

Col. Titus and Captain Mitchell.

Among the Free State prisoners, who escaped from the Border Ruffian jails, in Kansas, was Captain Mitchell of Topeka. He was lawlessly arrested by a mob, in Weston, Mo., and was carried to the city of Leavenworth, where he was kept by the ruffians for two weeks, and was finally sent to the prison at Leecompton, where he was thrust amongst the other prisoners. Up to that time there was no writ, nor anything on record against him. If there is now, he has never seen nor heard of it. I have just seen him. His hands are horribly bruised and cut by the cruel treatment he received while in prison. About a week ago, Col. Titus and his militia, for some reason or other, undertook to count the prisoners. For this purpose they were formed in line. While forming the line Col. Titus turned to Mitchell and said :

'Captain, fall into line.'

'I did not know,' replied Mitchell, 'that there were any captains among us prisoners.'

On this, Titus rudely seized him by the collar and dragged him into line, the attendant guards, with muskets, bayonets, and sabres, being there to sustain him. Captain Mitchell was indignant, and Col. Titus knows his opinion of him. Enraged, Titus undertook to inflict personal chastisement on the prisoner, when Mitchell seized him by the beard, and the heroic Floridan was rapidly getting the worst of it when the guard interfered. Col. Titus immediately ordered the prisoner to be bound, when his hands were tied behind him with the cruel, cutting cords that have so bruised and mangled them. Thus secured the gallant Titus approached him to strike him, when Mr. Hampton, who had charge of the convicts, and who appeared to have rather more manhood, interfered, and, stepping between them, told Titus that he must not strike that man. Thus prevented, Col. Titus vented his spleen against the bound prisoner in abuse, calling him all the opprobrious names his fancy could suggest, and threatening to gag, whip and shoot him.

'Col. Titus,' said the calm and heroic free State prisoner, 'you may tie me and whip me, or kill me, for I am your prisoner; but you cannot make me beg as pitifully for mercy as you did in Lawrence.'

Incensed at this, Titus ordered the prisoner to be gagged; and thus brutally and shamefully bound and gagged, the Captain was kept for thirteen hours.