

2112 FROM KANSAS.

Convention at Topeka to Nominate Presidential Electors--Decision not to Vote for Electors--Preparations to Elect a Delegate to Congress.

Correspondence of the New-York Daily Times:
 LAWRENCE, Kansas, Friday, Oct. 17, 1856.
 There was a Delegate Convention held at Topeka yesterday by the Free-State Party, to consider the propriety of nominating three Presidential Electors for the next Electoral College. The number in attendance was not large, owing to the deficiency in the circulation of the call. However, more than half of the Districts were represented. They organized by appointing MORRIS HUNT, Esq., of Lawrence, Chairman, and Mr. BOYD, of Ossawatimie, was chosen Secretary. Mr. ADDIS, of Franklin, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That gentlemen present from unrepresented Districts be invited to not with this Convention as Delegates.

It was adopted unanimously, and several were thus admitted. It was then moved by Mr. CURTIS, of Bloomington, to proceed to the election of three Electors.

This opened the question as to the propriety of holding an election for any purpose. Remarks were called for from Wm. HUTCHINSON, of Lawrence, who, although not a Delegate, was by unanimous consent permitted to speak. He gave a brief statement of the objects of the Convention, and the various opinions existing in regard to an election.

Dr. CUTLER, E. O. LEONARD, Esq., MORRIS HUNT, Esq., and others, very ably opposed the holding of an election for any purpose. The principal reasons urged were the extreme difficulty in getting men out to vote while they are worried and worn by late outrages, without comfortable houses for winter, without money, and almost without any feeling of ambition or zeal for any movement of a political character, until they have been permitted to rest in quietude for a time, and recover from the prostration they generally feel. It was feared but a meagre vote could be obtained in comparison to the real strength of our party; and as there was scarcely a possibility of our votes being counted by the Electoral College, it was considered expedient to display an apparent weakness unnecessarily. Although it was believed we had a majority of the actual settlers in Kansas, amounting to nearly or quite two to one, still, it was feared we should be liable, owing to sickness and other causes mentioned, to poll a less vote than was cast for J. W. WHITEFIELD on the 8th inst., by the scattering Pro-Slavery men of Kansas, assisted by the minions from Missouri. WHITEFIELD was claiming from 4,000 to 5,000 votes, and it was known to those present that in almost every precinct illegal votes were cast; and they had since been seen going home to Missouri by hundreds, making their boasts that they had accomplished all they went for--*voted for Whitefield.*

On the opposite, Gen. POMEROY, (who was also not a member, but spoke by invitation,) J. M. WINCHELL, Esq., T. J. ADDIS and others were in favor of holding the election. We had the right to vote, and it was not believed best to indulge in any fear in the matter. There was more than one precedent in which States had voted for Presidential electors before they were free from the trammels of a Territorial Government, and those votes were counted. In an emergency, the vote of Kansas might change the election, and the propriety of the movement was urged very strongly. Finally the vote was taken by ayes and nays, and decided by two majorities against voting for electors.

Thus ended the principal work of the Convention, and after some general discussion of other political subjects they adjourned *sine die.*

Soon afterwards a mass Convention of the people assembled and organized by choosing Wm. HUTCHINSON Chairman, when they proceeded to discuss the propriety of having a representation in Congress by delegate. Gen. POMEROY regarded it as indispensable to choose a delegate, as WHITEFIELD would obtain his seat unless he had a contestant. Mr. ARMY, of Chicago and member of the Kansas National Committee, being present, was called for, to speak the sentiment of that Committee and the friends of Kansas at the East upon that point. He said that his Committee and the most of our supporters in Congress were in favor of action, to elect a delegate to the next session of Congress. He would not recommend a public ballot, in consequence of our distressed condition, but believed it would be better to circulate petitions for every voter to sign, expressing their choice for a delegate. This could all be done with less excitement or sacrifice than the ordinary way and still obtain a much larger vote. His views were indorsed by others, and finally it was voted to issue a call, providing for a mass convention of the people of Kansas, on Tuesday, the 28th inst., at Big Springs, to nominate a delegate to the House of Representatives in Congress. Such a call was signed by most of those present, and the public notice is now circulating in accordance with the same. So the prospect is, we shall have a delegate in the next Congress, if the free vote of a free people can place him there. It cannot be regarded as any abandonment of the policy of our people, for it is only a provisional office which can exist only until we are admitted as a State. We should not be disfranchised. A Representative cannot be recognized while we remain under Territorial bonds. The post should be filled in some way--that is, we greatly need a *business agent* of some name, and a delegate would seem the most appropriate as well as convenient. I cannot now give the names of even the *probable* candidates. I have no time for general news, but your trusty "LITERAL" is at his post. RANDOLPH.

