

# THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

DEVOTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, AND THE DISSEMINATION OF MORALITY, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IX.

COUDERSPORT, POTTER COUNTY, PA., JUNE 5, 1856.

NO. 2.

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## THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

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[From the N. Y. Tribune.]  
**THE CRISIS AT HAND.**

LEAVENWORTH CITY,  
K. T., May 17, 1856.

If there is a man on the American continent who does not consider the Slave Power inimical to Republican institutions, and dangerous to the most valued possessions and rights of our common country, he should stand on the soil of Kansas at the present moment. Political frauds, winked at by the authorities who ought to have prevented them, because those authorities have been corrupted by the potent arm of the Slaveocracy; the Free-State people of Kansas crushed by a despotism as little responsible to them, and as little regarding them, as the Russian and the Austrian did the unhappy aspirants for Liberty in Hungary; a people without law, with the necessities of a corrupt Judiciary, a corrupt Territorial Government, and fraudulent Legislature, engaged in their ceaseless persecution—such are the fair fruits of the scheme to plant Slavery in Kansas; a scheme beginning in political rascality and ending in war and confusion. Let those who fill the ears of easy politicians of the North with the cant cries: "Abolitionism," "Niggerism," and other sneers and slurs which can be conveniently heard to hide the truth, continue their servile trade, and mislead those whose selfish conservatism renders them but too easy victims. It is the free white people of America on whom the bonds are now to be cast, for an aristocratic Slaveocracy must trample on their privileges and sacred rights before they can succeed in their object. Much of this has already been done, and the remainder trembles on the eve of its accomplishment.

It is in vain to say that the difference is trifling, and that it will be easy to reconcile it. The interests are antagonistic and irreconcilable; the treachery of the Kansas-Nebraska bill brought them in conflict, and one of them must succumb. Wherever Slavery plants its footstep, there you create an aristocracy which, altogether independent of its effect on the negro, is degrading to free white labor, and dangerous to the rights of white men. Last night had been fixed for an attack on Lawrence, but I heard two days before that it would be delayed, or I would have been there. I start this morning, as the sunshine sends a little light through the driving clouds. All of yesterday it rained, rained, rained, and through the darkness of the night the pitiless rain came down, but as I listened to it I remembered the camp of blood-thirsty scoundrels around Lawrence, and knew that the storm was an errand of mercy. I have just learned from Lawrence that there is some intention of preparing for resistance, not to be used until the Marshal's force have proceeded to over acts of violence. This is perhaps the best policy that can be taken now. A new Committee of Safety has been appointed in Lawrence. All from that quarter is rumor and uncertainty.

All of yesterday the Committee was in secret session, no doubt examining

the murder cases. I have questioned some of the witnesses privately and have no doubt but the murder of Brown will prove to be one of the blackest atrocities on the records of crime. I have been told that Brown, when he saw that they meant to attack him, offered to fight any one, or any two of these villains, but unarmed as he was, they beset him. After cutting him with hatchets and knives till he fell down dying, he was kicked on the floor. He told them to let him alone, he was dying, but they still kicked and stamped on him, and one atrocious scoundrel is said to have stooped over the dying man and spat tobacco juice in his eyes. Such a monster you would think would be shunned, by all honorable minds, but I have been told this man has received marks of confidence and high trust from the Government.

Yesterday morning, just as the Committee were going into secret session, Gen. Richardson came in with a written answer to a question he had merely declined to answer the evening before. The question was, "Do you know of any regulation made by this secret society (this question was one of a series) relative to any evidence to be taken or given before this Committee?" Mr. Richardson said that he had not time to think of the question when it was first put, but had prepared an answer. It was: "The question is impertinent and offensive, and could have originated only in the mind of a man who could himself be guilty of such an act." This reply is not very symmetrical as a literary production, but as a vulgar attack on the Committee, is plain enough. It is ominous of further insolence to them, and I am not sure that they are safe from violence.

### REPORT OF A GENTLEMAN FROM LAWRENCE.

We have conversed with Mr. Charles H. Branscombe, who left Lawrence on the morning of the 16th inst. on a mission to the President at Washington, to implore him to interfere and save the people of Lawrence from butchery and their property from total destruction by the infuriated Border-Ruffian mob—a mission on whose success the melancholy intelligence which we have received by telegraph and published in another column, affords a conclusive commentary.

Mr. Branscombe sees no reason to hope that the news of the destruction of Lawrence is not correct. Indeed, he says that no one not an eye witness to the facts can well conceive the constant and varied outrages to which the Free State men of Kansas have for some time past been subjected. Thus, for instance, on the 15th inst., a party of eleven Free State settlers were quietly at work, without arms, in a field at Benicia, some four miles from Lawrence, when they were suddenly surrounded by twenty-five Missourians, armed to the teeth, who took them prisoners, without any warrant or other authority. The Missourians carried them into a neighboring cabin and with many oaths, ordered them to leave the Territory on pain of death. "Go—d—n you, if you are ever caught here again you shall be strung up! Go to Nebraska, d—n you! You have no right in Kansas!" Such was the language of these ruffians, who concluded by saying that they were coming to Lawrence in a few days to wipe out the d—d abolition city, and to kill or drive off every one of the inhabitants. After this admonition they released all of their prisoners but one, a Mr. Simmons, formerly from Worcester Co., Mass., who had answered them with some spirit, and whom they carried away with them for further discipline.

