast Missouri:

On or about the first day of June last, I became a citizen of the town of Tecumseh, Shawnee county, in the Territory of Kansas, with the intention of engaging in the mercantile business.— In pursuance of this intention, I accordingly opened my house and commenced business. I devoted the whole of my time, talent and energy to an honest extension of my legitimate business, taking no active part in the present unhappy state of affairs in our Territory, but claiming for myself the right, which every American citizen possesses, of expressing my opinion and views in regard to the political questions which agitate the public peace of this country.

Everything was quiet and peaceable; the indications were strong that the unhappy difficulties which divided us would be healed, and that law and order would be supreme. Such was the case until about the 15th of July, when bodies of men, known as the notorious James H. Lane's men, came into the Territory with the open and avowed object and intention of subverting the existing Territorial Government by force of arms. Their first action was upon the claim-house of Mr. Craine, a law-abiding citizen of the Territory. Next on Mr. Craine's residence in the town of Franklin. Next on the settlement of Mr. Treadwell, on Washington Creek; then Colonel Titus' house, near Lexington. Not satisfied with destroying these houses, they robbed them of everything of the slightest value; inflicting great and unprovoked indignities upon the person of Mrs. Craine, an old lady living in Franklin. Appropriating wardrobes of Mrs. Craine and Mrs. Titus' to their own use, and even taking wearing apparel belonging to Col. Titus' negroes. After robbing the Colonel, they burned his house to the ground, taking him and all other persons found in the vicinity prisoners.

After these occurrences I expressed my condemnation of such acts, and such highway robbery as I believed them, and now think they deserved, as unchristian, no-American, and that the guilty perpetrators of these crimes should be brought to public justice. On the 4th day of September, a band of these men, traitors to their God and their country—robbers and murderers—numbering some one hundred and fifty men, armed with Sharpe's rifles, Colt's revolvers, and bowie-knives, came into the town of Tecumseh, and into my store, robbed, seized and took possession of all my goods, wares and merchandise, amounting in the aggregate, to at least four thousand dollars; appropriated the same to their own use and benefit, and the advancement of their unholy cause. About the same time they robbed the house of Mr. Robert Edwards of everything he had, even his corn and oats, and appropriating his household and kitchen furniture to their use and benefit; using his wagons and horses to haul off these articles to Topeka; driving off the families of conservative citizens—robbing them of everything—threatening to kill and murder, and even firing upon them.

Such is the condition of the country at this time, brought about by the fact that the military refused to obey the order issued by the Governor of the Territory, to meet the notorious Lane, with his army of lawless invaders, on the northern frontier, and disarm and drive them back.— Neither the President's or the Governor's proclamation were carried out by the military. Why is this? It could not have been the intention of the President, at the time he issued his proclamation, to deceive and throw the bona fide settlers of the Territory off their guard, thereby allowing these men to get into the Territory and drive out all of the conservative men at the point of the bayonet. Such has been the effect of his proclamation, combined with the actions of the military. If no proclamation had been issued by the President, the militia would have driven Lane and his outlaws out of the country before they had marched fifty miles from the Nebraska line.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

BENJ. D. CASTLEMAN.

P. S.—Missouri, and Lexington, Ky., papers are respectfully requested to copy. B. D. C.