

## To the public

In this pamphlet, Abelard Guthrie, who had been a member of the Quindaro Town Company along with Charles Robinson, accused Robinson of abusing his position as treasurer of the company towards fraudulent and financially disastrous ends. Guthrie claimed that "the duty if every man is to expose villains whenever he has indubitable evidence of their true character," and berated himself for having trusted Robinson for so long. His accusations against Robinson are numerous and he contended that "there is a moral poison in his very touch that blights and ruins whatever it falls upon."

Creator: Guthrie, Abelard

Date: December 31, 1860

Callnumber: K BB v.3 pamphlets v.3

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 5451

Item Identifier: 5451

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/5451](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/5451)

KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



Robinson, C.  
20. Oct.

2427 48.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

I believe it is the duty of every man to expose villains whenever he has indubitable evidence of their true character; the honest and unsuspecting would thus be put upon their guard, and society be purged of a blighting curse. I propose to discharge a duty of this kind to-day—a duty too long deferred.

In September 1856, Charles Robinson in company with a fellow whom I shall call Snots, as I am unwilling to pollute my paper with his real name, came to my cabin. They had been told I had control of a valuable town site, and came to secure an interest in it. This site I had selected about eleven years before as affording advantages which no other point on the Missouri river, within seven hundred miles, possessed; and as soon as the treaty was made subjecting the lands to private ownership, I bought the improvements on and around it which gave me control of all the most valuable portion of it. This Robinson knew and appeared to appreciate. No man was ever welcomed with more cordial satisfaction than was Robinson on this occasion; his agreeable manners, his apparent candor, his ready acquiescence in my views, his cheerful concessions to my demands, his late martyrdom, (he had just been released from arrest for treason,) his professions of devotion to the cause of freedom in Kansas, all combined to win my entire confidence and esteem.

We had no difficulty in arranging the preliminaries of the enterprise, and he left with me two hundred dollars to commence buying lands with. I was unwilling to be a member of the company, (preferring other pursuits,) but Robinson intimated that as I had everything in my power, I might be



induced to buy lands for others which would embarrass his action and might interfere with the success of the town, but as a member, I would feel a common interest with him in keeping the enterprise free from such embarrassments. To remove all distrust from his mind, I assented. He agreed to furnish all the funds necessary to pay for the lands, and I was to refund my proportion of the cost out of my share of the profits from sales; and I was to be allowed, per acre, a price for my own land equal to the average cost, per acre, of the balance. He assured me, I should have no care or trouble except to buy the lands, and look after the titles; that he would devote his whole time and influence to the interests of the town. I had no inducement to join the company, except to please Robinson, for I could have retained a much larger and more valuable portion of the town, independent of the company, than I could get under the division agreed upon by the company.

I had not then, the remotest suspicion of Robinson's real object in urging me to become a member of the company, nor for a long time after. But I had my suspicions of his man Snots awakened, and told Robinson so, but he assured me I was mistaken, as Snots was a valuable man, a little sharp, but honest withal. This assurance silenced me.

These two men were admirably suited to each other, Robinson was the great man, rarely condescending to small matters, but entrusting all details to his man Snots, who was the great business man; he was extremely conscientious, and insisted with most scrupulous nicety on "having everything done on the square." He was also a prodigy of piety—did not think anything would prosper without religion being "mixed up" with it. He was enthusiastic in his devotion to Sunday Schools, and immediately organized one in this neighborhood. So devoted was he to its management that he would leave Lawrence late Saturday afternoon and arrive in Quindaro at midnight, just in time to save the infraction of the Sabbath, and yet in ample time for the Sunday School, where he prayed, sang, and exhorted with true puritanical





TO THE PUBLIC.