Another fact reported by Mr. Branscombe affords an illustration of the spirit of the women of the Free State settlers. Previous to thus arresting the men in the field a part of the same gang had visited the cabin of Mr. Simmons for the purpose of stealing his revolver and Sharp's rifle. His

wife was alone, and refused to give them up. She leveled the revolver at the leader, but just as she was about to pull the trigger one of the ruffians seized her arm from behind and took the weapons from her, after which they left her with the same brutal menaces as were addressed to the men in the field.

Robbery has been practiced without restraint upon the Free State people. Cows and other animals have continually been killed and carried off to the camp of the Ruffians at Leecompton. One man was forced to drive his own cow there, when she was taken from him and killed before his eyes. These instances are given as specimens from among many others, and are by no means the worst that might be reported, as those who have read our recent Kansas letters are well aware.

Mr. Branscombe was at Lawrence when they received the reply of Marshal Donaldson to the request of the people to be informed as to the precise nature of his demands, and declaring that they contemplated no resistance to the laws. Of this document it may be remembered, our special correspondent was unable to forward a copy. Mr. Branscombe describes it as exceedingly coarse and insolent in its manner. The only points of complaint which the Marshal brought against the people of Lawrence were: 1. The shooting of Jones. 2. The applause of the people when Reeder declared he would not be arrested on the process for contempt of court; and 3. The existence of a military organization in the town.

Gov. Reeder, Mr. Branscombe believes, is safe in Iowa. He left Kansas as our readers will remember we were informed by our special correspondent on the earnest advice of Messrs. Howard and Sherman, of the Congressional Committee who thought that his absence would remove a cause of collision between the people of Lawrence and the United States troops or Border marauders. We now learn that his assassination had been determined on by the latter, and that it was for that purpose that he was to be taken to Leecompton. For this the subpoena was issued to bring him before the Court, and for this the writ of arrest for contempt, and the indictment for high treason were also arranged. The indictment was found by the Grand Jury without hearing a single witness. Mr. Branscombe fears that Gov. Robinson will also be assassinated. He was to be taken from Lexington, Mo., where it will be remembered he was detained by a mob, up to Leecompton, on Saturday last, the 17th inst.

Such is the aspect of Kansas as described by this gentleman. The reign of terror there lacks nothing of being perfect. Assassinations, robberies, outrages and violence of every description are freely practiced, while the United States troops, fully authorized to aid and support the Border Ruffian authorities, are forbidden by the orders they have received from the President to do anything to protect the Free State settlers from slaughter and their fields and houses from devastation. Such is the result of Popular Sovereignty as expounded by Senator Douglas, and enforced with all the power of the Government by President Pierce.

### A DAY LATER FROM LAWRENCE.

From the Cleveland Daily Herald, May 22.  
We have had an interview with Mr. W. P. Taft of Brooklyn, who on yesterday (Wednesday) reached this city, having left Lawrence, in Kansas, on Saturday Morning last, (the 17th,) being two days later than the letter in to-day's paper, and which Mr. T. also had the kindness to bring to us. The news by Mr. T., therefore, is the very latest, as he had a very quick run of less than two days from Kansas to St. Louis. Mr. T. left Kansas City, in Missouri, on Sunday. We have heard enough from Mr. Taft to convince us

that the cause of the Free State party is desperate. Business is entirely suspended in the Territory, and men without means must leave or starve. Gov. Shannon has called out what he terms the militia, which is entirely composed of Missourians, Alabamians, South Carolinians, Georgians, who being enrolled are under pay, and thus nearly 2,000 of the vilest humanity are encamped along the river for the express purpose of thrusting the Territorial laws down the throats of citizens of Lawrence, or murder them, or drive them from the Territory.

The troops of the Federal Government are not enrolled upon by Shannon and his knaves; for having some humanity about them, they will not do the bidding of the Ruffians. Col. Sumner, and his officers and men are stigmatized as "d—d Abolitionists."

Upon the attempted arrest of Reeder on the writ of attachment issued by Le Compte, Reeder was prevailed on to fly, and thus save his own life and that of the people of Lawrence—for the vengeance sworn against Lawrence is because Reeder there refused to be arrested, and because that is a strong Free State town. Up to last Saturday, Reeder had not been heard from.

A camp of South Carolinians and Missourians, near Leecompton numbers 800, and is daily receiving additions. Another camp of 125 are about a mile and a half from Lawrence. The camp on Friday last arrested eleven men, nine of whom, after being warned to leave the Territory, were released but two are still retained.

