

Circular by various Protestant ministers on behalf of the activities of the New England Emigrant Aid Company

This printed circular indicated that nineteen Protestant ministers in the Boston area were urging emigration to Kansas under the auspices of the New England Emigrant Aid Company because the ministers listed believed "that no christian work demanded effort more than the work for peopling Kanzas with men and women who were resolved to make it free." The ministers proposed to raise \$60,000 to aid emigration efforts. The document listed four areas of interest to the emigrant aid company--freedom, religion, education, and temperance. All nineteen ministers were listed in the document that was signed by Calvin E. Stowe, Andover; Edward E. Hale, Worcester; and Thomas J. Gaffield, Boston.

Creator: Stowe, C. E. (Calvin Ellis), 1802-1886

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Emigrant Aid Company

DEAR SIR:—At a meeting held at the Rooms of the Christian Association, in Boston, of gentlemen interested in the permanent welfare of Kansas, we were appointed a Committee to correspond with members of the various Christian congregations of the different towns in Massachusetts, asking their co-operation in a general effort for the encouragement of the settlers in Kansas.

Nineteen clergymen of different Protestant bodies have this summer set on foot a correspondence with the clergy of all New England, which has shown a wide-spread desire through New England to sustain the settlers from the North now in Kansas, and to encourage those to remain there, who are now passing into the territory, in large numbers, from the North and Northwest.

To do this, it is proposed to raise in New England sixty thousand dollars, by the contributions of persons interested in the freedom and welfare of Kansas, to be invested there in such improvements, mills, bridges, churches, &c., as are necessary to secure the comfort and strength of the Emigration now on its way thither. Of this sum, it is hoped that at the very least, \$20,000 may be contributed by the christians of Massachusetts.

It is stated on the very best authority, that if such an arrangement could have been made a year since, the Freedom-loving population of Kansas would now be two or three times larger even than it is. That territory is not so well adapted to the enterprise of lonely settlers as some other regions in America. Its timber is too large for log cabins, and is not so scattered, that each settler is sure of timber on his own claim. But on the other hand, to all those organized bodies of settlers who have the advantages, especially of mills, which capital only can afford, it presents peculiar and immediate attractions. And thus, around every saw-mill really within the territory of Kansas, there is now growing up a free and freedom-loving population.

The nineteen clergymen who have been alluded to were

LYMAN BEECHER,
BARON STOW, Rowe St. Baptist Ch., Boston,
CHARLES LOWELL, West Ch., Boston,
S. STREETER, Pastor of 1st Universalist Ch., Boston,
W. E. RICE, Pastor of M. E. Ch., Bromfield Street, Boston,
JOHN H. TWOMBLY, Pastor of M. E. Ch., Hanover St., Boston,
EDWARD BEECHER, Pastor of Salem St. Church, Boston,
T. STARR KING, Pastor of Hollis St. Ch., Boston,
JOHN S. STONE, Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Brookline,
HOSEA BALLOU, 3d, Pres. of Tufts College, Medford,
CALVIN E. STOWE, Andover,
LEONARD BACON, New Haven,
JOEL HAWES, First Church, Hartford,
HORACE BUSHNELL, North Church, Hartford,
JOSEPH S. CLARK, Boston,
EDWARD E. HALE, Worcester,
H. LINCOLN WAYLAND, "
JOHN G. ADAMS,
FRANKLIN RAND, Boston.

They had learned that it was to be feared that the Emigration from the North-Western States into Kansas, would be materially checked by the drawbacks to separate settlements alluded to. The time for the permanent establishment of christian communities in that territory, would be thus materially deferred. They found that the New England Emigrant Aid Company, to whose influence the existence of the principal free towns now in Kansas was in great measure due, was quite unable to meet the necessities of providing for the immense emigration of this autumn and winter. Confident

that no christian work demanded effort more than the work for peopling Kansas with men and women who were resolved to make it free, they proposed a plan which has been highly approved, for raising the sum named above, by the voluntary contributions of the christian people of New England. They did this, quite unsolicited by the Emigrant Aid Company. But, as they were satisfied that its efforts had been under Providence crowned with great success in Kansas already, they proposed to place the sum at its disposal. And to interest every part of New England in the work, they proposed that three thousand ministers of New England should thus be made life members of that company.

These gentlemen, in proposing this plan on the 2nd of July last, made the following statements, which will show their reasons for making the Emigrant Aid Company their agent for the work they had in hand.

'You may rely on the following statements of the work of the Emigrant Aid Company, since it was established.

'1. FOR FREEDOM.—It has assisted in establishing at commanding points, the towns of Lawrence, Topeka, Osawatimie, Boston, Hampden, and Waboune. In some of these towns it has mills, in most of them some investment of value to the settlers. These towns are all peopled by "Free State men," whose whole influence goes to making Kansas free. There are other towns already started of similar character. The only "Slave State" town of commanding influence in Kansas, is Leavenworth, on the Missouri frontier, separated from the other settled parts of the territory by Indian reservations.

'We may say, therefore, that all the most important centres of influence have been established, or assisted, by the Emigrant Aid Company, and that their influence tells for the cause of Freedom. This company has, in fact, directly transported between two and three thousand emigrants to Kansas. Not one man of them is known to have ever given a "Slave State" vote. More than ten thousand, from Free States of the North-West, have been led there by its indirect influence here. To prevent the return of this tide,—and to provide those who go with the assistance which capital only can provide, this Company wishes to supply saw-mills at important points, and other conveniences. For such purposes will it use any enlargement of its funds. The emigration is still very large,—and wherever this company can establish a saw-mill with other conveniences, a "Free State" town can be gathered.

