

KANSAS.

The following letter, from Governor Robinson and those imprisoned with him, was sent to the free-state legislature just previous to its meeting at Topeka, K. T.

CAMP NEAR LECOMPTON, Kansas, }
July 1, 1856. }

To the friends of 'LAW AND ORDER,' convened at Topeka:—

The undersigned desire to say a word to their friends in regard to the present aspect of affairs in Kansas.

It is highly important at this time, that the oppressed people of Kansas should occupy a tenable position, one which the country and the world will sustain. There is, it seems to us, a position which we can occupy and be triumphant, whether overcome by numbers or not; while there is another position which, if taken, would prejudice our cause and might lead to defeat, and weaken the confidence and support of our friends in the country.

The first and true position is, defence of the state organization. You have a constitutional right to meet as a legislature, complete the state organization, and pass all laws necessary to the successful administration of justice, and the federal government has no authority to interfere with you in the exercise of this right; should it do so, it becomes justifiable self defence.

The second and untenable position is, resistance to a federal officer in the service of a legal process, when the defence of the state organization is not involved. Should a collision occur under such circumstances, it would be most unfortunate, and should be avoided if possible. If an attempt, however, is made to arrest the members of the state organization merely because they are such, with a view to disable it, then resistance becomes defence of the state organization, and is manifestly justifiable.

Accordingly, all persons against whom indictments are known to be pending, for any other charge than that of being a member of the state organization, should not be found at the Capital, as that might involve the people in his case. We feel that our hope of success in this important crisis depends, first upon a right position, and second, upon calm and unflinching firmness.

You have met for the purpose of doing what other new states have done, and what you have a constitutional right to do, and no man or class of men have a right to interfere, not excepting even the President of the United States.

Our desire to be with you in this crowning emergency is almost irresistible, and nothing but the fear that your position might be changed from a defence of the state organization to a resistance to our re-arrest can reconcile us to this absence. As it is, you have our earnest solicitude and fervent prayers that all may go well with you, and that you may earn, as you will, if every step is judiciously and firmly taken, the gratitude of millions of your fellow-men and the approbation of the God of Justice and Humanity.

GEO. W. SMITH, G. W. DEITZLER,
CHAS. ROBINSON, HENRY H. WILLIAMS,
GAINS JENKINS, JOHN BROWN, JR.

The above letter was read during the Convention at Topeka, on the 4th.

[Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.]

THE LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION.

GARVEY HOUSE, TOPEKA, STATE OF KANSAS, Saturday, July 5, 1856. }

Yesterday evening the Convention assembled at this place, adjourned.

The following Declaration was promulgated by the Convention:

'We, the people of Kansas, in mass convention assembled, in favor of preserving forever the freedom of the territory and state, and the total exclusion of the institution of slavery, do herein distinctly state our position and our cause, that our fellow-citizens in the North and the South, at the East and the West, as well as the government of the United States, may rightly appreciate our motives and our conduct:

First: We do solemnly declare before God and our fellow-men that we have asked no more than an impartial vote—a free vote on the part of the citizens of this territory—whether slavery should or should not be established in this territory.

Second: We do most solemnly declare to the world that our territorial elections have been invaded and controlled by those who have no residence nor interest in Kansas.

Third: That armed bands from the slaveholding states have swarmed into our territory, been received by government officers, armed with government arms, and, unmolested by any regularly constituted authorities, have searched, sacked and burned our dwellings, broken and destroyed our presses, and without any authority have invaded the sanctity of the homes of our citizens, and fired upon, robbed and mobbed them by force, whenever their lawless passions directed.

That our towns now swarm with these reckless desperadoes, who, under the very eyes of government officials, stalk among our free citizens armed to the teeth with bowie-knife and revolver. That the government officers, on the one hand, invite and receive and arm and encourage the hirelings of the slave power as they swarm in our territory; while, on the other hand, not government officials nor government troops, but these same hireling marauders, take it upon themselves, unmolested, to stop the ingress into our territory of peaceable emigrants from the free states, who, they have reason to believe, sympathize with the down-trodden and oppressed people of Kansas.

We now call upon the government of the United States to respect the rights of the majority in Kansas, as well as the views and ambitious designs of southern slave-holders and politicians, and should we fail in this we will then appeal to the freemen of the nation for aid and support; and, relying upon Almighty God and the justice of our cause, will take up arms in our own defence, and solemnly pledging ourselves to each other that so long as a free man stands erect upon the soil of Kansas we will never yield, though the slaveholders of the South should deluge our fair land with their living tides.

