

Pardee Butler to Governor John St. John

In this letter, Pardee Butler describes for Kansas Governor St. John the temperance problems existing in Atchison County, where many leading Republicans have been courted and persuaded by liquor dealers. He states they are sold "body and breeches" to the liquor interests.

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1880
June 29th

Gov. St. John.

Accept my thanks for
your very welcome letter and
accompanying remittances.

My discussion with Mr. G. F.
Martin came off as per arrange-
ment.

If you understand the case
of Sam Wood and Ex Gov. Rob-
inson you will understand the
case of this man.

Men who appear to be the lead-
ing Republicans of Atchison to
have allowed themselves to be brought
into a condition of most shame-
ful exposure to the liquor
dealers of Atchison. The limits of this
letter will forbid that I should de-
tail the humiliating indignities that
have been put on them. Since I like
Mordcair of old refuse to bow down
to these liquor dealers bloated with
wealth gotten by their vile traffic
you may judge of my position.



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Myself and Col. John St. Martin would be excellent friends were it not for this single question. I have in a friendly way, for years, warned him what would ultimately be the consequence to him and his paper of his treatment of temperance men and temperance principles. A single ray of light dawned on his benighted soul when he was beaten by yourself. I have a private pledge from Col. Martin that I shall be heard on this question. But I do not understand it. A reply ^{to me} has been in the office of the Champion for three weeks from Ex. Gov. Robinson and is not published. While Martin was in Chicago Mr. Prouty, Office Editor, permitted me to read the Governor's reply to myself; but I begin to suspect that the power behind the throne has bidden the Champion to drop it!!

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The one thing that is need^{ed} is that that temperance Republicans shall coolly tell Col. Martin and his liquor dealing partners in the business of running Atchison Co., that they will have their rights or smash the machine! But hitherto our temperance people, how good and well meaning soever they may be, have shown themselves sadly wanting in back-bone.

Whether or not you will get any help from Atchison Co during the coming canvass depends on this one question alone.

Let me suggest to you that the exigencies of this case make it expedient for you that you should confer with Judge Horton. He knows intimately our situation. Will you please confer with him on this point. You ought to visit Atchison Co early in September. You ought to keep away from the city. There they are sold, "body and breeches" to the liquor interest. I have on

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very far in close to the Central
Branch Rail Road one of the
finest grounds in Kansas. This
is moreover the center of what
ever of temperance strength
there is in the county. Here
we will have a map-meeting.
You shall come and your
name will be a tower of strength.
This gathering should be
had before the concave are
held that are to nominate the
delegates to the State Convention.

Some months ago after
I had suffered severely from
attacks of neuralgia the
dentist extracted all my teeth.
This so injured my speech
that I have been laid on the
shelf ever since and it is
only now that the damage
has been so repaired that
I can resume public speaking.
I propose to be very diligent in
my efforts to redeem Atchison
from its thralldom to the liquor dealers.
May I hope to hear from you. Suffer me to
(over)

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urge on you that in no part
of the State will is your presence
so much needed as here
far in no part of it will the
battle be so fierce. And now
as in the days of which Walter
Scott sings

"One blast from Rodnick's horn
Were worth a thousand men!"

I remain truly

Pardee Butler

Farmington

Atchison to Mas

No. 2137 Book 6 Page 287
From Pardee Butler
Place Farmington Mo
Date 6. 29
Rec'd 7. 8
Ans'd 7. 5
ABSTRACT.
Temperance address,
Also given a statement
of the temperance
lecture in Atchison
County.