3

zeal, and finally wound up his pious course by seducing a poor deaf and dumb idiot girl, under circumstances peculiarly revolting to every sense of honor, gratitude and shame. This was known to Robinson, but it did not in anywise disturb the confidential and amicable relations between them. I have given this brief incident in the history of this hypocritical villain, merely to show the character of the agents Robinson employs to carry out his schemes of robbery and swindling. They are his fast witnesses, and swear to anything he wants established in that form. He keeps around him a band of these mercenary perjurers, by whom he can prove anything; and by abusing the confidence reposed in him, and the power given to him for the benefit of the town, he has managed to keep these wretches quartered on the Company, and of course they cost him individually nothing, and yet they have fattened up amazingly by this systematic imposition on confiding friends. He and his friends of this stamp, have had the sole management of the business affairs of the Company from the start.

I shall only notice a few points in Robinson's Quindaro career, for every act of his is but a link in a long chain of treachery, fraud, ingratitude and bad faith,—too long for me to examine in detail at this time.

At Robinson's desire, it was agreed to divide a portion of the company's property into eight interests, of twenty-five shares each; four interests to belong to the original proprietors, and four interests to belong to wealthy and influential men, who should aid us in railroads and other matters connected with the interests of the town. Robinson wanted these four outside interest holders to have an equal voice with us in the management of the Company's business, but I objected, as it would enable him, through their proxies, to control every thing in spite of us, for it was understood these interests were to be sold to Eastern men, with whom Robinson was acquainted and I was not. I told him positively I never would do any such thing.

It was then agreed that the four outside interest holders





should have nothing beyond the twenty-five shares sold to them, the same as other purchasers, but they were sold to them at a much lower rate on account of the benefits they were to confer on the town. Robinson drew up the articles of Association, and sent his man Snots with it to me to sign at a moment I was leaving home on some urgent business. I had not time then to read the paper, and said I would attend to it on my return; but was urged, for some reasons given, to sign it at that time. I then asked if it contained the conditions as agreed upon, and was assured it did. I then signed it without reading it. I afterwards discovered I had been deceived, and demanded an explanation of Robinson. He said "he didn't know but I might have changed my views, and that it made no difference, as he never would use any proxies from those interest holders."

This act of bad faith and dishonesty should at once have opened my eyes to the true character of the man, and I ought at once to have sent him adrift, as I then could have done without loss to myself. But about that time I was offered a large sum of money if I would get the titles to the town site in the names of other parties; and had I treated Robinson as he deserved, my motives would have been misinterpreted. Besides Robinson still professed to be anxious to do everything that was right, and to advance the success of of the town, and everything else, so far as I could see, was going on satisfactorially.

Robinson at his own request was appointed Treasurer and Agent of the Company, and succeeded in having his man Snots appointed temporary Superintendent of the Company's improvements; and between them used up the whole of the Company's money, amounting to near one hundred thousand dollars. A few thousand of this large amount were lavishly expended upon works so badly constructed as to be worthless, and in other transactions never authorized nor dreamed of by the Company, and were evidently fraudulent, as for instance, the trifling sum of five thousand dollars, it was claimed, had been paid to one man *for our own timber!* Rob-



TO THE PUBLIC.

5

inson, it is true, said this timber had been sold to this man, (but he did not even pretend that any payment had been made on it,) and that it was necessary to buy it back, but there is no evidence of this sale; besides this man had no money to buy with. The evidences of fraudulent collusion in this matter are apparent upon the very face of the transaction itself. And in their accounts for grading streets, there is one item of over \$11,000, when careful estimates made by competent engineers, show that the whole work could not have cost *three thousand dollars!* And there are many cases of fraud equally glaring, and some more so, if that be possible.

I could never get a settlement with Robinson, unless I would sanction these frauds. This I refused to do. I consulted several lawyers, with a view of compelling a settlement; some of these frankly acknowledged their ignorance of the best course to take, and others gave as many different opinions; but at length, I had a bill in Chancery prepared. Robinson hearing of this, proposed through one of his friends to arbitrate our differences. I was opposed to this, but yielded, being told it was the cheapest and most expeditious mode of settlement. The sequel justified my fears. During the investigation, Robinson and his confederates swore to things they knew to be false. The solemn obligations of an oath were utterly disregarded by Robinson; *he perjured himself as coolly and as deliberately* as the most experienced and hardened villain could have done. *And I proved it on him at the time.* Besides, even the books and records of the Company were of themselves strong evidence against him. Some of our most respectable citizens testifying, under oath, said of several of his fastest witnesses, that their reputation for truth and veracity was not good, and that they would not believe them under oath.