The Illegality of Whitefield's Election--Further Disclosures Concerning the Arrest of Col. Eldridge's Train--Col. Titus and his Company, &c.

Correspondence of the New-York Daily Times:
 LAWRENCE, Friday, Oct. 17, 1856.

The result of the Free-State Delegate Convention, held yesterday, in Topeka, was a resolution that it is inexpedient, on account of the disorder, sickness, and suffering in the State, to hold the proposed election for Presidential electors on the 4th of November.

A mass Convention is, however, called to meet on 29th inst., at Big Springs, to provide for the election of Delegate to Congress. The election of WHITEFIELD, notwithstanding the effort to make it appear to the contrary, was based on the Bogus Laws--the Governor's proclamation recognizing those Laws in three separate instances: First, it calls upon the *Sheriffs* of the counties to do the business; second, it selects the *day* named in that code; third, it orders the election to be held in accordance with *the laws*--nobody, not even the Governor, daring to say that by that phrase he meant the Organic Act.

Col. ELDRIDGE's long-expected emigrant train has at last arrived. It was captured bodily by the United States troops, and brought in under guard--all arms having been taken away. Luckily, they did not find the bulk of the arms intended to be brought by the train--those are safely in. The Governor promises to restore those taken. He sent a letter ordering the troops to escort the emigrants in and protect them, but it went another way; while the Marshal claimed secret orders for the arrest. A disgraceful search was made--private trunks and boxes being opened by the soldiers and roughly examined. The commanding officer, Col. COOK, is much censured for his conduct. The following letter, which will speak for itself, comes from a very intelligent and responsible source, and should receive attention: its anonymous character results from a necessity which I am not at liberty to explain.

"We do not want to speak severely of the army, but it is a great misfortune it should be encumbered with some few such officers as it was our misfortune to find in command. In our opinion there was not any officer under Colonel COOK who would have acted as he did. One remarkable thing we all observed:--not a single officer was ordered to search our wagons, but small parties of private soldiers were ordered to do the dirty work. It is likely the Colonel feared the officers might think for themselves.

This Colonel COOK is the same who, in speaking of General REAR'S troops, called them '2,500 gentlemen from Missouri.' He is the same who saw Major CHARLES F. RUFF, of the United States Army, in the ranks of the Missourians, and never reported the matter to the authorities in Washington. This Major RUFF, we understand, was Engineer and adviser to General REAR'S army of invasion. From the manner in which we heard officers of the army speak of Major RUFF'S presence in that Missouri camp, we call upon the President and Secretary of War, as a matter of justice to the army, to have Major RUFF'S conduct investigated. We think his name should be stricken from the roll of the army."

So far as this Major RUFF is concerned, I saw him in St. Louis a few days after REAR'S retreat, and heard him boast of having been with that hero in his campaign. It is not remarkably flattering to his military skill that our Free-State officers discovered in the upproaches and disposition of REAR'S force a remarkable absence of that science which would be expected from the direction of an experienced commander.

Colonel ELDRIDGE'S train is in good condition and spirits. Its members are admitted, on all hands, to be of superior character, and will be valuable emigrants.

General POMEROY, Professor DANIELS, of Wisconsin, and Colonel PERRY assisted Colonel ELDRIDGE in his charge.

As I was coming down from Topeka to-day, an incident occurred in our meeting of Col. Titus and his

company, riding out to air their new equipments and uniform. These chivalrous gentlemen looked imposing enough in the fine clothes and on the good horses which our Governor has kindly given them; I noticed, too, that they have Sharp's rifles. Capt. WALKER'S Free-State Company, on the contrary, are mustered into the service as *infantry*, and must go on foot while the chivalry ride. This is the exact justice meted out by the Governor to the two parties.

The Grand Jury have begun to find indictments against the hundred Free-State prisoners confined at LeCompton, on the charge of *murder* in the first degree. The trials are expected to commence to-morrow.

By the way, I rather think that Judge LECOMPTIE'S head will come off--just before the idea of November! Won't it tell on HUGHANAN'S vote? Perhaps more business of the same sort may be done at the same time, and for the same end.

