

LECOMPTON UNION-EXTRA

LECOMPTON, K. T. APRIL 28, 1856

PUBLIC MEETING.

At a meeting of the citizens of Douglas County, held at Lecompton, April 25th, Dr. Amos Rodriguez late of Pa. was called to the Chair, and W. Leamer late of Pa. appointed Secretary.

Col Anderson briefly explained the objects, that whereas certain indignation meetings were held at Lawrence, at which A. H. Reeder and C. Robinson made speeches intended for the express purpose of producing a false impression upon the public mind in regard to the attempted assassination of Sheriff Jones, therefore

Resolved That the fair appointed committee of three to prepare a full and correct statement of the facts of the entire difficulties and lay them before the public.

Under this resolution, T. M. Crowder, late of Va.; J. M. Alexander, late of Pa., and J. C. Anderson, late of Ky., were appointed said Committee, who after a few hours submitted the following report, which was unanimously adopted.

The meeting then adjourned.

A. A. RODRIGUE, Ch'n.
W. LEAMER, Sec'y.

The committee appointed to draw up a correct statement of the facts connected with the attempted assassination of Sheriff S. J. Jones on the night of the 23d inst., and expose the falsehoods contained in the speeches of Reeder, Robinson & Co., at what they term an indignation meeting, held at Lawrence on the 24th inst., beg leave to submit the following

REPORT.

In view of the desire expressed by the people of Lawrence to mislead the public as to the facts of the attempted assassination of Sheriff S. J. Jones of Douglas County, we submit to the honest judgment of all men a correct account of the whole difficulty from its beginning to its final and deplorable end. There will be placed in your hands, by the newspapers of the day the report of an indignation meeting held at Lawrence on the 24th inst., at which A. H. Reeder and C. Robinson made speeches, which at a glance can be seen to be a smoothing and a smothering over of the true nature of this deplorable event, and continuing, as will be shown from a review of the same and the affidavits hereto attached, evasions of the deepest dye, to say the very least. You are all aware of the difficulties of last fall in this territory, when it became necessary for the Governor to call out the military and proceed against Lawrence, then in a state of rebellion against the laws of the territory, which happily resulted in a peaceable manner; S. N. Woods, who rescued Branson from the custody of Sheriff Jones, and for whom there was a warrant out on an indictment found by the Grand Jury of the second judicial District, for larceny, fled the territory. When Chris. Robinson and A. H. Reeder appeared in the territory on Friday week last, about that time, S. N. Woods returned. Before their arrival the citizens resisted no arrests. Sheriff Jones could peacefully, with the exception of threats and foul language, settle with Reeder, Robinson & Co. came, however, backed by a lawless mob, procured in the Eastern and Northern States, bound by secret resolutions, as claimed by the Grand Jury of Jackson county, from a number of their cohort and under oath, without mental reservation, to obey all orders emanating from their superior officers of the Kansas Regulators. These men came armed with Sharpe's rifles and Colt's revolvers, which they wear about them upon all occasions, and especially upon election days; men sworn to make Kansas a free State, and as Reeder himself stated in his address to the indignation meeting, to "crush the laws of the territory by force without regard to consequences." Such is the true condition of the inhabitants of Lawrence; they are bound to consider as a secret armed organization, with

an arsenal of Sharpe's rifles and Colt's pistols and some pieces of artillery. Some of these armed bands have arrived with uniforms all ready, and meetings are held, where they are regularly drilled in military tactics. These men have no pecuniary interests in the territory; their expenses were paid by the Emigrant Aid Societies of Reeder & Co., and their chief object in being brought out, was the ostensible one, openly avowed by Reeder, Robinson & Co. on all occasions openly to resist the laws of the territory "by force without regard to consequences—in fact, a hired gunnery, paid by emigrant aid societies. Listen to the language of Reeder, himself—mark it well, and judge whether such language is not the very quintessence of treason. We tabulate: "Your sufferings brought you much good in sympathy, emigration material aid, which could not have been obtained in any other way."

