

Issac Tichenor Goodnow to unknown recipient

In the wake of the Wakarusa War, Isaac Goodnow wrote to an unknown recipient regarding recent skirmishes and negotiations between proslavery and free state supporters. According to Goodnow, Governor Shannon had demanded that the free state men surrender their Sharp's rifles and obey the laws of the "bogus" legislature. Governor Robinson had responded, telling his men to "keep the rifles, but surrender their contents." Goodnow also commented on the "determined heroism" of the free state women, and recounted the incident of voter fraud which occurred in the Delegate to Congress election between former Governor Reeder and J. W. Whitfield.

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upon by the proper authority, in the ^{whole of the Territory} provided that any person thus arrested, shall be examined before a U. S. District judge & admitted to bail. And that any all citizens arrested by the Sheriff's posse without legal process shall be set at Liberty; and provided that Gov Shannon use his influence to ^{deceive} remuneration for any clearance done to the Citizens of Kansas by said Sheriff's posse, & furthermore he avers that but he has not called on citizens of any state to aid in the execution of the laws, & will not do so, & that those men here are here with of their own choice, & his honorable document closes with the following very significant sentence, "that we wish it understood that we do not express any opinion ^{relating to} the constitutionality of the Territorial Legislature." It is well known that the people who were a party to this settlement do not consider any thing legal emanating from said legislature, & agreed simply to abide by the U. S. Laws, as they always have done.

In addition to this agreement, the Gov ^{colored} the Commission of Robinson & Lane, as Generals with instructions to preserve the peace with the forces under their command. The whole ^{history} is the history of 1855. In fact the Gov. turning to the right about face, adopted them as his army & rejects the lawless horde of border ruffians.

The next ^{late army} event now in the drama is to get rid of his mob force. At the earnest request of the Gov. the real terms of settlement were not published for some days. He announced it in substance to the ^{Citizens} of Lawrence, while in the ^{camp} it was stated unavowedly that the Citizens of Kansas had agreed to ^{give} observe the laws! They were thanked for their services & disbanded, & requested to go home. Some were satisfied but many not & vented their displeasure in evading the Gov. & doing any thing pertaining to it. Many urged an attack on Lawrence, among whom were the other fellows, but they ^{the} ^{chivalry} saw that by the ^{prudence} ^{firmness} & ^{coolness} of the ^{Gov.} they had been outgeneralled, & must seek another occasion to strike a blow, with any prospect of success.

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ed to ~~be~~ settled, but for better as it is. While sympathies
with these birds, are growing less Free State men ^{have} ~~are~~ ^{as a rule}
new laurels, many moderate pro-slavery men ^{will be one with the first} ~~have~~ ^{joined them}
~~with the~~ Free State ranks & are ready to stand shoulder to
shoulder with them in the battles of Freedom.

But the end is not yet! Any further occasion will be seized upon for another invasion, to wipe out their last defeats. Already a army has been made at Lenoirville, resuming the destiny of a printing press, ballot box, &c. & the death of 2 men, at the time of voting on the Constitution. All this is rapidly working out the freedom of Kansas. ~~John~~ ^{Oct 9th} Gen. Beecher had over 3000 votes for Delegate to Congress, Gen. Whitfield Oct 12th 2500, of the last 1700, were imported voters from Missouri, leaving only 800 bona fide voters of Kansas for Whitfield & Beecher demonstrating that Free State votes outnumber Prosavery, nearly 4 to 1. I had designed to add something by way of information to emigrants but the agents of the communication forbids. With the perfect assurance that Kansas must be a free state I remain very truly

Yours or love I 34