W. F. ARMY, Esq., of the Kansas National Committee, has just arrived here, for the purpose of perfecting arrangements by which that Committee can cooperate efficiently with the Central Committee, located in Kansas. It is high time this is done; as, up to the present, the Central Committee has not received a dollar for distribution. It has relieved the most pressing wants, only by pledging its own credit.

A good many are leaving, for fear of the impending dangers of starvation and invasion. But as we hear of aid on the way, we hope this movement may be arrested. LITERAL.

Official Dispatches Received at Washington from Gov. Geary.

THE RECENT ARRESTS OF FREE-STATE EMIGRANTS--THE PRO-SLAVERY VERSION OF THE AFFAIR.

By Telegraph.
 WASHINGTON, Monday, Oct. 27.

Among the official dispatches received to-day from Gov. GEARY of Kansas, is one dated LeCompton, Oct. 15, in which he details the circumstances attending the arrest of an organization consisting of about two hundred and forty persons, among whom were very few women and children. This party was regularly formed in military order, under command of General POMEROY, Colonels ELDRIDGE and PERRY and others.

They had with them twenty muskets with bayonets and sabres, and a lot of saddles, &c., sufficient to equip a battalion consisting of one-fourth of cavalry and the remainder of infantry. Besides these arms which GEARY says were evidently intended for military purposes, and which were in the wagons, a search of which was strongly objected to, the emigrants were provided with shot-guns, rifles, pistols, knives, &c., sufficient for the ordinary purposes of persons traveling in Kansas or any other of the Western Territories. From the reports of the officers it appears they had with them neither oxen, mechanics' tools, agricultural implements, nor any of the necessary appurtenances of peaceful settlers.

They were permitted to pursue their journey, under the escort of a squadron of dragoons, having been furnished with a day's rations, and, subsequently, GEARY, according to promise, met them near Topeka. They apologized for their evident and undeniable disregard of GEARY'S proclamation, which apology, though plausible, was far from being satisfactory. After welcoming them as peaceful emigrants, and assuring them that he would positively enforce his proclamation, and suffer no party of men to enter or travel through the Territory, with warlike or hostile appearance, to the terror of peaceful citizens and the danger of reviving the disgraceful and alarming scenes through which the inhabitants had so recently passed, GEARY insisted upon the immediate disbandment of the combination, which was agreed to with alacrity. The majority of the men were evidently satisfied to learn that they had been deceived in relation to Kansas affairs, and that peace and quiet, instead of strife and contention were reigning there. His remarks were received with frequent demonstrations of approbation, and at their close the organization was broken up, and its members dispersed in various directions.

After they had been dismissed from custody, and the fact announced by Major SMILEY, their thankfulness for his kind treatment toward them during the time he held them under arrest, was expressed by giving him three hearty cheers.

In conclusion, GEARY expresses his regret that societies exist in some States, whose object it is to fit out such parties as the one just described, and send them to Kansas to their own injury and the destruction of the general welfare of the country. He says very many persons are induced to come out here under flattering promises which are never fulfilled, and having neither money to purchase food and clothing, nor trade or occupation at which to earn an honest livelihood, are driven to the necessity of becoming either paupers or thieves; and such are the unfortunate men who have aided materially in filling up the measure of the crimes that have so seriously effected the prosperity of Kansas. It is high time that this fact should be clearly and generally understood. This Territory at the present season of the year, and especially under existing circumstances, offers no inducement for the immigration of the poor tradesman or laborer. The country is overrun with hundreds who are unable to obtain employment, who live upon charity, and who are exposed to privation, destitution and want.

Among the documents is a report of the immigrants to GEARY, complaining of rough treatment they received from troops acting, as they understood, under the order of FREERON, the Deputy United States Marshal, declaring their mission to Kansas peaceful; having no organization, save one of police, for their own regulation and defence on the way; and, coming in that spirit to the Territory, they claimed the right of American citizens to bear arms, and be exempt from unlawful search or seizure.

Captain SMILEY, who had them in charge, says that they never, for one moment, were made to feel the restraints of military discipline, but were, on the contrary, relieved from this onerous duty and necessity of nightly guards, and were assisted rather than retarded in their journey. The Captain, agreeably to GEARY'S instructions, restored such of the arms as were claimed as individual property.

The Arrest of Kansas Emigrants.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]
 CHICAGO, Tuesday, Oct. 27.