We deprecate alike the evil influence of fanaticism, in whatever party and in whatever section it may be exhibited. We do not seek to interfere with the institution of slavery in any of the states where it now exists, and, above all, we do not design that the people of the states where it does exist shall interfere with the people of Kansas in the decision which they have made of the great question whether they will or not establish slavery in the state.

We proclaim to the world that we have all the elements of a great and powerful state. Our hills abound with coal and minerals; our lands are rich and fertile; our climate all that could be desired; and here we have all the elements of a happy home for freemen.

That in thus inviting all parties to join us, we make no religious or political tests, but we call upon all the citizens of our common country, without distinction of party or creed, whether native or foreign born, who desire to see freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and free institutions established in our territory and state, to unite with us in this great and holy work.

That we adhere to and will maintain our present constitution and state government, until the majority of the people of Kansas will determine otherwise.

That having hitherto invariably acted in accordance with the spirit of the American constitution, and having framed by our delegates, regularly elected, a state constitution, and believing that the only measure by which peace can be secured to this section of our republic, and justice done to ourselves and posterity, is the immediate admission of Kansas into the Union, under our present constitution, we earnestly call upon our friends in the national House of Representatives to stop all supplies, until the Senate and Executive are compelled to admit us.

Resolved, That Gov. Charles Robinson, G. W. Dietzler, G. W. Brown, J. Jenkins, G. W. Smith, John Brown, junr., and W. H. Williams and others, have our deepest sympathies as martyrs of liberty; that we are still convinced of the justice of the cause in which they suffer, and that we are ready to suffer with them.

We further declare that there is not now, nor has there ever been, any organized armed body of free-state men to resist the execution of the laws; that there never has existed any disposition other than to submit to all legal requirements, and at all times to demean ourselves as good citizens and an order-loving community.

Now, therefore, that the foregoing sentiments may be diffused abroad, as the principles upon which we act, be it

Resolved, That this declaration be printed, and a copy thereof be forwarded to the President of the United States, to each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, to the Governors of the several states, and the various presses throughout the country.

The following preamble and resolutions were also offered and accepted:

Whereas, The government of the United States is a government of the people, and whereas, the laws of our government have wisely provided ample means of removing from office any person holding office under the laws of the United States who shall be guilty of any misdemeanor or malpractice in office; and whereas, Judge Lecompte has been guilty of high misdemeanor in office, as Judge of the First Judicial District of Kansas territory, such as ought not to be suffered by a free people; therefore

Resolved, That this mass meeting of the people of Kansas territory appoint a committee of five, to draw up a memorial to the House of Representatives of the United States, well authenticated by affidavits, charging the said Judge Lecompte with high misdemeanors in office, and request that the House of Representatives prefer articles of impeachment to the honorable the Senate of the United States against the said Judge Lecompte, for his removal from office as Judge of the First Judicial District of the territory of Kansas.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to collect means and construct a passable wagon-road from Nebraska city to some available point on the Kansas river, for the purpose of arranging and expediting the travel of emigrants into the state of Kansas.

MEMORIAL

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, of America:

The undersigned, citizens of the territory of Kansas, respectfully represent: That from and after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill whereby the public lands in this territory were thrown open to preemption and settlements, we availed ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded to erect homes for ourselves and families, improve and cultivate our lands, in this land, and that in all things we have labored to conduct ourselves in that peaceable and orderly manner becoming citizens of the United States, expecting in turn to receive that protection to our property, persons and principles which we had the right to claim under the constitution and laws of the federal government.

As American citizens, we regret to be under the

necessity of making complaint that we have not received that adequate protection to which we were entitled. Repeatedly have our most sacred rights, our most cherished principles been invaded, insulted and outraged; while our property has been destroyed, our families driven from their homes, our business prostrated, our persons maimed, and many of our fellow-citizens stricken down by the hands of the assassin. Those who have been guilty of these outrages—which are without parallel in the history of nations—either go unarrested and unpunished, thereby giving them assurance to commit still further depredations, or have been encouraged to repeat these acts of violence by receiving promotion to places of public trust and honor.

