

## William Hutchinson to James B. Abbott

William Hutchinson, Secretary of the Kansas Central Committee, informed James Abbott of his appointment to a secret, investigative committee created to "expose the recent frauds upon the elective franchise, and to provide for the summary punishment of all those who are implicated therein." The committee, which was appointed "privately," was the result of a resolution passed in a meeting of the Freemen of Kansas in Mass Convention of October 19, 1857.

Creator: Hutchinson, William, 1823-1904

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Lawrence O. T. Oct 21 1857

Dear Sir

At a meeting of the Free men of Kansas in Mass Convention at Lawrence on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, after protesting against the assembling of the Bogue Constitutional Convention the following Resolution was by acclamation adopted

Resolved That we recommend the appointment of a Committee of Fifty two Members to investigate and expose the recent frauds upon the elective franchise, and to provide for the summary punishment of all who are implicated therein.

The Committee were then appointed in private, that their names may not be known to the public. You are one upon that Committee, and it is expected that you will make it your duty to serve vigilantly in your vicinity, in accordance therewith. If any frauds were committed there, trace out every root and branch of them and the names of the parties connected therewith. Obtain Affidavits attested by yourself relative to all material facts, and forward the same to me at Lawrence. The Committee have organized and will meet again the first Tuesday in November at this place when it is to be hoped you will be present. They will meet monthly thereafter.

At the meeting for organization it was decided that all our doings should be secret until made public by a vote of the Committee.

Very Respectfully Yours

Wm Hutchinson  
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