

Athenian, anxious to save their town from the injury of such ruffianism, had got up a meeting in that place, and by resolution endeavored to make it appear that it was merely a personal matter between Gen. Lane and the others. At this Lane was, of course, extremely indignant. He called on Mr. S. C. Pomeroy, who was present, and demanded of him why it was done. Mr. Pomeroy came forward and undertook to make a defense, in the midst of which he was interrupted by ironical voices who reminded him that if Gen. Lane had been in Lawrence on the 21st of May last, the cannon would not have been dug up for the Border Ruffians. Gen. Lane went back again to the resolutions and urged their passage.

After he took his seat, an effort was made to force them through without further debate. W. A. Phillips was loudly called for, amid cries of "Question." The former evidently preponderating, he addressed the Convention. The position he took was, that much might be lost by going into the election with an almost certainty of defeat. The apportionment, and requiring of tax and other qualifications, showed that the Pro-Slavery men were determined to carry the election. They had the power, under their arrangements, and if we went in under them, defeat was inevitable. He declared that no body, be it elected by whom it may, had a right to legislate for Kansas under that apportionment. He asked if they were prepared to oust the disreputable and partisan judges of election, and elect men who could be trusted. Cries of "Yes." Were they prepared to see that all should have the right of voting, tax or no tax? "Yes." Were they prepared to stand behind the men thus elected, and to maintain their right, and theirs alone, to legislate? "Yes!" He reminded them that the resolutions contemplated nothing of the kind, and that it pained the whole matter to certain promises of Walker; and for them to profess, even, to have any faith in Walker, was ridiculous. Under the circumstances, the true policy would have been to adhere steadfastly to the State Government, as no Territorial law could ever amount to anything until they participated in the elections. He thought voting under such circumstances bad policy, but if it was determined on, he moved to amend the report by striking out that part of it which looked to perpetuating the Territorial Government, and inserting the following resolution:

"Resolved, That should any power, legislative or otherwise, be obtained by any force of Free-State men or Free-State votes at the proceeding called an election, to be held in October next, this Convention declares that such power shall only be used for the destruction of the bogus usurpation; that a Territorial Government shall not be perpetuated, but that the Government under the Topeka Constitution is the only legitimate government."

Gov. Robinson was called next to the stand. He spoke against the amendment thus proposed. He was in favor of leaving that matter to future action. It could be determined hereafter to take such a course, if the people desired it; or, if it was deemed best to abandon the Topeka Constitution, he did not see that such policy was objectionable. For his own part, the people ought to feel satisfied with such a position from him. His "glory and his scrip" were with the Topeka Constitution, but he did not feel that it was essential always to adhere to it. This thing of politics was a dirty business; he did not think that unyielding principle was always expedient. We had to grapple with these things as they could be won. He was in favor of voting at the October election. He had always been in favor of such a course. He could refer to letters that he had written to prove this. We must vote. Our friends in the States expected us to vote. If we did not, we would be accused of being factious. He did not think that defeat would ruin us. He differed with Gen. Lane on that point. He thought it very doubtful if we could succeed under the arrangements made, but still we must try. It would place us in a better position. We could protest against all the frauds and expose them. Win, if we could, even under these disadvantages, and, at all events, try all means to better our condition.

After his remarks, in order to prevent a vote on the amendment as it stood, the whole report with the amendment was referred back to the Committee. The objectionable part was stricken out, and a substitute for the amendment added in the shape of an additional resolution. The report, as thus amended, was passed with but few dissenting voices, though all did not vote. The Convention then adjourned.

The Delegate Convention had been organized by appointing H. J. Adams, esq., Chairman. That Convention nominated Mr. Parrot as candidate for delegate to Congress. It also recommended the District Conventions to nominate candidates to the Territorial Legislature.

Marcus J. Parrot, esq., was called on and made a very eloquent speech. He did not take any position in relation to the subjects that had divided the Convention. His remarks were well received.

In the evening the delegates from the disfranchised counties held a meeting to determine what they should do, but were unable to come to any satisfactory conclusion.

The following are the resolutions as passed:  
Whereas, It is of the most vital importance to the People of Kansas that the Territorial Government should be controlled by the bona fide citizens thereof;  
And whereas, Gov. Walker has repeatedly pledged himself that the People of Kansas should have a full and fair vote before impartial judges, at the election to be held on the first Monday in October next for Delegate to Congress and Members of the Territorial Legislature and other officers, therefore,  
Resolved, That we, the People of Kansas in mass Convention assembled, agree to participate in said election, the faithful fulfillment of the pledge of Gov. Walker; and that we, as heretofore, protest against the enactments forced upon us by the votes of the people of Missouri.  
Resolved, That the mass Convention proceed to appoint a Committee to wait upon the Territorial authorities and urgently insist upon a revision and correction of the wicked apportionment endeavored to be forced upon the People of Kansas to govern the selection of Members of the Territorial Legislature.  
Resolved, That Gen. J. H. Lane be authorized and requested to tender to Gov. Walker the force organized by him under the resolution passed by the Convention held at Topeka on the 15th July last, to be used for the protection of the ballot-boxes.  
Resolved, That this mass Convention express their unalterable determination to adhere to the Topeka Constitution and Government, and that all our action shall be pointed toward setting that Government in motion in a legitimate manner at an early day.