The right to vote—the right choose our own officers—which the constitution of the United States guarantees, and we, as American citizens, regard as the highest and most sacred of all other rights, has been repeatedly and most violently wrested from us. To effect this, large bodies of armed men from neighboring states invaded our soil, and bearing all the semblance of organized armies, with ammunition, arms, provisions, equipage, cannon, music and banners, took possession of the polls, driving, by force, the bona-fide settlers therefrom, and chose persons to govern us who are not the choice of a majority of our settlers, and with whom we are mostly unacquainted, as in many instances they were foreign to our soil.

This state of things had been repeatedly represented to the federal government, and praying the redress of our grievances, and the avenging of our wrongs. Our petitions have been followed by repeated outrages, each succeeding outrage being attended with greater violence than the former.

Being fully satisfied of our right to govern ourselves, and believing that we had the requisite population, and that in a separate and distinct governmental capacity we had the ability to sustain ourselves, protect our rights, and prevent the gross outrages upon property, person and principle to which we have hitherto been subjected; and believing that we had no other way in which to secure our protection, we proceeded as the 'People of Kansas,' irrespective of party distinctions, and with the full concurrence of five-sixths, or more, of our entire citizenship to organize a government for the State of Kansas.

For this purpose a Delegate Convention, fully representing every district of the territory, convened at Topeka on the 19th day of September, 1855, to take the preliminary steps necessary to such organization. By this convention it was ordered and publicly proclaimed that an election for members to a convention to frame a constitution would be held on the 9th day of October, 1855. Said election was held in due form, and on the 23d day of October, 1855, the convention thus elected assembled at Topeka and formed a Constitution of the State of Kansas. On the 15th day of December, 1855, the constitution thus framed was ratified by the people by ballot, and on the 15th day of January, 1856, officers for the state government and members of the General Assembly were duly elected by ballot. On the 4th day of March, 1856, the General Assembly convened at Topeka, and, after effecting its organization, proceeded to memorialize your Honorable Bodies upon the object of our state organization, and praying the admission of Kansas into the Union as a sovereign State.

Now therefore, we, the People of Kansas territory, greatly desirous of promoting the public good; of restoring peace and good order to this long distracted and harassed land; and fully believing that we possess the inherent and constitutional right to erect a government of our own, that our population is sufficient to entitle Kansas to the right and dignity of a sovereign state; that we have the means and ability to sustain such government, and that it is the only method by which our rights can be vindicated and justice obtained; respectfully but earnestly petition your Honorable Bodies to admit Kansas into the Union as an independent and sovereign state under our present Constitution.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

PROCLAMATION

By the Acting Governor of the Territory of Kansas.

Whereas, we have been reliably informed that a number of persons claiming legislative powers and authority over the people of the territory of Kansas, are about to assemble in the town of Topeka, for the purpose of adopting a code of laws, or of exercising other legislative functions in violation of the act of Congress organizing the territory, and of the laws adopted in pursuance thereof; and it now appearing that a military organization exists in this territory for the purpose of sustaining this unlawful legislative movement, and thus in effect to subvert by violence all present constitutional and legal authority; and, whereas, the President of the United States has, by proclamation, bearing date the 11th February, 1856, declared that any 'such plan for the determination of the future institutions of the territory, if carried into action, will constitute the fact of insurrection,' and therein commanded 'all persons engaged in such unlawful combinations against the constituted authority of the territory of Kansas or the United States, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes,' and, whereas, satisfactory evidence exists, that said proclamation of the President has been and is about to be disregarded by the persons or combinations above referred to; now, therefore, I, Daniel Woodson, Acting Governor of the territory of Kansas, by virtue of authority vested in me by law, and in pursuance of the proclamation of the President of the United States, and to the end of upholding the legal and constitutional authorities of the territory, and of preserving the public peace and tranquility, do issue this my proclamation, forbidding all persons claiming legislative powers and authority as aforesaid, from assembling, organizing, or attempting to organize or act in any legislative capacity whatever, under the penalties attached

to all willful violations of the law and disturbers of the peace and tranquility of the country.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto caused to be affixed the seal of the territory, this 4th day of July, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the United States the eightieth.

DANIEL WOODSON,

Acting Governor, K. T.

The Proclamation of the President, and the orders under it, requires me to sustain the executive of this territory in hereby announce that I shall maintain this proclamation at all hazards.

E. V. SUMNER,

Col. 1st Cavalry Commanding.