The dispatches from this city, on the 28d inst., in regard to the release of the Kansas emigrants, arrested at Plymouth, K. T., by a telegraphic blunder, is made to say that the arms found in the wagons of the emigrants were "restored." Whereas they were "retained" by the authorities.

The Kansas Election--Edifying Confessions of a Southern Paper.

Correspondence of the Charleston (S. C.) Standard.
 ATENSON, K. T., Thursday, Oct. 2, 1856.

DEAR STANDARD: Every one is now talking about the elections, which, as I wrote you a few days ago, take place on the 6th inst. Our leading men here seem quite confident as to the result, and think the Pro-Slavery vote will be by far the largest. This may be, if Missouri will come forward as she ought, and I've no doubt will. She, in fact, controls the fate of Kansas--being just on the border, and separated only by a narrow river. She can send, at a moment's notice, men enough either to control the ballot-box or repel an invasion; and why can we not with justice apply to Missouri for aid now, when we know hundreds of men are entering the Territory, under the leadership of the notorious JIM LANE, for the sole purpose of voting!

This coming election will, I think, decide the matter for Kansas, and if we beat them now will beat them hereafter. There are more Free-Southerners here now than I think will ever be here again; and the Winter will kill off all, or most of those who attempt to weather it out. Many of the old Free-Southerners here, i. e., those who were here previous to the disturbances, will vote the Pro-Slavery ticket. They prefer slaves to free negroes, and, since the question is now slaves or no slaves, they prefer to vote for slaves. They are, too, I think, rather disgusted with the manner in which Free-Southerners have been behaving lately, who fight for "plunder, and not principle."

There is a party being made up now for the Big Blue to vote first, and then, I believe, engage in a Buffalo hunt. Mr. JENKINS, from Edisto Island, has gone there already to represent (if elected) Marshall county. The weather here is excessively cold, and ice has been seen half an inch thick. Colds and sore throats are quite common.

Gen. AYRE and party start from here on Monday, immediately after they have voted, on their return home. Many will follow soon, and your friend and correspondent among them. We can do no good by staying after we have voted, and would, besides suffering from cold, be at an expense without being able to make "a red." Gov. GEARY has ordered all the troops from the Territory to come into Fort Leavenworth, to be at his disposal, and promises great things. If he only does all he promises there will be no further use for the citizens to take up arms. We heard a few days ago that he had paid a visit to Lawrence, with a view to make up a company of "Lawrence and Order Men" from that town, but, as every one anticipated, returned disgusted. Immediately afterwards, Gen. Smith received orders to send a detachment of troops to cut off Lane, over whose head an indictment still hangs.

Nothing of importance has transpired since I last wrote, and, as I have already said, with the exception of some little excitement about the elections, we are now more quiet than we have been in a long time. Respectfully yours, &c., INGOMAR.

The Suffering in Kansas.

From the Boston Advertiser, Oct. 27.
 We print below a few of the letters which have been received in this city by the Treasurer of the funds collected for the relief of suffering in Kansas. They show how acceptable has been the aid which the Committee has been able to extend:

LAWRENCE, K. T., Wednesday, Oct. 8, 1856.
 Mr. T. P. JACKSON--Dear Sir: Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your donation, through Mr. S. N. SIMPSON, of fifty dollars, for the benefit of the Hospital at this place. I can assure you that it was a timely and acceptable gift, for which you have our sincere thanks. Very truly yours,

S. B. PRENTISS,
 Hospital Surgeon and Physician.
 LAWRENCE, K. T., Friday, Oct. 10, 1856.

P. T. JACKSON--Dear Sir: I have this day received provisions for Ottawa Creek, for the relief of a few of the needy and suffering. There are families in our neighborhood that have been living by grating their corn and making mush, for three months back, and others that have but one peck of meal, and nothing to eat more. Our family have been making pumpkins their staple, with a little corn meal occasionally. Such is a statement of the facts. Many of the men have been hindered from planting their crops till so late in the season that they have been cut off by the frost, and now they have to depend entirely on their friends East for support, myself among the number. Yours for Freedom,
 LAWRENCE, Thursday, Oct. 9, 1856.

Mr. JACKSON--Sir: I am very thankful for the money that I have received from you through Mr. SIMPSON. I have been through the war; I am now exposed to the weather, although I have been sick for some time. I am very grateful for the help that I have received by your influence. Yours truly,