After this investigation was closed, I saw one of Robinson's officious tools explaining certain accounts to one of the arbitrators, of which I made complaint, which greatly exasperated my immaculate judge. And although the arbitrators





gave out that they would make up their award with closed doors, I had good reason to believe that Robinson's man, Cyclops, was often in conference with them, and that Robinson was kept advised of the progress of the business in hand. One of the arbitrators he selected was evidently acting in the double capacity of Attorney and Judge. He was the only lawyer in the board of arbitrators. The consequence was, as might have been expected, Robinson had everything his own way. But the District Court refused to have anything to do with this award, and of course it fell to the ground. Had my Attorneys but told me that I could have revoked the power of the arbitrators, I should certainly have done so before the award was made, for I soon saw there was an evident disposition to favor Robinson. I will give but one or two of the many instances of partiality and injustice of this award.

By the original agreement of the proprietors of Quindaro, which was made a part of the submission, I was to have for what land I should put into the town a price equal to the average cost of that purchased, which at this price amounted to \$534 00, but the arbitrators *allowed me nothing*. In another case, a mistake of over \$2,000 00 was discovered, for which they gave Robinson credit, although there was no proof that the money had ever gone out of his hands at all; this is the more strange, as Robinson was Treasurer of the Company, and by a written regulation of the Company, had no right to let a dollar go without an order from the President of the Company, and he has never exhibited any such order for this or any other money he claims credit for!

It is not probable that Robinson expected or cared to have this award confirmed by the courts. In obtaining it, his object was gained. He had it seems a law passed, by the Legislature of last winter, which enabled him to seize upon and sell the Company's property, ostensibly to pay its debts. He had trumped up a bogus claim, against the Company, (after the fashion of his Territorial Bond swindle,) and now having got the arbitrators to sanction the fraud, (keeping the parallel bond swindle in view;) his law which, strangely enough, had



TO THE PUBLIC.

7

been in force the better part of a year without anybody knowing it, came into play. Under its provisions, he proceeded to sell the whole of the Company's property, worth fifty or a hundred thousand dollars, for ten or twelve thousand dollars,—as I am informed—and put the money into his own pocket, and left for the East, where doubtless there were anxious friends looking for him; but he never paid a single dollar of the debts of the Company, as far as I can learn. He was Treasurer of the Company, and as such received about a hundred thousand dollars, according to his own report, and I believe much more if we could only get at the truth, which he has taken such good care of that nobody but himself, and possibly his parasites, know what has become of it; and he claims the proceeds of the last sale, ten or twelve thousand dollars, for his *valuable services*! Should this sale be confirmed by the Courts, he will then owe the Company about fifty thousand dollars, (supposing the lavish expenditures of his man Snots be allowed,) which he expects to keep by hard swearing, and laws he thinks his position will enable him to have passed. My faith in that Power which in his own good time, sets all things right, leads me to a different conclusion.

To show the extent to which this villain will go to consummate a favorite swindle, I will quote the last section of the extraordinary law, already referred to, briefly stating the particular case it is designed to meet. This law is modestly entitled “An act to facilitate the settlement of the Estates of deceased Partners.” It should have been entitled “An act to confirm the frauds of Charles Robinson, and to facilitate future operations of the same sort.” But to the case for which this part of the law was expressly made:—