TO THE GIRLS.—Ladies, you caged birds of beautiful plumage, but sickly looking; you pale pets of the parlor, vegetating in an unhealthy shade with a greenish white complexion, like that of a green potato sprout in a dark cellar, why don't you go out into the open air and warm sunshine, and add luster to your eyes, bloom to your cheeks, elasticity to your step and vigor to your frames?—Take early morning exercise—let loose your corset strings, and run up hill on a wager, and down again for fun. Roam in the fields, climb over fences, leap the ditches, wade the brook and go home with an excellent appetite. Liberty thus exercised and enjoyed will render you healthy, blooming and beautiful—as lovely as the Graces and prolific as Diverra. The buxom bright-eyed, full breasted, bounding lass—who can darn a stocking, mend trousers, make her own frock, command a regiment of pots and kettles, feed the pigs, milk the cows, and be a fine lady withal in her company—is just the girl for me or any other worthy young man to marry; but you, ye pining, lolling, screwed up, wasp waisted, doll dressed, putty faced, consumption-moribund, music murdering, novel devouring daughters of fashion and idleness—you are no more fit for matrimony than a pullet is to look after a family of fourteen chickens. The truth is my dear girls you want, generally speaking, more liberty and less fashionable restraint—more kitchen and less parlor—more exercise and less idleness—more pudding and less piano—more frankness and less mock-modesty—more healthy corned beef and less corsets—more breakfast and less bishop. Loosen yourselves a little; enjoy more liberty and less restraint by fashion. Breathe the pure air of freedom, and become something nearly as beautiful as the God of Nature designed.—[Dow, Jr.]

A TALE OF HORROR.—We heard a flying report some few weeks since that some Indians had been murdered at the Cascades, but we forbore to say anything about it until we could learn the particulars, and with a face crimsoned with shame for the human mind, we proceed to lay them before the public. The Indians murdered consisted of the family of Spencer, a chief who resided at Vancouver, and was made up of his father, an old gray headed Indian, Spencer's wife and four children—a daughter nearly grown, and three younger sons; one of which was a suckling babe. The Indians had been up to the Dalles, in the service of the U. S. Government, and were on their way back to Vancouver, under charge of Col. Joseph Meek; and having regular passes about their persons.

In making the portage at the Cascades, it seems that they were overtaken by seven men, (if such they might be called) and forcibly taken from Col. Meek, whose life they threatened, and one after the other was murdered by means of a strong cord, which was tied around the neck and twisted with a stick till life was extinct. The girl was violated by these fiends before her life was taken. The annals of Indian barbarity furnish no instance of cold blooded, diabolical, cowardly villainy, that can much transcend this act, which has stamped the character of our territory with a foul blot, which will stick to it long after the perpetrators of that act and those who countenance it, are dead and damned. A few more such acts as this, and Oregon will be a byword and a hissing among the civilized nations of the earth.

WOMAN AND PORPOISES.—Well, it's the nature of porpoises, when a she one gets wounded, that all the other porpoises race right after her, and chase her to death. They show her no mercy; human nature is the same as fish nature in this particular, and is as scaly, too. When a woman gets a wound from an arrow shot out by scandal, or envy, or malice, or falsehood, for not keeping her eye on the compass and shapin' her course as she ought to, men, women, boys, parsons and their tea goin', gossipin' wives, pious gals, and prime old maids, all start out in full cry, like a pack of bloodhounds, after her and tear her to pieces; and if she earths, and has the luck to get safe into a hole fust, they howl and yell round it every time she shows her nose, like so many imps of darkness. It's the race of charity, to see which long legged, bilious-looking critter can be in at the death fast. They turn up the whites of their eyes, like rucks in thunder, at a fox-hunt; it's so wicked; but a gal-hunt they love dearly—it's serving the Lord.—[Sam Slick.]

SINGING.—If you would keep spring in your heart-learn to sing. There is more in melody than most people are aware of. A cobbler, who smooths his wax ends with a song, will do as much work in a day as one given to ill-nature and fretting would effect in a week. Songs are like sunshine—they run to cheerfulness; they fill the bosom with such buoyancy, that, for the time being, you feel filled with June air, or like a meadow of clover in blossom.—[Ex.]

AN ELEPHANT SWIMMING THIRTY MILES!—The Charleston Evening News understands that the elephant which was lost overboard from a vessel bound to that port made its way safely into Mount Pleasant harbor! The vessel was thirty miles out at sea, and a heavy gale was blowing when the elephant went overboard. Its feat of riding out the storm is, we suppose, the most remarkable instance of animal strength and endurance on record.