

An Appeal from the Merchants of Lawrence, Kansas Territory to the Chamber of Commerce, St. Louis, Missouri

Lawrence merchants appeal to the St. Louis business community to take steps to prevent Missourians from invading Kansas Territory. They base their request on the negative impact that the invasions would have on commerce between Missouri and Kansas Territory.

Creator: Merchants of Lawrence

Date: 1856

Callnumber: William Hutchinson Coll. # 400 Box 1 Folder 2

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KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

25449.

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of Lawrence, Kansas Territory, to the
Chamber of Commerce, St. Louis, Mo.

While all American Constitutions regard Govern-
ment as based upon the expressed or tacit consent of
the governed, and the supreme power of State as always
residing in the people, it is not essential to a pure
democracy that its powers should be delegated to
Executive or Legislative agents, but exigencies may
arise wherein the high moral trust may be ex-
ercised by the Sovereign people, in conserving their
own rights and liberties, in the absence of official
agents. Such an exigency has now arisen with
us, in which the supremacy of the people, will must be
recognised in securing our own happiness against foreign
abuses — in defending the right and repelling the
wrong.

You must be already aware that
while without an outward, operative government of
our own, while we were weak in numbers, isolated, and
all the requisites for the administration of justice, our
soil has been repeatedly invaded by armed mobs as
well as organized armies from your state, who, without
provocation or the slightest pretext, have wantonly mur-
dered our peaceable citizens, ^{robbed our peaceful ones} pillaged our property,
blockaded our town, and threatened it with destruc-
tion and its inhabitants with death, and that it has
been only through the most unparalelled forbearance
in some instances, and manly defence of our inherent rights
in others, that we have escaped a most deadly civil
war. Recent observations evidence to us that there
is an extensive organization in your state, which is
preparing for an immediate attack upon our town



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mercantile offices are moving ^{and for} men in the several countries
and that ~~men~~ ^{men} are ~~being~~ ^{are} enrolled, who go
through with daily military drill for the same un-
hallowed purpose. We have committed no crime, vio-
lated the international faith towards the State, but
have ever sought to maintain the sanctity of the most peace-
ful relations towards all men. We came to Kansas
because we ~~had~~ ^{desired} to possess the most inviting climate,
fertilizing soil, and enchanting scenery now open to the
emigrant upon this continent. We came to build up
for ourselves and our children, beautiful homes, where,
as the inheritance of a free government, we and they
might enjoy a lifetime, having our cups filled daily with
the quintessence of domestic joy. We have been educated in the
schools of peace, and nothing would be more abhorrent to
our natures, than to see the smoke of battle, curling
over these lovely prairies, or to feel again the smart
of those grievous outrages, with which your people
are now threatening us. These considerations, gen-
tlemen, prompt us to address you in a commercial capac-
ity.

We have chosen a residence in Lawrence, from its
unsurpassed situation upon the only navigable river in
the Territory, an indispensable requisite in building up
a large commercial city. We have erected suitable stores
for a wholesale and retail trade and have already se-
cured a very flattering business with the interior
country. Although it is but little more than twelve
months since the first store was erected here, yet we
have already paid to your State over \$1,000,000, a large
proportion of which has gone to your city, and the
trade of our entire Territory with your State thus
far has been nearly one million of dollars. This cir-
cumstance alone has already raised the prices of many
articles of Export in your State, from two hundred to

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fine human power, and your city is extending her
 levees, and enlarging her war rooms, in anticipation of
 our future trade. With an area four times as large
 as your whole state, our prospective business must
 be at least, fully equal to that of Missouri, and our
 prosperity in a commercial sense, has quite as much to
 do with the future greatness of your city, ^{constructive} ~~and~~ ^{cons-}
 siderations it is possible to deduce from your own state.
 Geographically, St. Louis is the commercial mart of Ten-
 nessee, for years to come, or until the death of our own in-
 dustry and the richness of our soil, manufacturing
 and commercial cities will be built upon our own ter-
 ritory, and even then, they will reciprocally owe to your
 enterprise and wealth. The chain of all our pub-
 lic interests, therefore, becomes directly linked with yours.
 Our prosperity is yours—our adversity is yours. Our
 invasion is yours—our conquest is yours. Long,
 by an unnatural and expensive policy on your part,
 for an endeavor to open new thorough-fairs for trade
 with other cities and invest our wealth in opening
 railroads and telegraphic communications with the same,
 the weight of your impudence will reveal only upon
 your own heads, and in due time we shall escape from the
 fiery ordeal, unscathed.
 Although the profound spirit of President Pierce,
 according to his Message, has not yet discerned anything
 in our grievances, ~~that~~ ^{that} have occurred under circumstances
 to justify the interposition of the Federal Executive, we
 still hope ^{that so far as the efforts of the State are implicated} ~~that~~ they have occurred in such a man-
 ner as will justify your interposition. Especially
 when unmistakable evidences are before us, that we
 are soon to be overrun again by an armed force, unless
 immediate measures are taken to repress them. Like
 great events, casting their shadows forward, the for-

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Readings of the future have produced a general par-
 alysis in all departments of business throughout the
 Territory. Our trade is not one third as large as
 it was three months ago. Mechanics, laborers of all
 kinds complain alike of the general depression. In the
 border towns of your state, the same want of enterprise
 is observed. If this continues, and our remittances to
 your city the coming season will be very limited.
 Circulation is retarded, consequently no new money is
 brought in, and we are cursed, not with war alone, but
 "war, pestilence and famine." We wish to urge upon
 you these considerations, and by virtue of your com-
 mercial influence throughout the state, ask of you to
 intercede in our behalf, in staying the hand of evil
 doers, that we may go on developing our own greatness
 and yours, and long enjoy the pleasure of those
 relations, we have mutually found, thus far, so pro-
 fitable and pleasant.

Appeal from
 the
 Lawrence Merchants

Hornsby & Ferris
 J. H. Cox & Co.
 C. W. W. Hunte & Sons
 W. B. Dorman
 Woodward & Finley
 P. Richmond Brooks
 J. J. Harris
 Rau & B. Co.
 E. Stearns
 Chas. Milmerth
 Gains Jenkins
 L. H. Brown & Co.