Men who "were ready and willing on all occasions to shed their blood for their political rights, and the cause in which they were engaged."

These are the citizens of Lawrence and other portions of the territory, who proclaim C. Robinson, Governor, and A. H. Reeder their Senator. Many of these emigrants too, as will be seen from the affidavits attached, were ruffians from the states; men whose morality was steeped in crime, who own no religion but revenge, and serve no God but their political demagogue. Such then was the condition of the town of Lawrence, when the present difficulties commenced. On the 19th inst. Sheriff Jones was on his way to St. Louis on business, when he learned from a reliable source that Wood was in Lawrence, and in duty bound as Sheriff, he feared the purpose of executing the warrant placed in his hands by a justice of peace of Douglas County, for rescuing Branson last fall, by an armed band of which he was the leader.

With a single gentleman, his deputy, he proceeded to Lawrence, and arrested S. N. Wood who was rescued from him by an armed mob—the laws of the territory defied and his life threatened should he attempt to execute any more warrants in the town. These threats were made openly, and they were known to the whole town. Threats that were thus made publicly, and in loud tones could not but be known to Robinson, Reeder & Co., they were fully aware of them. Indeed, on the very evening in question, a public meeting was held, in which Robinson and Reeder were prominent actors, and we have it upon reliable authority, and from some of their own party, that Robinson and Reeder, both in speeches advised and counselled the citizens to resist the laws of the territory, to own no allegiance but a state government, and not to resist the United States, lest they might be overpowered. Their language was plain, and to all intents and purposes was, that the arrest of S. N. Wood should be resisted even "by force without regard to consequences."

On Sunday, the 20th, Sheriff Jones with a posse of four citizens of this county proceeded to make the arrest; when he was again resisted, threats made, and the Secretary pro tem of the bogus State Government, declared, that he would sooner obey the laws of hell than the laws of the territory. Sheriff Jones himself called upon the citizens of the place to aid him in carrying out the laws. He was disregarded, hooted, and every imaginable indignity offered to him and his posse. Indeed, such is the state of affairs, that one of the posse, recently a citizen of Pennsylvania, in offering the usual salutation on the road to a woman, was met by the coarse remark, "Go to hell, you damned Missourian!" As a fair and official account, we quote the return of Sheriff Jones to Gov. Shannon:

TOPEKA, K. T. April 20, 1856.
His Excellency, Wm. SHANNON,
Governor of Kansas Territory.
Sir: On the 19th instant I went to the town of Lawrence in the County of which I am Sheriff, to execute certain writs which were issued and placed in my hands to serve a legal and proper officer for the arrest of one Samuel N. Wood, and he being in my custody, he attempt-

ed to escape from me, I prevented, whereupon a mob composed of the citizens of Lawrence came to his rescue, and with violence and force took him from me, and held me until he made his escape; as he said that my assistant was taken by force and prevented from coming to my relief. At the same time that violence was done me, the same that had been taken from me and are now in his possession. I was notified that the laws of the Territory would not be respected by them, nor permitted to be enforced by any officer of the Territory. I came back to this place with a detachment of four men, citizens of this Territory, to assist me in recovering my prisoner, and arresting other persons for their anti-law crimes. When there I summoned an additional posse from among the citizens of Lawrence; these latter refused to act, and with my small posse of four men, I attempted to make threats, and was again repulsed, but the prisoners taken from me by force, and most violent threats uttered against me and the laws of the Territory.

I now call upon your Excellency to furnish me with such military force as may be at your disposal to assist me in enforcing the laws.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,
SAMUEL J. JONES,
Sheriff of Douglas County.

