

charge against him. There are three others here from Prairie city, in the same situation. Wilson's wife died during his imprisonment, and some of his friends came up as bondsmen, that he might see her once more before she was laid in the blood-saturated soil of Kansas. One cause of her death was her anxiety for her husband, but Geary is her murderer.

A proclamation has been issued by the Governor, fixing upon the 20th inst. as a "day of thanksgiving for the peace which reigns throughout Kansas." What damnable and inexcusable sacrilege! Last night, Capt. Donaldson brought in a copy, which he read to the prisoners. Whether this was at the request of the Governor, he alone, perhaps, can say. The boys groaned it down; and why should they not? It was the most cowardly and disgraceful insult that has ever been offered us. Had I seen it, I should have snatched it from him, and committed it to the flames, even at the risk of my life. Ask us to rejoice at our own enslavement! The day will come when a sweet revenge will wipe out all such wrongs as these.

I have just learned that some of the militia, a few days ago, arrested a Free State man up towards the Nebraska line, and that the prisoner was afterwards rescued by a large body of his fellow-citizens and that the Governor will send to the point at which this occurrence took place the whole disposable force of the army in Kansas. This may all be a mere rumor—I have not time to inquire into its truth at present. If it proves true, the war has again commenced.

Lane is eagerly expected by our people; and the Hullan officials are beginning to look for him with a large army. He was to leave Philadelphia the night of election, come by railroad to Burlington, and from there to Topeka by relays of horses, already engaged. He is looked for Wednesday night, the 12th. I do not think there will be any immediate change in affairs on this account. K.

WHOLESALE PRISON, LECONPTON,

Tuesday, November 11, 1856.

To the Editor of the National Era:

Last Saturday I promised you the key to the causes which produced the different result in the two late trials of Free State prisoners. I now proceed to fulfil my promise.

Colonel Titus, it is well known, was an old Cuban filibuster. Major Bickerton—one of the prisoners—who once resided in Nicaragua, remarked, in presence of Titus, a few days previous to the first trial of Hickory Point prisoners, that he should like to return to that country, and inquired if some of the others would not accompany him. Several expressed their willingness to go, in case Kansas became a slave State, and a few said they would go anyhow, for the sake of adventure. At this, Titus unfolded himself, and said, "Well, Major, if any of your boys wish to go to Central America, it's all right. I have just received a letter from General Wheat, of New York, who is about to raise an expedition destined for some of those parts. Read it to the boys—meaning the prisoners—but do not let it go out of your hands. Keep the matter secret."

Now, that no one else may suffer on account of my desire to furnish the Era with the latest news, filibustering and all, I will tell you how I obtained a copy of the letter. After Bickerton had once read it aloud to the prisoners, I called for a second reading, and at this took advantage of a pretty thorough knowledge of phonography, and reported the letter, verbatim. It did not go out of the hands of Bickerton, nor is it now published with any complicity of his. Here it is:

NEW YORK, Oct. 4, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR: Having heard time and again that you had been killed, I am glad to see by the papers that you still live. I see that you have a large command, and am glad of it. I am now organizing a brigade to go to Central America. I have made my arrangements to be in New Orleans by the 15th or 20th of November. I have ample transportation for two thousand men. I have about 200 from Kentucky, 200 from Tennessee, 300 from Mississippi, 300 from Louisiana, and about 200 from Alabama. Now, I want to know whether you can furnish 500 men, such as you have now under your command? If so, I will furnish them with transportation to New Orleans. If they will bring their arms with them, it will be better. Should you decide to go, write to me forthwith, and let me know. Write me how many men you can get, what number are armed, and how. I am not going to Nicaragua, but to a place where there is plenty of money, and just enough of fighting to make the time pass off pleasantly. As soon as I hear from you favorably, I shall start immediately to join you at such point as you may indicate, so that we may lose no time in embarking the men. I wish you, of course, to command the regiment, organizing it upon United States regulations. Direct your answer to me at Louisville, Kentucky. When we meet, I will be able to give you some details, and would do so in the letter, but am afraid it might fall into other hands ere it reached you. Suffice it to say, that you have my word for it, that it is the best expedition that I have ever been engaged in. I resigned my commission of General of Brigade in Mexico to take command of this. Fortune invites. Shall we decline? No! Then write me as soon as this reaches you, and give me the glorious answer "yes."

Should you meet General J. C. Anderson, from Georgia, remember me to him, and tell him I should be delighted to have him along, with some of his brave boys.

If you can get 1,000 men, I can take care of them.

Now, as ever, your fellow soldier,

C. R. WHEAT.

The italicizing is all my own.

It was on the 15th of October that Titus showed us this letter. From that time on, to within a day or two of the second trial, he visited us almost daily, and never left without enjoining us to "keep in good spirits." He sent General J. C. Anderson to see Gen. Richardson, who was also implicated in the affair, to get what money he could, for transportation and other purposes. On his return, a few weeks since, Titus tells us he had secured two hundred thousand dollars! that he was to be in St. Louis with his men by the first Monday in December. He said that nearly all his militia had agreed to go, taking with them the United States arms, I suppose, of course. He said that the Government was implicated in the matter, and if Buchanan was elected, it would remain so; and that therefore we need have no fears of being apprehended by the authorities while on the way. He said, that when they had once conquered Nicaragua and San Salvador, (the latter I have since learned is the destination of the expedition,) everything was arranged to strike a blow at Cuba. Several times he told us that he would use all the influence in his power to get us released; but if he could not do it in court, he would let us go.

This accounts for the acquittal of the fifteen who were first tried. We let him flatter and make promises, while we did neither. I betray no confidence or trust in giving you the particulars of this affair. I would have given them earlier, but I knew Titus would become enraged, and do my comrades as much injury as he would otherwise be capable of doing them good, and I did not wish to imperil my friends. But now a change of affairs has taken place. Titus has read the "Appeal to the American People," sent out by the prisoners a few weeks since, and now declares himself our open enemy. He read it a day or more before the trial of the twenty prisoners who were convicted, and declared he would do all in his power to bring about such a result, and said he would do his mightiest to convict and hang us all. When he foolishly thought of making money out of us, he offered to let us go, in case the court would not. But when we dared to tell the truth in danger, he promises to hang us.

Some may ask, why we did not keep still, and procure our release by an implied assent to his desires? Simply, because we would rather die than use any such moral deception. We are imprisoned for honorable deeds; and if ever we are released, it must be by honorable action on our part. I may give you more about this expedition hereafter. Gov. Geary knows that such an expedition is on foot here, and in all probability knows many of the particulars concerning Titus's connection with it; yet he has taken him closer to his bosom, having a few days ago appointed him one of his aids.

The Governor is now at Fort Leavenworth, for the purpose, it is said, of preparing a place for the Free State convicts, who are yet here in charge of "Steriff Jones," who is drunk four-fifths of his time.

I learn that one company of the militia will be disbanded next Saturday, and regular troops brought to guard the convicts and the prisoners who were unable to get a change of venue to Tecumseh, until taken to the Fort; while the other company will guard the fifty prisoners to Tecumseh, and while there.

John Wilson, of Prairie city, was yesterday released, by giving bail of one thousand dollars, to appear at the next term of court in this place, although there is no indictment against him, as I mentioned last week. There was no