

brought up, and planted forty rods from the fort. It was loaded with balls run from the type metal of the *Herald of Freedom* press, which Col. Titus had destroyed last May. When the first shot was fired the Lawrence boys shouted, "*The Herald of Freedom is issued again!*" The cannon was fired six times. At the sixth fire they surrendered. One of their men was killed, and Col. Titus badly wounded. We took nineteen prisoners and a quantity of arms and ammunition. Some of the tents were identified as belonging to the Chicago company. I had the good fortune to receive the sword of Col. Titus, a very nice article which I mean to transmit to my children. The United States troops were within a mile of us, in camp, but they did not interfere. The fort was destroyed, and Titus and his gang were marched to Lawrence.

The following day (Sunday) Gov. Shannon and Major Sedgwick came to Lawrence, and held a consultation with the Committee of Safety. It was agreed that the five Free-State prisoners arrested by the troops should be released, and the property taken at the sacking of Lawrence returned, and that then our prisoners should be set free.

The men of Kansas have struck a noble blow. In the moment of victory they have shown great moderation. They are no longer to be trodden in the dust. Money contributed to help them will no longer benefit the Border-Ruffians. Kansas needs men and money. Kansas can never be made a slave State if the friends of freedom are true to their duty at this time. The men and women now here will suffer great privations, be stripped of everything, and many of them slain, unless immediate aid in men and money is furnished. They may be overborne, but they cannot be driven away. Could you have seen the spirit of the men, and of the women, too, as the last few days have called it forth, you would agree with me, that these pioneers for American freedom will stand firm to the last, be the odds against them what they may.

I have seen the State prisoners—most noble men are they. They are in prison because they are the best men in Kansas.

Yours, fraternally, for freedom and justice, R. B. F.

CAPTURE OF COL. TITUS—THE TREATY—THE EXCHANGE.

The following account of the capture of Fort Titus, and subsequent events, is from correspondence of the *New York Times*, dated Lawrence, Sunday, Aug. 17, 1856. It is found in the Webb scrap-books. It is believed to have been written by Col. Sam. F. Tappan. Mr. Kimball and Maj. Abbott vouch for the general correctness of the statements, and they are corroborated by cotemporary records:

When the advance guard of the Free-State forces arrived at Judge Wakefield's, on the California road, they were fired upon by a company of Pro-Slavery men under Col. Titus. The fire was returned, and Titus and his men retreated, leaving one of their number dead behind them.

Colonel Titus's cabin was within two miles of Leocompton, and like the other brigand leaders, he had fortified it against attack. Early in the morning a party of the Free-State cavalry made a charge upon some tents near the cabin, the inmates of which ran for the cabin, and were followed by the horsemen, who went too near the cabin, when they were fired upon by those inside, wounding four—one, Capt. Shombre, from Indiana, mortally. The cannon was then brought up, and Capt. Bickerton coolly brought his piece to bear upon it. Seven balls had been fired into it, when Col. Titus showed the white flag, and surrendered. Seventeen prisoners, twenty-five stand of arms and a quantity of provisions were taken; the cabin was then burned. During the attack, the

United States troops, who were encamped near by, took a position between the Free-State forces and Lecompton, directly upon the road. Unwilling to attack the troops, as they feared they would be compelled to, instead of attacking Lecompton the Free-State men with their prisoners marched to Lawrence.

Col. Titus was wounded in the head and shoulder, another of his men was wounded, and two others killed. There were six wounded on the Free-State side. Col. Titus had taken an active part in the "sack of Lawrence," and on that day publicly declared, "That if ever he came into the place again he would kill every d—d Abolitionist in it." Some of the prisoners taken with him also participated in this "sack," and assisted in destroying the presses of the *Herald of Freedom* and of the *Free-State*, and throwing the type into the river. The cannon balls used in firing at the cabin of Col. Titus were made of the lead melted from the type of those presses, dug from the sand on the bank of the river; and as they plowed their way through the walls of Titus's cabin, they shrieked, "Surrender to Freedom!" as they sped on their way. Capt. Bickerton, when he pointed his cannon at the walls of the cabin, calmly announced that he should give them "a new edition of the *Herald of Freedom*." Col. Titus, instead of coming to "kill Abolitionists," came whiningly begging of the "d—d Abolitionists" to save his miserable life. He was supplied with comfortable quarters, and a physician to attend him. The other prisoners were confined in the *Herald of Freedom* building, where, on the 21st of May, some of them thought they had struck a death-blow to the freedom of speech, with the blood-red banner of South Carolina disunion waving over them. How strange the contrast! Yet such is the fortune of war.