Accordingly the Governor sent to Fort Leavenworth for a detachment of U. S. troops. Col. Sumner in answer to the demand, detailed Lieut. McIntosh with a force of ten mounted dragoons, who proceeded to Lawrence under the command of Sheriff Jones on Wednesday last. The investigating committee having removed to Lawrence to commence their duties, several citizens of this place went to the town for the purpose of being spectators. The chairman of this committee was one of those citizens, and on application, with others, to a boarding house where they might obtain something to eat during their stay, they were refused admission from the woman of the house "that it was contrary to her religion to give that aid to Border Ruffians." and it is very doubtful whether they would have obtained anything to eat at all, but from the endorsement of one of their prominent leaders that they would act as gentlemen; and throughout the day, the pro-slavery men, as all Union and national men are designated here, those with Gen. Whitfield, his advisers, his witnesses and the spectators, who met with abuse and foul language from every side. They were objects of curiosity and notice, and whenever they passed, some insulting language would emanate, which was intended to rouse the passions and call forth some resistance either by blows or words. But nothing was returned that could in any way be construed as insulting to the dark fiends. Every man was on his guard, his language cautious and circumspect.

In the morning, but few persons were to be seen in the town; but when a detachment of troops happened to pass through the town from their mission to the Sacs and Foxes, the houses poured forth a host of men, of every possible variety of countenance and character. Expressions as to sending Lieut. State troops were everywhere. General Pierce was openly and boldly denounced, and the coarsest language used toward the law and order men. They stated that it was all they wanted and wished that they would not be sorry to see the troops resisted; that it would be to their benefit, that it would send them more material aid, and crush forever the Union and slavery. Indeed, no one but bearers of the word uttered could imagine the blackguardism and abuse poured "hot from Tartarus," upon all law-abiding and Union loving citizens. Threats were again made, against Sheriff Jones; men declared they would be glad to see him deliver up his blood, and that they would yet see him dead, and it would not be long before the world would know who were the stronger party, and the damnable heretics be driven from the soil of Kansas. And yet, fellow citizens, these were the men whom Reeder and Robinson claim to be peaceable and law loving citizens, gathered together in a "holy cause."

When Sheriff Jones arrived with the

detachment of U. S. troops, the crowd increased, and with the assistance of the said troops, he made some arrests, quietly the citizens declaring that they would not resist the United States Government, but still threatening vengeance against Sheriff Jones, and loudly denouncing the laws of the territory. Modesty, even privacy, would be shocked, and shame stand back abashed, were we to open the miserable and fiendish blackguardism that was indulged in by these peaceable and law-abiding citizens against the President, Gov. Shannon and all law and order men. The chairman of this committee heard an individual ask the leader of the town, Robinson, if he wished his services, that he "was ready," and placing his hand significantly on his pistol. The answer was, "Wait." He heard, as did many gentlemen, threats against the life of Jones, and plans of rescue. They warned Jones to be on his guard—they warned Lieut. McIntosh to use all diligence and means. "At night, Col. Preston was taken aside by a citizen of the place, who frankly told him that there was a conspiracy on foot to assassinate Sheriff Jones. As the afternoon passed away, the crowds became more and more open in their invectives, and when a man by the name of Hunt was arrested, he was called upon, in the presence of Robinson, by some one in the crowd, "Hunt, why don't you shoot Jones?" And then expressions of the deepest wrath and the most devilish revenge were freely indulged in, and the most insulting language used to some few pro-slavery men standing near the crowd. They were offered a fight—they were told to "pitch in, and they would see sights."

