

The Land Sales—Another Southern blunder—How the Free-State Settlers came to get their Claims.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette.

FT. LEAVENWORTH, Thursday, Nov. 27.

Shortly after the day of sale of the Delaware trust lands was announced, Gov. Robinson of Kansas, started east. These Delaware lands were to be sold to the highest bidder—had never been opened to settlers—no pre-emptions were allowed, and though men had squatted on them, yet they had notice from government that they were trespassers, and could acquire no title by settling there. The reason for this, was that the government had made a treaty with the Delaware Indians to sell this land in an open market, to the highest bidder. The Delawares had refused the usual government price for this land, and made the treaty with the expectation that if thus sold, it would bring much more.

Many of the settlers did not expect protection for their claims. They supposed strangers would come in and bid against them, but they wanted the land—it suited them, and they said they could afford to bid as high for it as any body else. They supposed, to that being on the claims they would have an advantage over strangers, in being fully acquainted with the land.

The pro-slavery party had warned the Free State settlers off—telling them that if they did not leave there the Missourians would come over at the sale and bid their claims up out of their reach. The Free State settlers were really alarmed at this, and applied to Gov. Robinson, and others in the Territory, to use their influence to induce eastern capitalists to come to their aid.

When Gov. Robinson went east it was reported among the pro-slavery men and in the southern papers, that a scheme was on foot to raise money in Boston (a place which many southern men think it is paved with silver dollars) to buy out the entire tract, giving to the Free State men their claims at cost, and refusing them to pro-slavery men at any price.

The south was alarmed; for most of the capital south was invested, and a sufficient amount of money to compete with the north could not be raised without a good deal of trouble. They had, however, the government on their side. They applied to President Pierce for help. He assured them that the pro-slavery settlers should be protected. That if necessary he would even violate the treaty with the Indians to secure their claims. And President Pierce kept his word.

One purpose of Gov. Robinson in going east was to raise money to protect these settlers, but he failed; partly because of the excitement of the Presidential election, and partly because every body in Boston felt that it was not necessary, for Fremont would surely be elected. The Governor felt that the Leavenworth and the Delaware lands must be given up to the pro-slavery men. He then ceased invoking the patriotism of the Yankees, but appealed to their pockets. He knew well the importance of a Free State town on the river, and told them what "heaps" of money they could make by buying a suitable tract of land, and laying out and building up a Free State city. He had a capital site in view, explained his plan of operations, and the thing took wonderfully. The Governor returned to Kansas with letters of credit for any amount, to purchase a site for the new city, but with no gold to purchase Delaware trust lands. The Missourians said, Dr. Robinson has got back with lots of gold, but we've fixed it.—They were in high glee, but the Free State men felt gloomy enough.

On Monday morning, the 17th, the sales opened, when to the surprise of all the Free State men, the Commissioner announced that "the Government desired that all settlers should have their claims at the appraised value," and that no bids would be received for such land unless the settler declined to purchase.

Loud cheers and wild shouting followed this announcement. The Free State settlers cheered because their homes were saved. The Pro-slavery men shouted because they supposed they had foiled the great Yankee scheme.

This is the way the settlers on the Delaware lands came to be protected in their claims. They had but a small amount of means, and the Missourians could easily have bid above their "pile." The result is that more than half of this important tract falls into the hands of Free State men.

A VISIT TO THE FREE STATE PRISONERS.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette.

LECOMPTON, November 28.

It is hardly possible to conceive a more wretched or dilapidated building than the plank house in which the Free State prisoners are kept. Like a shed in a farmer's barn yard, it is expected only to answer the purpose of a shelter to sleep under and retire to when it rains. Sentinels are stationed around it, and form a kind of barn yard wall to prevent escape. Two pieces of cannon are planted on elevated ground at a short distance, and commanding the prison, designed, I suppose, if the soldiers should all escape to spite them by firing into the tottering buildings.

The filth and dirt in which they are compelled to live are almost indescribable, and to speak of the vermin would be sickening, yet some of them are very intelligent men, and it seemed strange to hear men who looked so bad talk so well.