Another Sunday morning treaty with Governor Shannon: Governor Shannon, Dr. A. Rodrigue, P. M., and Major Sedgwick, have just arrived from Lecompton. It is supposed they have come to demand the prisoners. They are now closeted with the officers of the Free-State forces. They cannot have the prisoners without giving the Free-State party an equivalent.

LATER: A treaty has been made, and Gov. Shannon, after some opposition, has been permitted to state what it is, and to make a short speech. He said he should leave us, and he wanted to leave the Territory with the people feeling better toward him and in a quiet state, to his successor. He glorified the Union, and thought we had a glorious country, and then concluded.

The terms of the treaty are substantially as follows:

1. That they shall give up to the charge of Major Sedgwick, and in good condition, subject to the order of Captain Walker, the howitzer so valiantly surrendered to Sheriff Jones on the 21st of May.
2. That the prisoners then held in custody at Lecompton—those arrested by 'Squire Crane for being connected with the battle of Franklin—should be released and brought safely to Lawrence.
3. That all arms taken from these and other prisoners should be delivered up.
4. That the Territorial authorities should use their power to break up these bands of plunderers, and drive them from the Territory.

In consideration of this, the Free-State party were to deliver up their prisoners. They never demanded the cannon taken at Franklin. Major Sedgwick had nothing to do with the negotiations, any further than to say to Shannon that it was his duty to make an unconditional demand for the prisoners. The Franklin prisoners held in Lecompton were arrested under legal process, as they term it, yet they agreed to deliver them up. What right Governor Shannon and Dr. Aristides Rodrigue, P. M., had to do this, perhaps a Philadelphia lawyer can tell—we can't.

LATER—The prisoners exchanged: Captain Newby and his company of dragoons have just arrived in town with the Franklin prisoners, who this morning were examined be-

fore a justice of the peace, and released according to contract. Captain Newby brings a request from Major Sedgwick to Captain Walker, asking him to come for the howitzer, which had been placed, according to agreement, in his charge. The various military companies are under arms. The prisoners express themselves thankful for the kindness shown them, and make loud promises of the same treatment to Free-State men, should the fortune of war ever place them in their hands.

The prisoners are now in wagons, and under escort of the dragoons, guarded also by the Free-State forces, on the move for Leocompton. Captain Walker, with a detachment of men, has gone for the howitzer.

For months back, the papers of the North have been mourning over a Kansas subjugated to slavery. To-day, they may cheer for a Kansas conquered by freedom. Next week, we may want powder, ball, and men. The towns on the border are alive with excitement. Already the Missourians are coming in at Leavenworth. They may have to go out.

EXPERIENCE OF N. W. SPICER IN KANSAS.*

I am a native of Susquehanna county, Pa. I am a carpenter and joiner by trade. I was receiving \$40 per month in the spring of 1856, when the news reached me of the Kansas difficulties, and I determined to have a hand in the operation myself. I immediately went to Chicago, where, after some delay, I joined a company of emigrants bound for the "land of promise." And on the 17th day of June, we started on the cars, intending to take the river route for the Territory. At my exit from Chicago I had \$60. The company of which I was a member were promised our passage free and \$30 in money or its equivalent in provisions when we should have reached our destination. A Sharp's rifle was also promised us.

After reaching Alton, we took passage on the Missouri river steamer, "Star of the West." In about four days we reached Leavenworth city, on the borders of the Territory. Before we reached this point, we encountered considerable opposition, having our guns taken from us by a large force. But here the spirit of mobbery and ruffianism increased to such an extent that we were compelled to return on the same boat. There were seventy-five men when we set out from Chicago.

On our return from Leavenworth, and when we were ready to pursue the overland route, there were but about thirty of the original party left. These kept on their way through Iowa and Nebraska, and after a tedious journey of many weeks, on the 13th day of August we reached Topeka, the Free-State capital of the Territory.

Before we had time to pitch our tents, a messenger arrived from Lawrence, bringing information of the difficulties at Franklin, that had occurred the day before, and bringing intelligence that the enemy were assembling in large force at Fort Saunders, near Washington creek. This was a stronghold occupied by the enemy in harassing, plundering and robbing the Free-State settlers in the neighborhood. Large numbers of the Free-State men had already assembled within three miles of the fort. The messenger requested all who could to repair to the spot to reinforce them.

In less than half an hour from the time the message arrived, the Chicago company were prepared, and ready to start. We traveled nearly all night, and on the 14th, at 2 o'clock, we reached the general encampment of Free-State men.

During the day a scouting party under Capt. Shombre started from camp to reconnoiter the ground of the enemy, and also find and bring in the murdered remains of Hoyt, who, we had been informed, had been assassinated by the gang in the fort, the day before. They returned late in the afternoon, bringing in the mutilated remains of the

*From the Hyatt manuscripts.