In the “Addition to Quindaro,” I hold a tract of land by patent from the United States. My land was surveyed and platted with the rest of the Addition, and at the same time, to which I made no objection, deeming it better to have it all on one map. But when this Addition was to be divided among those interested in it, Robinson wanted me to put mine in with the rest, and divide the whole by lot. This I





refused to do, but on certain representations of his I acceded to his request, on the condition that he should pay for my share in another part of the Addition, which was conceding a great deal on my part, considering the difference in value. To this he readily agreed, and the whole Addition was made up into shares, and drawn by lots. Robinson neglected to pay for the land as agreed, and finally refused to pay at all, *even for his own part*; and as I had bought it as Agent for Robinson and others, and given my own notes for the back payments, (for Robinson always managed to be absent when responsibilities of this kind were to be assumed, assuring me he would see all made right,) I had not only to pay for my own share *but for his also!* And as he had doubly violated his agreements with me, I refused to give up my lands to him, and therefore he went quietly to the Legislature and had the beautiful law passed, of which I give the last section, by which he proposes to legislate me out of my lands, and that without any consideration whatever, and besides *leaves me to pay for his lands*; for the payment of which, in my stupid confidence in his promises and honor, I had become personally responsible by giving my notes. I did not know enough about law then to know that I should have signed those notes as Agent, which Attorneys now tell me I should have done. This ignorance on my part, is doubtless ridiculous enough, but the fact that Robinson took advantage of it only shows in broader light the ingratitude, meanness and dishonesty of the man. But here is the law:

*"AN ACT—To Facilitate the Settlement of the Estates of Deceased Partners:"*

SECTION 11. "When two or more persons shall have mutually agreed to lay off certain lands in city or town lots or blocks and to distribute such lots or blocks among themselves, and have caused such lands to be surveyed into such lots or blocks and a map or plat thereof to be made pursuant to such agreement, and have to determine the several lots or blocks to belong to each by lot or chance, or in any other specified manner, and have proceeded accordingly and so determined the several lots or blocks to belong to each in severalty, and one or more such persons pursuant to such agreement and determination shall have received a conveyance or conveyances of their lots or blocks so determined to belong to him or them or any part thereof, and all others of said persons, not having received such conveyances shall be able and willing to fulfil such agreement by



## TO THE PUBLIC.

9

making the necessary conveyances, although none of such agreements shall have been in writing, and whether the same was made before or after the passage of this act, they shall be as against such as have received such conveyance or conveyances valid in equity, and upon action duly brought the specific performance thereof by making all conveyances necessary to fulfil and carry into effect such agreements and determination shall be adjudged and enforced."

*Approved, February 24th, 1860.*

The discrepancies between the facts of the case, and the letter of the law, are doubtless to be reconciled by the same system of false swearing this man and his confederates found so profitable on another occasion.

Robinson desired me to buy the lands of the Wyandotts on the condition that one half the purchase money should be paid when deeds were made, and the other half when the patents should be issued; to this they agreed. The patents were issued a year and a half ago, but Robinson refused to pay the money due, and suits were instituted to recover it. To avoid responsibility he transferred all his property to other persons. Of the very large and valuable property I bought for him, I cannot find a single foot in his own name, and now under the operations of his infamous law, he has sold the whole of the Company's property also, and *thus leaves me to pay all the debts out of my private resources!* for his man Snots was bankrupt long ago, or rather he has played the same game, by putting his property into the hands of others. If anything can add to the infamy of these transactions, it is the fact that Robinson has made out of the town and incidental speculations not less than sixty thousand dollars, while I have not made one cent; besides losing my time, my land, and all the advantages my position afforded me; and \$1,470 actual cash paid out for improvements which I had to buy in order to obtain certain control of the town site, and *am now left to pay the debts of the Company, amounting to several thousand dollars!* This explains the reasons why Robinson wished me to be a member of the Company; it was simply to speculate on my credit, (for he had none himself,) and to leave me to pay the debts, after he had pocketed all the profits of the enterprise, and went his way.