### PIONEER LIFE IN KANSAS.

Private Letter from a Lady.

ROSEDALE, Kansas, Aug. 16, 1856.  
DEAR K.: I was awakened very early this morning by an unusual stir and apparent skirmishing in Mr. B.'s room, and with the nervous alertness of my fears, occasioned by the frequent surprises and shocks I have received in Kansas, I began to surmise that one of the company of bandits recently discovered at Leavenworth (and which confess to allies scattered in every part of the Territory) had been found secreted under the bed, or was trying to force an entrance into the window.

In one moment I recounted all that we had passed through, and wondered what new development of horrors might reasonably be expected from those we had already experienced. Particularly vivid were the events of that memorable night just one year ago, when the gallant Major Clark and the brave filibuster Col. Titus came to steal our horses, at the head of a party of 30 "Law and Order" thieves, mounted and armed with United States sabers, muskets and bayonets. This being the anniversary of the same night, it was very natural for me to think immediately of that scene and the others of such thrilling import which succeeded it up to the time of the final configuration of our house, and for weeks later in and about Lawrence.

I remembered first, with a shiver of horror, the agonizing suspense and the dreadful realises of those fearful nights; and then with a smile of satisfaction, as I recalled the terror and precipitation of the ruffians' flight, when they found themselves greeted by an unexpected salute on their approach to our doomed houses, and rushed with lightning speed past our dwelling, leaving in their hot haste old hats pierced with bullet holes, and some of their old muskets behind them. But I did not intend to write of these things now. They require a separate description, and more time than I can devote to them this morning. So leaving this Widow Bedott style, I will come at once to my story.

Mr. B. soon passed through the house to exhibit his "trophy of war," and behold in the vanquished enemy of the "morning campaign," not the Border Ruffian robber and murderer I had imagined, but one far more respectable, though of the same species, and nearly akin in nature—the venomous rattlesnake. He had exorcised himself comfortably in Mr. B.'s bed, not with evil intent, we judge, since he did not offer to bite, but doubtless from sheer compulsion for Mr. B. had been told me of finding in the morning rattlesnakes stretched out on the logs just behind the bed; and not unfrequently they have usurped the beds in open cabins, repelling the original occupant with a hiss, when he retired in the darkness to his couch. In Missouri we often heard the sharp hissing rattle about our house, and finally traced an "old settler" to his hole under our floor. We killed it the next day near the door step, just as it was coiling to strike at Isiah, who was playing there, and who gave a timely alarm by

calling out, "Mamma, see big snakey sing!" His trusting child-mamma discovered musk in the deadly rattle, and stood quietly gazing at the reptile, unconscious of his danger. But when we told him it would bite, and after he saw with what terror we regarded it, he seemed cautious and wary when he was playing out door, and construed the sting of every little insect and every scratch that caused him pain, into a "snakey's bite."

I had never before seen a rattlesnake at Rosedale, and often congratulated myself that in our high stone house we were safe from their incursions. But upon examination we saw that there was sufficient unevenness in the structure of the concrete walls for a per-severing reptile to ascend the outside, and near the aperture left open to insert the rafters of the unfinished piazza, the bare boards of the chamber had crept through which the snake probably made its ingress.

What would the ladies of the East say to finding a rattlesnake in their best parlor chamber? Methinks a certain fair one among them will wish to wait some potent charm to our distant home that will keep such intruders in future away from Mr. B.'s snug quarters.

The United States troops have been regaling us with their perambulations quite frequently of late. It is a novelty this Summer to see them file past; but last year our eyes grew weary of the daily sight. After every new outrage upon our Free-State settlers, we would see them treading very leisurely toward the place, ordered out purposely too late to do our party any good, but in time to prevent any retaliation of the wood, and still long enough behind to give the Ruffians ample chance to make good their retreat, and to hinder our men from following them up. When the troops were passing in this way, I always thought of little Johnny Tetterby "lagging along, tottering to and fro, all beat one side," considerably affected in knees by the weight of a very large baby. The troops appropriately represent Johnny Tetterby, and personate our "Brother Jonathan," while "Sally" aptly represents Frank Pierce, and forcibly suggests Slavery. Mark how striking the figure! Johnny "always coming up too late for everything that was attractive," and "devotedly crushing himself by the weight of Sally," who was a very Moloch of a baby, on whose insatiate altar the whole existence of this young brother Johnny was offered up a daily sacrifice. His personality may be said to have consisted in its never being quiet in any one place, and never going to sleep when required. Johnny was supposed, by a fiction which obtains in sanguine families, to be hushing her to sleep (stopping agitation). But oh! the inexhaustible regions of contemplation and watchfulness into which this baby's eyes were then only beginning to compose themselves to stare over his unconscious shoulder! Wherever childhood congregated to play, there was Molochmaking Johnny sag and toil. Then she was always cutting teeth, and every instrument that could be thought of or devised was indiscriminately applied for this baby's relief. Mrs. T. said, "the tooth was coming through," and then the child would be herself." Still it never did come through, and so the child continued to be somebody else. Yet Johnny was verily persuaded that it was a faultless baby, without its peer in the whole realm, and was quite content to catch meek glimpses of things in general from behind its skirts or over its limp, lagging bonnet.