Every man passing up or down by land is arrested and searched. Even letters are broken open and read. Houses are pillaged, provisions are stolen and every kind of depredation committed.

When Mr. T. left on Saturday, an attack was hourly expected on Lawrence, but on the boat Mr. T. was told, by the Missourians that Tuesday was the day, and it is probable the town is laid low before this.

The citizens of Lawrence were not in a posture for defense, although they had some arms and ammunition.

Another package of testimony was brought down upon the same boat by Mr. Branscombe, who by the aid of Mr. Taft, and Mr. J. Hawes of St. Johnsbury Vt. (who had accompanied Mr. Taft all through Kansas) was able to keep it away from Ruffian hands; so that, before this, it is safely at Washington.

The story of Kansas, in short, is just this: Every means to make it a Slave State seem to be fruitless, except by driving Free State men from the Territory, Shannon and Marshal Donaldson have, on the strength of Reeder's refusal to waive his exemption from arrest, enrolled all the ruffians from the Slave States as so much militia under pay. These assassin soldiers boast that 14 days service entitles them to 160 acres of land, besides their pay and rations. Thus an army of Pro-Slavery men is quartered upon Kansas to eat out its substance, destroy business, and free the Territory from Free State men. This, too when a force of Government troops, sufficient for every purpose of arrest and protection, is within call! The world affords no case which has its parallel in villainy. Not a man has resisted, even to the waving of his hand, the acts of Col. Sumner's troops and yet these troops are not armed by Shannon with United States guns, and their expenses paid with United States money!

This last scheme, conducted by the agents of this Administration for the purpose of fastening Slavery upon Kansas, will probably be successful.

Correspondence of the Cleveland Herald.  
Lawrence, May 15th, 1856.

There is one thing that threatens to ruin our cause: Thousands of as good and true men as the country can boast of, allured by the glowing de-

scription of the country, with its boundless resources, are attracted hither, but most of them with little or no means beyond sufficient to bring them here. They find upon arrival that provisions are enormously high, that they must pay at least \$3.50, and in most cases \$4 a week for their board. This immediately swallows up their little all; and they, in despair, are compelled to return whence they came. While upon the other hand, the Pro-Slavery party are reveling in ease and luxury, supported by Southern capital and guaranteed against want.

Thus, you see, the disadvantages under which Freedom laborers, who are brought in contrast with Slavery, are placed. How shall we avert this impending ruin? Can the North do something for these sufferers? Something must be done, and that shortly, or all is lost. Every steamer that returns to St. Louis, is deeply freighted with the very men who should be citizens of Kansas, and would be if anything could be done to relieve them from embarrassment for a few months, or until the present excitement subsides. Let it be distinctly understood, then, that men!—and not only men, but men of are needed, and must come, or Kansas is lost!

After having traveled, more or less, in twenty out of the thirty-one of these United States, I am prepared to give it as my opinion that it is probably not equalled, and positively excelled, in point of beauty or wealth of resources, by any of them. It is also a beauty and undeveloped wealth can avail nothing at present to the class in whose behalf I plead. The only consolation I can have now is that the great cause of Liberty is the cause of God, and after using what means we can make available, we must trust the result with Him. As far as I am concerned, I shall stay while longer anyhow, and, if possible, weather it out.

The citizens of this place are a noble set of fellows; very intelligent, and ordinarily very enterprising; and any people can stand under the stunning blows which are constantly dealt them by the Slave Power, they will do it. But it seems crushing and almost irresistible. Fifteen hundred Missourians are now encamped, and have been for weeks about four miles from the city. In haste.

### NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARSHAL.

Correspondence of the St. Louis Democrat.

LEAVENWORTH, K. T. May 16, 1856.  
I left Lawrence yesterday forenoon on foot, and arrived in this city at midnight. The road runs through the Indian Reservations—the most beautiful, well-watered and heavily timbered section of the Territory; and a journey on foot by this route, at the season of the year, is far from agreeable. Brackles and marshes and holes have to be crossed, and some of the streams are so swollen that it is necessary for a traveler to disrobe to an extent that would totally disqualify him from introduction to a lady. The next man who travels it escapes without a cold, he will be more tired than either my companions or myself.

Mr. Slocum, the first Free State Mayor of this city, has just arrived from Leecompton, with a letter from Gov. Shannon to Col. Sumner, of the nature of its contents are unknown. He was in the camp near Leecompton yesterday, and says that there are from 800 to 1,200 men there. Col. Sumner's troops are ordered out, but will be difficult at Lawrence.

The rabid men in Leecompton hate the soldiery. They recently discovered, to their astonishment, that a large majority of them sympathize with the people of Lawrence. They say that the troops cannot be relied on. This is the reason why Governor Shannon permitted the Marshal to call out the "law and order" anarchists.

Mr. Oliver is here. I had a talk