I believe the fact is notorious that Robinson has never been the custodian of money about which there has not been trouble.\* And indeed I was forewarned of this peculiarity of his early enough to have escaped the snare. But I was incredulous, partly because I had confidence in the man, and because I knew it would be to his real interest to act honestly and honorably, as indeed, it is of everybody—but everybody evidently does not think so, or there would be no rogues. There never yet was a business transaction in which “honesty would not have been the best policy.” And if a terrible retribution does not overtake this villain my faith in the justice of God will be shaken.

Robinson has worked himself into the belief that he is a great man, and I incline to the same opinion; he is a sort of Abaddon, or rather he should be called the Great Abortion. He has the remarkable faculty of killing everything he has anything to do with; there is a moral poison in his very touch that blights and ruins whatever it falls upon; no good thing can flourish under his auspices; the curse of Cain is on him, and it communicates its baleful influence to every enterprise he fastens his deadly fangs upon.

Good men have long felicitated themselves on that wise and benevolent provision of Nature that prohibits monsters from propogating their species, else earth would soon become a hell; they are doubtless let loose from the infernal regions now and then, for wise purposes,—probably to warn us of the dangers of evil associations, and to teach us by contrast of man and monster that we should be grateful that there are so few of them. It is a consolation to know that, when the Great Abortion returns to his home with the Arch Fiend, he will leave on earth, no posterity, and the breed will become extinct.

---

\* Rev. T. W. Higginson testifies that Eli Thayer said to him, a year ago, of Governor Charles Robinson of Kansas, who appeared in Worcester to speak for Thayer's re-election just before the day of voting: “I have evidence which would convict Charles Robinson, in any court of justice, of having grown rich himself by systematically defrauding the Emigrant Aid Society.”—*Buffalo Express*, November 8th, 1860.



## TO THE PUBLIC.

11

Robinson wanted me to buy a large quantity of outside lands, but I refused on the ground that I had once been greatly injured by speculators buying up the lands around me, which kept out population. He then agreed to sell the lands out again, in ten acre lots, and to actual settlers. This removed the objection, and I bought for him several hundred acres, for which he has never paid. These purchases were made on the same terms as those of the town site; and since the last payment became due, the Indians have harrassed me incessantly for their money; saying it was their confidence in me that induced them to trust Robinson, and that I ought, therefore, to see them paid.

I have used every endeavor to have these poor creatures paid, but in vain. They have suffered greatly from this delay, and some of them, worn out with disappointments have sold the notes for a mere trifle. Robinson now has a friend buying them in on just such terms as their necessities compel them to submit to.

These lands were mostly deeded directly to Amos Lawrence and others of Boston, or have been transferred to them by Robinson; and I have no doubt these gentlemen think them paid for, and probably have no suspicion of the dishonest practices of Robinson, who acted as their Agent.

On one occasion, a Wyandott would not take his note unless I signed as security. This I did, though in violation of a rule I had laid down for my self-government. The result is the same as in most such cases; the note was not paid on maturity, and suit has been commenced; and Robinson coolly puts in an answer denying that he ever signed the note, and that he ever bought any land from the plaintiff! And he is just the man to swear out of it, if any man can. It is true the land, at Robinson's request, was deeded to Amos Lawrence and others of Boston, but he, as Agent for them, was to pay for it. I will not insult Mr. Lawrence, (who is represented to be an honest and honorable man,) by asking him if these things are done with his knowledge or connivance. But I think, in justice to himself, he should disavow them.





I bought these lands as Agent for Robinson, and was to be paid for my services, but have never received one cent. He now owes me about a thousand dollars on this account, but refuses to pay me. I shall of course sue him, but he will squirm out of it in some way, for neither man or devil can squeeze through so small a hole as Charles Robinson. Still I have a curiosity to see how it is to be done. Probably another Legislative enactment will facilitate the matter. I have already stated that I refused to buy these lands, until Robinson agreed to sell them out again in small parcels to actual settlers; but not a single acre has been so disposed of by him. He is consistent throughout: no act of good faith ever marred the harmony of his character!