'From the best sources of information, from the officers of the company, and well informed persons in Kansas and Missouri, we are convinced, as the result of what has been done, that the great proportion of settlers now in Kansas wish it to become a free State. At the election held on the 22d ult. to fill vacancies in the Legislature, nine "Free State" members were chosen,—and only three "Slave State" members,—the last in Leavenworth, which is separated by a ferry only from Missouri.

'2. FOR RELIGION.—The officers of this company have understood that to make a free State they needed, first of all, the Gospel. Every missionary sent there by different Boards, has received their active assistance. Divine service is regularly maintained in the towns where the company has influence,—and, we believe, no where else. Every Sabbath School in the territory has been formed with the assistance of the company, or its officers. Every church organized has been organized with their co operation.

'3. FOR EDUCATION.—Schools will be in operation at Lawrence at Topeka, at Osawatimie and Hampden, before the end of July. These, which are the only schools in the territory of which we have any account, are due to the exertions of the New England Emigrant Aid Company and its officers.

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'4. FOR TEMPERANCE.—The traffic in intoxicating liquors scarcely exists in any one of the towns founded with the company's assistance; and any attempt to introduce it will be resisted by their citizens. This prohibition, intended in the first instance for the benefit of the towns, will approve itself to you as the only hope for the Indians still remaining in that territory.

'Such has been the work of this company in one year.'

To this statement we are able to add from the accounts of ministers and others now or recently in Kansas, that the Emigration thither this fall from Northern States promises to be very large. The action of the so-called Legislature of Kansas does not deter free men from going in. *There is no want of men.* There is great want of the first necessities of civilization, which capital alone can provide.

We are thus led to believe that it is the duty of Christians who do not move into that territory, to assist in providing these necessities for those who do. For such reasons, we ask with great respect some contribution from the religious society with which you are connected, toward the fund alluded to above. We are sure that the Enterprise meets the approbation of all New England. We trust to receive some assistance from every part of New England. Any sum, however small, which you can forward, will be gratefully received, and will be immediately applied in such way as shall seem most advantageous for Education, Temperance, Freedom, and Religion in Kansas.

For this purpose we trust to receive an average contribution of at least twenty dollars, from each parish in Massachusetts. If the interest in the subject among you in any way permits, we venture to beg that a larger contribution may be made. For as you well know, there are many parishes, so cramped in external circumstances, that we have no right to expect nearly that amount from them.

If you can contribute anything to the fund, we shall attempt to make your Pastor a member of the Emigrant Aid Company, by taking one share in his name. If you are able to contribute more than twenty dollars, will you name some clergyman in Massachusetts, whom you prefer to make a member,—if you have any such preference?

Without any organized action thus far, nearly three thousand dollars has been contributed in Massachusetts by ministers and others towards this fund. Our belief is, from what we know of the wide interest in it, that a much larger sum than the twenty thousand dollars proposed may be at once contributed by the thousand Christian congregations of this Commonwealth.

We ought to add, that all accounts from Kansas show, that the Northern Settlers there are highly encouraged, and, while they look for the sympathy and assistance of friends in their own homes, see no reason for doubt as to the issue of the fortunes of Kansas.

If, carrying out the design, three thousand ministers of New England are made members of the Emigrant Aid Company, we believe no one will ever profess any doubt as to the moral and religious direction of its operations.

If any farther explanation of our plan be necessary, please address either of the undersigned,—and such explanation shall be given.

It is not our intention to send this circular to members of parishes which have already contributed. If we have done so, in addressing you,—we beg you to excuse our accidental error.

Any remittances for this fund may be addressed to either of the Secretaries;— viz.

Rev. Dr. JOSEPH S. CLARK; Boston,
" FRANKLIN RAND; Boston,
" EDWARD E. HALE; Worcester,
" JOHN G. ADAMS; Worcester,
" H. LINCOLN WAYLAND; Worcester.

It is desirable that such remittances may be forwarded as soon as possible,—as the Autumn Emigration to Kansas has already begun.

In Christian fellowship,

Truly Yours,

CALVIN E. STOWE, Andover,
EDWARD E. HALE, Worcester,
THOMAS J. GAFFIELD, Boston.

NOTE. At the meeting which appointed this committee, three committees were appointed for immediate action in Massachusetts.— viz.

1. To consider and act on the best method of making all the ministers of Boston, Life Members of the Emigrant Aid Company.

Dr. Henry A. Miles,
Dr. Lyman Beecher,
J. P. Blanchard, Esq.,
Samuel E. Guild, Esq.,
W. W. Winthrop, Esq.

2. To correspond with the various Religious Societies of Massachusetts, on the wants of Kansas, and to invite their contributions.

Prof. Calvin E. Stowe of Andover,
Thomas J. Gaffield, Esq., of Boston,
Rev. E. E. Hale, of Worcester.

3. To raise by general subscription in this state, a fund sufficient, with the other contributions, to amount to \$20,000.

George B. Emerson, Esq., of Boston,
John Gardner, Esq., of Dedham,
F. W. Smith, Esq., of Boston,
T. K. Lothrop, Esq., of Boston,
Bartholomew Wood, Esq., of Newton.

It is hoped that similar action will be taken at once, in the other New England States.