In regard to the immediate facts of the assassination, we call attention to the following statement of persons, witnesses of the whole affair: "With Lieut. McIntosh, we went to the camp, intending to pass off time and spend the night. Soon after we had made preparations for sleeping, Mr. Jones came in and commenced talking in regard to the arrangements for the night, as to the care of the prisoners. Spent that, McIntosh, Mr. Jones and one of us (P.) went a few paces from the tent to get a glass of water. While so engaged, some persons came up and enquired "where Sheriff Jones was" and made insulting remarks concerning his courage, when he (J.) arose from the accosting posture he was in and remarked, "here I am, gentlemen," and again stooped, when some person in a crowd standing near, fired into the party, when the remark was made, (by P.) "Jones, you are shot," and upon examination, it was found that a bullet had passed through his pants, without any injury. The party returned to the tent, when we commenced talking about this dastardly and hellish attempt at assassination, when a man, pretending to be drunk, intruded himself into the tent, in our opinion, for the express purpose of finding out the position of Sheriff Jones. He took a seat, when he was told by the sheriff that the party had no use for him, when he immediately arose and left, and in less than five minutes, as we were conversing together, Jones fell, exclaiming, "Oh!" He attempted to draw his knife and find the dastardly scoundrel, worse than a fiend, who would thus, under cover of night, attempt the life of a fellow being, but the wound was such as to prevent his rising at all. The shot came from the hind part of the tent, and was aimed at the back of the Sheriff. We have no doubt ourselves, that the whole matter was concocted—the rascal hired for the express purpose of assassination; and that there are many persons in Lawrence, concerned in this matter, who are very desirous to shield themselves behind this foul and dark scoundrel, unworthy even the name of a devil.

THOMAS M. CROWDER,
WM. L. PRESTON,
E. L. YATES.

Strongly was the impression upon the bellion even against the United States troops by Lieut. McIntosh, that he immediately dispatched Mr. E. L. Yates, with one of his commands to Lieut. Stockton who was engaged a few miles from Lawrence, and also an express to Col. Sumner for reinforcements. And yet these men would have us believe that all was quietude and submission on their part. Throughout the town that night gentlemen heard citizens of Lawrence express their joy at the assassination, and some went, so far as to hope the surgeon would drug Jones and thus despatch him. These expressions were everywhere prevalent. They can be sworn to by good and reliable men. In view of all these statements which impression could possibly be made upon all intelligent minds, but that the town of Lawrence was deeply interested in the assassination of Jones, and thoroughly implicated in the nefarious deed.

These, fellow-citizens, with the affidavits hereto attached, are the true facts connected with this monstrous outrage; and can it be supposed for an instant by intelligent men, that such a conglomerated state of society with such leaders, were not to a large extent acquainted with this brutal attempt, and parties to the transaction, shielding themselves behind their secret ostensible leading hired and sworn men to point the weapon of death under cover of night at a noble specimen of humanity, a man of high honor and integrity, and assassinate him in a manner, hardly worthy the purposes of one under the influence of a legion of devils. From fanaticism and hired violence, what more could we expect? President Lincoln can indicate no better than the worst cases of slavery. We remember too, that it is a matter of public policy, that Sheriff Jones sometime since received a letter signed by "One of the Secret Twelve," warning him that should he attempt any more arrests that he would be assassinated, can we have a reasonable doubt as to the true facts of this deed.

We have yet other facts, fellow-citizens, to lay before you—facts showing the utter disregard that Robinson, Wood, Reeder & Co., have to any law whatsoever, and that place them clearly and undeniably in the ranks of traitors and abettors of traitors—aye, of incendiaries and the persecutors of defenceless women and children.

While S. N. Wood was away from the Territory, he was engaged in trifling men and means to carry out their "holy purposes of resistance to the laws of the Territory," and many of the men whom he brought in his Company were from Ohio. To show the character of those men and the inducements offered them, Gov. Shannon received a letter from a very reliable source in regard to one of their meetings, where the speaker stated that "he knew a man who would give one hundred and fifty acres of land to any person who would assassinate the President," and another who would give \$450 for Gen. Clarke's scalp! Men who enlist under such declarations, can they be considered in any other light than as hired assassins? And yet these very men formed part of the company brought on by S. N. Wood, and before whom A. H. Reeder and C. Robinson made their addresses on the 19th instant, congratulating them upon their entrance into the Territory and upholding the "holy cause" for which they came to fight.

These men are incendiaries—these men of Lawrence, and as by their oaths, they are bound to report progress to their superiors, can we doubt for an instant that throughout this whole outrage and the one we are about to mention, that at the bottom are to be found the head of this bogus organization, C. Robinson and A. H. Reeder. Has the assassination of the Sheriff of Sacramento City, California, passed from the recollection of men. Who was the