I met to-day one of the prisoners that escaped last night, but did not recognise him because he was well dressed. He remarked with truth that these prisoners could not be more completely disguised than by being dressed decently. The government seems disposed to afford them, by the manner in which they are kept there, ample opportunity for a most effectual disguise should they be fortunate enough to escape.

PARTICULARS OF THE ESCAPE OF THE FREE STATE PRISONERS IN KANSAS.

A Kansas correspondent of the Evansville Journal adds the following particulars of the escape of the prisoners:

The best "strike for freedom" that has been made for some time past, was made last night about twelve o'clock. We heard a racket at the hotel door, and going down found thirty of the boys who had just escaped from the political prison at Tecumseh. These men were of the number who had obtained a change of venue and were untried. All but sixteen of them escaped, and they would all have got clear had not one of them stumbled against a sentry in the dark. It was one of the darkest nights I ever beheld, and the rain was pouring down in torrents. We had just got them in, and they had begun to tell their story, when we heard the troops coming. The Marshal and his men came in, "tired to death," as he expressed it, and covered with mud. Both parties, prisoners, and troops, had lost themselves on the prairies.—The Marshal had rolled down a hill into a ditch, and nearly broke his neck. While the Marshal was asking questions, we were busy in placing the boys in places of safety.

The troops returned to-day, after an unsuccessful hunt for them. They made a hole through the brick wall of their cell, by the aid of a bayonet, which one of the officers had left for a candlestick. It had been made for several days, but they had covered it up with their beds, clothing, etc., waiting for a good flight; they had their plans well matured, and had drawn lots several days previous to see who should go out first, second, third, &c. The last one was caught just as he was going out; the other thirty escaped. The boys had, during their entire confinement, received the roughest treatment. M. J. Mitchell, Esq., of this place, was bucked and gagged, for saying a saucy word to His Highness, Col. Titus. A stick was forced in his mouth and tied there by strings behind his neck. Twenty of the boys have been convicted for various crimes. Col. Titus offered them all pardon if they would enlist under him to go to Nicaragua.

Kansas dates to the 20th of November have been received. The report that Lecompte had granted a writ of habeas corpus to Hays is confirmed.—Thirty-one Free-State prisoners had escaped from the new prison at Tecumseh, to which they had just been removed. They effected their escape by digging a hole through the brick wall with a bayonet which had been furnished them for a candlestick. Nineteen prisoners

remained, being too feeble to escape. It is said that Henry intends to retake them, if found.

The Grand Jury had found bills against several of the pro-slavery party.

A public meeting of that party was held at Leocompton, at which resolutions were passed reproaching the whole business. Surveyor-General Calhoun, Chairman of the meeting, denounced the Governor and his inquisitorial Courts. The meeting called a Law and Order Convention, to be held at Leavenworth on the 1st inst.

Col Titus and one hundred militia are about to be disbanded at their own request, for the purpose of going to Nicaragua to assist Walker. Titus gives notice to all persons desiring to go to rendezvous at St. Louis on the 10th of December. A free passage to Nicaragua is offered to all. After the settlement of the Central American question, it is his intention to proceed to Cuba.

WHAT THE CONSPIRACY AGAINST FREE IMMIGRATION TO KANSAS HAS COST THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI.

Under this caption the St. Louis Democrat has an able article, pointing out the effect of the agitation brought about by such leaders as Stringfellow and Atchinson, upon the material interests of Missouri and St. Louis. "We are able," says the Democrat, "to specify many large interests that have suffered by reason of the state of affairs brought about by them in Kansas or on the Missouri border, and regret only that we have not the data by which we could show accurately the full amount that Border Ruffianism has cost Missouri in the last two years." It then goes on to indicate one or two of the particular industrial branches which have been paralyzed by this course. The effectual blockade for Free State men put on the Missouri river, it thinks has driven at least twenty thousand passengers from the river, sending them through Iowa, or deterring them altogether from going to Kansas. Estimating the cost of their passage from St. Louis to Leavenworth at the usual prices—\$15 per head—and the amount of freight which they would have caused to be sent up the river at as much more, the Democrat remarks:

Here are two items of loss inflicted upon the steamboat interests, by these reckless demagogues and their co-adjutors of the press amounting to more than half a million of dollars. It is safe to say that each steamer plying in the Missouri river would have paid for itself in one year, by the profit it would have derived from the free white immigration to Kansas, and which has been lost by the illegal and outrageous interference of Atchinson and his accomplices, with their business.