The shabby-looking troops, and the still more shabby business they are kept on, suggest little of the "pomp and circumstance of war." When, on their way to Fort Riley, they met a poor crazy woman opposite our house, many of the company jeered at her ravings. There seemed "some method in her madness," for she was cursing Pierce and Shannon for having caused her misery, accused them of being the murderers of her mother, and called out wildly, "Oh 'Cain, Cain, where is thy brother Abel!" And she said that "James Buchanan and Gov. Walker were as 'bad or worse than their predecessors." My heart sunk within me when I thought it might prove a true prophecy of the consummation of iniquity in their reign. The wild look and haggard face of this wretched maniac has haunted me ever since, and I have wondered that many are not driven to distraction by the wrongs they have suffered here. Indeed, I have often found my own mind so confused that I have feared my reason might reel, and one day be hurled from her throne. In moments of anguish, I have sometimes pressed my aching brow, and wildly asked, "Oh, are not these things all a part of a fearful dream, from which I shall soon awaken to thank God it is 'but a dream!'" J. S. H.

### THE FORT SNELLING SWINDLE.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

ST. ANTHONY, M. T., August 28, 1857.

I am glad to see the fraudulent sale of the Fort Snelling reserve shown up properly by THE TRIBUNE and other prominent papers. We had an inkling of it last Spring, when the suspicious little clause, authorizing the Secretary of War to sell any military reserve which he might choose to abandon, appeared with the other laws of last session of Congress. The papers hereabouts made some stir about the matter; but the conspirators "laid low"—nothing could certainly be proved then as to the object of the law, and the excitement died away, to be renewed only upon the sale, of which you already know.

The known sharers in the plunder are H. M. Rice (our late Delegate in Congress, and I believe the agent of Government in effecting the sale), a Mr. Donsman of Prairie du Chien, Gen. Shields and one or two others, beside Franklin Steele, who nominally is the purchaser. The purchase-money is about \$11 per acre. Probably the poorest acre of the whole tract is worth that price, and a thousand acres laid out as a town plot at the point between the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, would be cheap at \$500 per acre. Except St. Anthony and Minneapolis, no Western city has so great advantages of location; and had the point not been occupied by Uncle Sam, and so not available as a town site, that would have been what St. Paul now is, and St. Paul never would have been.

The Administration papers endeavor to gloss over the sale, by averring that, if sold at public auction, there would have been a combination of speculators, and the whole reserve would have gone at \$1 25 per acre; and they fortify this assertion by another—that it has always been so here when valuable Government land has been sold at public auction.

My answer is, that there has been only one such case of combination here, which was at the sale of a portion of the old Fort Snelling reserve. In that case the land was almost entirely occupied by actual settlers—farmers—and they did get their land at ten shillings per acre. No such combination has ever been or could be made, except in favor of the claims of actual settlers.

In the present case, Mr. Steele is the only civilian who has been allowed to build and reside on the reserve, and he only because sutler to the garrison, in which capacity he got his first impulse toward his present wealth. He has a good house and other buildings close by the fort, worth perhaps from \$3,000 to \$5,000, instead of \$30,000, as the Administration papers assert. What prospect of a combination to force a sale at a low price there would be in this case, in a community of men who have grown rich by speculation, as a large portion of our people have, and who keep their eyes out in every direction for a profitable operation, and who have abundant means to pay whatever sum might be necessary to secure the prize, I leave you to judge. A well-known Delegate from St. Paul, in the Democratic Convention, makes it no secret that he had arranged to go as high as \$200,000, if necessary, for the land which Mr. Steele gets for \$90,000.

One more incident in regard to this matter and I am done. Messrs. Croft & Clark had made arrangements to buy up *The Minnesota Republican*, published here at this place, and to issue a daily as well as weekly from the same office, several individuals subscribing liberally to loan them a sufficient sum on long time, at a low rate, to enable them (being men of moderate means) to go on with the undertaking. Among these, Edmund Rice of Saint Paul, brother of Henry M. Rice, subscribed \$500. When called on for the money he declines *purchase*, unless the new paper will defend the Fort Snelling purchase, and do sundry other Democratic dirty work. The original subscription paper being for the establishment of a *Republican* daily paper, and Messrs. Croft & Clark having somewhat sturdy notions of editorial honesty, there was a flare-up, and a court of law will probably have to decide whether such conditions may be affixed to a subscription once made unconditionally, at the pleasure of the subscribers.

Both Conventions have finally passed the compromise Constitution. It is being engrossed to-night, and both bodies will adjourn to-morrow. The election takes place Oct. 13. HENNEPIN.