In one of these outside purchases he wished me to be interested, proposing himself to pay the whole of the purchase money, and allowing me nine months to pay my proportion, as a consideration for my agency in buying the land. I made the purchase for nine hundred dollars less than I was authorized to give, and Robinson being absent, (he has a habit—which I did not know of at the time—of always being absent in seed time, but present in harvest,) it became necessary I should give my notes for some of the back payments, relying upon his assurances that he would pay the money. But he adroitly managed to delay the payment until he had secured his title, and transferred his share of the land to other parties, and then refused to pay it at all!

I have been sued on the notes, and have had to pay, not only for my own proportion, (although he was to pay for the whole,) *but have had to pay about three thousand five hundred dollars on his also!* A part of my property has been sold at Sheriff's sale, of course at great sacrifice, to pay this very debt, and there is more under execution for the same purpose. This of course is very *smart* in Mr. Robinson; but would it not have been more honest and more honorable, (if I can possibly drag these words into such an association,) to have stolen this money directly out of my pocket? I suggest this question for the consideration of ethical philosophers,





TO THE PUBLIC.

13

—contented myself to abide by the verdict of the public. Robinson is as cold blooded and heartless as he is cunning and unprincipled. On one occasion the Company, or rather Robinson's tools in the name of the Company, borrowed several hundred dollars of a widow lady, to be returned in a few months. But when the day of payment came round, there was no money to pay her with. She came to me. It was out of my power to help her; I was already suffering from Robinson's system of depletion, until I knew not which way to turn. I wrote to Robinson, but received no answer; I urged him to sell some oxen, belonging to the Company, which he had taken to Lawrence, under the pretext of keeping them from being lost or *stolen*; but could get no reply; *he had sold the oxen and put the money in his own pocket!* I then advised the widow to sue, and sell Company property. She did so, and obtained judgment. I directed the Sheriff to take a piece of property which was of no use to us, and was rapidly deteriorating in value, and which, at that time, if sold would have brought twice the amount of the judgment. But Robinson had the property—a steam ferry boat—taken from the Sheriff's custody, and run off to Missouri. This boat, which under Robinson's management, cost the Company \$4,500 00, he since sold for \$400 00, or thereabouts, to one of his friends. Had it been sold, at the time it was taken in execution, to satisfy the widow's claim, it would have brought \$1,500 or \$2,000. The widow has not been paid to this day! While Robinson revels in luxury in Washington and Boston upon *her* money, or money justly due her, and me and others, she and we are suffering from the keen pangs of want! How long will thy vengeance slumber, O God!

Such is a very brief history of some of Robinson's operations at Quindaro, and I suppose the public will be amazed at my verdancy in trusting him so far and so long. I confess I ought to suffer somewhat for my credulity. But this can hardly make the matter any more favorable to Robinson. The fact is, I had never come in contact with such a character before, and though I had read of it in novels and police





reports, I was not looking out for it in real life. Small rogues I knew there were in abundance, but there is a family resemblance among them all that enables one to detect and avoid them without much trouble. But Robinson is a bold and original operator, and goes into business on so grand a scale that one is tempted to confide in him, very much from the consideration which induced Dobson's calf to follow a huge bull, expecting to get a good supply of milk from a creature of such enormous dimensions; and the fates of the human and the brute dupes are very much alike; only the bull is not to blame for the calf's misfortunes, as he told no lies to mislead it. Moreover, Robinson had every inducement to act honorably and honestly. I gave him up much valuable property, which I might as easily have kept myself, because he had agreed to be at all the burden of the enterprise, and I wished to see him rewarded handsomely. But honesty is too plain a virtue for men of his stripe. Their ambition is to be thought *smart*, and they act upon the supposition that they can only obtain this reputation by acting the villain. Hence it is that swindlers never acquire wealth, no matter what their opportunities may be, but soon reach the height of their ambition: an infamous notoriety. Robinson is one of this class. He is a happy cross between the midnight thief and the midday robber, the former slightly predominating, forming that amphibious animal known to policemen as the "*Confidence Man*." He is a good judge of human nature, and instinctively knows whether he has secured the confidence of his subject sufficient to justify an operation. He proceeds much as the spider did with the fly he had caught in his net—binds him securely and bleeds him at leisure. Being a physician, he has naturally, as well as professionally, a taste for phlebotomy, and probably bleeds his victims from mere habit. He has tried his hand on "*bleeding Kansas*" with a decided success, that puts Border ruffianism to shame.