The Democrat concludes by intimating the extent of the loss produced by the same causes to the farmers, merchants, manufacturers and traders of every description, in Missouri. The article abounds in common sense, practical truths, too clear to be disputed; and must, it would seem, open the eyes of at least some Missourians to the suicidal nature of the policy into which they have been betrayed.—Cin. Gaz.

SLAVE INSURRECTION.—A good deal of disquietude exists in New Madrid and Scott Counties, Missouri, and the County of Obion, Tennessee, and Fulton, Kentucky, in consequence of the discovery of insurrectionary movements among the slaves in these counties. On the 15th, a meeting of citizens was held in New Madrid, of which Judge O'Bannon was President, and Wm. S. Moxley Secretary. W. N. Warren addressed the meeting, giving a detailed account of contemplated insurrectionary movements among the slaves, as the same had been obtained from the ring-leaders and instigators of the plot. A large committee was then appointed from the several Counties named, and they submitted a report recommending that negroes should be prohibited from appearing at any public preaching, unless attended by their masters or agents; that no negro meetings should be allowed, nor any negro permitted to preach to any future gathering; that a committee should be appointed to investigate fully into all these insurrectionary movements, and to expel any white person found guilty of instigating negroes to revolt, and to inflict whatever punishment might be found necessary, and requesting every slave owner to disarm his slaves. Another resolution requests the Rev. Mr. Thomas to discontinue his missionary efforts among the negroes hereafter. Where passes are hereafter given to slaves, they are to state the date where given, the place of destination, and the hour of return. Large committees of the most respectable men in that region were appointed to give effect to the resolution.—St. Louis Republican.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The President has appointed the Rev. John Seys to be agent for relieving the negroes, mulattoes or persons of color delivered from on board vessels in the prosecution of the slave trade by commanders of United States armed vessels, according to the provisions of the act of Congress of March 2, 1819, in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave trade. Mr. Seys is now in Africa as the special agent of the American Colonization Society.

THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD.—The Chicago Ill. Tribune says:—

"Of the 2,700,000 acres of land granted by the State to aid the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad, over 2,000,000 acres yet remain unsold. Taking the sales made since the land office of the company opened in this city as a test—the fund realized from the land alone will not fall short of \$45,000,000.

OCEAN TELEGRAPH.—The contracts for making and laying down the telegraph cable between Newfoundland and Ireland, have been concluded. It is believed that the line will be in operation by the 4th of July next.

Rev. W. H. Channing, of Boston, is lecturing at Liverpool on "England and America."

Owen P. Lovejoy has just been elected to Congress by the Republicans of Illinois.

One thousand bushels of hickory nuts were shipped from Toledo the 26th and 27th instant.

NEW ROUTE.—A project is on foot for facilitating the communication between the Western States and the ocean, via the St. Lawrence, by constructing a canal across the Michigan Peninsula, which it is said will shorten the route by some hundreds of miles and save much of the navigation of the rough waters on Lake Michigan and Huron.

A meeting of the Probate Judges of the State is proposed to be held at Columbus on the second Tuesday of January next, to take "into consideration the many defects in the organization of the Probate Court, and asking the Legislature to remedy them."

In 1828 the expenses of Government were only twelve millions of dollars annually, and a portion of that was for the liquidation of the national debt incurred by the war of 1812. Now, independent of the debt created by the Mexican war, the expenses of Government reach sixty-seven millions a year.

The New York Journal of commerce published a list of twenty-six American vessels lost during the month of November. The value of the vessels was \$427,000; of the cargoes \$948,800—making a total loss of \$1,275,800 in the short space of a month.

MRS. STOWE AND MISS MURRAY.—The Boston Telegraph has the following communication:

"ANDOVER, Nov. 24, 1856.

"I have received, through Lady Byron, from Miss Murray, formerly of the Queen's household, and author of that wonderful book laudatory of American Slavery, *five pounds sterling for the relief of the sufferers from oppression in Kansas*, with the same restrictions that attended Lady Byron's donation. Fruits meet for repentance are always acceptable.

"C. E. STOWE."