It is impossible to say whether he is worth anything or not. He owns I believe a piece of land in or adjoining Lawrence,





TO THE PUBLIC.

15

but the title is said not to be good. I think it probable he has spent most of the large sums of money he has had control of in promoting his political schemes, for it costs a good deal to keep up a politician of his calibre. He thus makes his political successes subserve his private interests, and his private successes subserve his political aspirations. He is evidently not as rich morally as Byron's Corsair, who we are assured "had *one* virtue linked with a thousand crimes." Robinson's crimes are innocent of all such dilution, unless the maxim "honor among thieves" be a species of virtue. He resembles more the "Veiled Prophet of Khorassan" whose boast was:—

"Here judge if Hell, with all its powers to damn,  
Can add one curse to the foul thing I am."

Mokanna's highest happiness was in the contemplation of the devotion and sufferings of his followers and the widespread ruin he wrought; the more devoted his followers, the more exquisite the pleasure their agonies afforded him. If I could strip the veil from the moral features of *my* hero and present them in all their hideous deformity, the Monster of Khorassan would appear respectable in comparison.

A lady who had been one of Robinson's most enthusiastic admirers in the State whence she emigrated, on being introduced to him in Kansas, said a few moments after: "Is that the great Governor Robinson? Well if he is not a black-hearted villain, every feature of his countenance belies him." I may not quote the exact language, but the substance is the same. And it must be confessed that his shrinking, cowering, guilty look is most manifest, if one chooses to make him a study; but it will pass for modesty with most persons who only look for the brightest points in human nature. His countenance when carefully studied will be found a most correct index to the character of the man.

When Robinson came to me I was out of debt, I had plenty of the comforts of life, had credit to the extent of my wants, the limits of which I had not tried. I had never in my life been *sued*, and if ever *dunned* it must have been very





seldom, for I do not remember the time or occasion; I had never spoken to a lawyer professionally, had never been sworn as a witness or in any other capacity in any trial whatever; had never spent one moment in attendance on Court. But since my connection with him in business, I have been overwhelmed with difficulties, embarrassments and humiliations, every one growing directly or indirectly out of his acts of dishonesty, treachery, and bad faith. Lawsuits have been instituted, judgments obtained, my property sacrificed, my credit prostrated to such an extent that my poor family have suffered much for the commonest comforts of life, both in food and clothing. My time has been taken up in defending suits, in attendance on the Courts, and in the many duties incidental to much litigation. I have been beset incessantly by the creditors of Robinson and the Quindaro Company, for Robinson took good care to keep out of the way, and what was worse, carried away the Company's money also, leaving me to bear the whole burden of the consequences of his infamous conduct. He knew well the difficulties in which he had involved me, but has never expressed one word of sympathy or regret, or offered in the slightest degree to relieve me; but on the contrary, he left me as the robber leaves the mangled body of his victim, whose pockets he has rifled, thinking only of the means of escaping with his booty, and concealing his crime.

I had treated him with a liberality and generous confidence he had never experienced before, and which only a life-long established character for probity and honor could have justified, and he has repaid me with every injury the blackest ingratitude, treachery and cold blooded villainy could inflict. He has shirked every responsibility, falsified every promise, and totally disregarded every obligation of honor, integrity and common justice. And I denounce him as a *liar*, a *swindler* and a *perjurer*, and I have reason to suspect that these are not the blackest of his crimes.

I shall put another coal on this terrapin's back as soon as I can find a little leisure.

ABELARD GUTHRIE.

Quindaro, Kansas Territory, }  
December 31st, 1860. }