THE ABBOTT HOWITZER—ITS HISTORY.

The brass howitzer referred to by Capt. Bickerton in the preceding statements, is now in the collections of the State Historical Society. It was recently presented by Major James B. Abbott, of DeSoto. It was the first Free-State cannon brought to Kansas. In order to give the history of this most interesting relic, the following statement of Major Abbott is given, followed by correspondence and other papers relating to it, chiefly from manuscripts not before published:

Several of the letters and manuscript papers which I have deposited with the Historical Society relate to the purchase of arms for the Free-State men, in 1856. After the armed invasion from Missouri, at the election of March 30th of that year, through which the right of the people to make their own laws was usurped, it was apparent that a conflict of arms would come on; and the Free-State men began to prepare for it. They determined that they would neither respect nor obey the acts which should be passed by the Legislature elected through that invasion; and they knew that the Pro-Slavery party meant to pass oppressive acts, and to try to enforce them.

I went East to get arms, starting from Lawrence the latter part of July. I had had correspondence with, and knew some men of influence and means; and I took with me a letter from Gov. Robinson, who was known and respected by the friends of the Free-State people where I was going. I went to Chicago, Detroit, and on to Massachusetts. I went to the "Emigrant Aid" folks, in Boston, and to Amos A. Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence immediately gave the money for the purchase of 100 Sharp's rifles. He gave the money for himself and other friends who had joined in the contribution. Among the letters deposited are three from him about this business. His action, and these letters, show what a friend of Kansas he was at that early period, and how quick he was to comprehend the character of the struggle into which we had been precipitated. Some of the other letters I give the Society are written by Frederick Law Olmstead, of New York, a prompt and energetic friend of Kansas. These letters relate to the howitzer, which was purchased by Mr. Olmstead with funds chiefly collected by him as my agent, partly from subscriptions made before I left New York. The howitzer got as far as Kansas City, and was brought up to Lawrence in the midst of the " Wakarusa war," and almost through the enemy's lines. Horace Greeley, David Dudley Field, — Perkins, Charles King, John E. Williams, and others, most of whose names I have forgotten, interested themselves about this gun.

I raised a little money at Providence and Hartford, and this, with what was raised in New York, bought seventeen more Sharp's rifles; and Mr. Olmstead, after consulting with me about it, purchased the howitzer. Joseph R. Hawley gave me, at Hartford, money enough to buy one Sharp's rifle. Mr. Olmstead was an active man in getting the others together, and in collecting the subscriptions; and it was he who suggested the purchase of the howitzer; reckonin', as he did, that for our use it would be as good as a hundred muskets or rifles. When I reached home, the latter part of September, I found the Sharp's rifles, which I had sent ahead of me, there at Lawrence and ready for use; as it was apprehended they would need to be used at the election for delegates to the Topeka Constitutional Convention, which was to be held on the 9th of October. The howitzer came later, but was in time to be brought to the defense of Lawrence at the
time of the invasion, in December; the pretense for which was the rescue of Branson; which rescue, as it happened, I had had a hand in.

I was not acquainted with all the circumstances relating to the bringing of the howitzer up from Kansas City to Lawrence, but I have recently learned from Col. Shaler W. Eldridge some of the circumstances. Col. Eldridge was, at the time, proprietor of the principal hotel at Kansas City, and was very serviceable to the Free-State men in many ways, as all the old settlers well remember. He informs me that when David Buffum and Capt. Bickerton, or whoever it was who came with Buffum—he only remembers the name of David Buffum—came down for the howitzer, they came to him in the evening, told him their errand, and requested him to aid them by some means to get the gun out of the warehouse that night. He told them they could do nothing about it that night, but next morning he would see what could be done. So in the morning he prepared an order, to which he signed the name of Mr. Hutchinson, the person to whom the howitzer and other goods were consigned, at the warehouse of Riddlesberger & Bartley. He went to the warehouse with the order, told Mr. Riddlesberger that Mr. Hutchinson had sent to him to pay some freight for him. Mr. R. made out a bill for all the freight in Hutchinson's name, and Col. Eldridge paid it (amounting to $40), as he well remembers. There were other light goods—some brooms, he remembers, among other things. He remarked that a man would come with a wagon to haul the things away. He then sent Buffum down, telling him to load the howitzer in the bottom of the wagon, and put the brooms and other light things on top, so as to conceal the contraband freight. Mr. Riddlesberger betrayed no suspicion to Col. Eldridge as to the character of the freight. Mr. Joseph Savage, who was intimate with Buffum, says he well recollects that the latter told him that Mr. Riddlesberger remarked to him, while they were loading the freight, that the Missourians charged him with helping the Yankees in their smuggling of arms into the Territory—a thing he would not do for the world. He hoped there was nothing of the kind in this lot of things. Buffum peeped through a knot-hole into a box, and told Riddlesberger that he saw a wheel of a cart, he guessed it was. Mr. R. looked, and said he reckoned so, too. It was a wheel of the howitzer carriage.

The gun was surrendered to the Pro- Slavery party, at the sack of Lawrence, May 21st, 1856, and was recovered at the exchange of prisoners after the battle at Titus's, which occurred on the 16th of August, the same year.

GOVERNOR ROBINSON'S LETTER.

LAWRENCE, July 26, 1855.

MR. THAYER—Dear Sir: The bearer, J. B. Abbott, is a resident of this district, on the Wakarusa, about four miles from Lawrence. There is a military company formed in his neighborhood, and they are anxious to procure arms. Mr. Abbott is a gentleman in whom you can place implicit confidence, and is true as steel to the cause of freedom in Kansas. In my judgment the rifles in Lawrence have had a very good effect, and I think the same kind of instruments in other places would do more to save Kansas than almost anything else. Anything you can do for Mr. Abbott will be gratefully appreciated by the people of Kansas. We are in the midst of a revolution, as you will see by the papers. How we shall come out of the furnace, God only knows. That we have got to enter it, some of us, there is no doubt; but we are ready to be offered.

In haste, very respectfully yours, for freedom for a world,

C. ROBINSON.

[The above letter has the following endorsement:]

"OFFICE OF THE NEW ENGLAND EMIGRANT AID COMPANY,"

"No. 3 Winter street, Boston, Aug. 10, 1855."

"Dr. Charles Robinson, within mentioned, is an agent of the Emigrant Aid Company, and is worthy of implicit confidence. We cheerfully recommend Mr. J. B. Abbott to the public.

C. H. BRANSCOMBE, Secretary pro tem."

* Referring to the Sharp's rifle, contributed in the month of May preceding, and brought to Kansas by Gen. Geo. W. Deitzler. [See Kansas Memorial, page 147.]
LETTER OF MR. LAWRENCE.

BOSTON, August 11, 1855.

DEAR SIR: Request Mr. Palmer to have one hundred Sharp's rifles packed in casks, like hardware, and to retain them subject to my order. Also to send the bill to me by mail. I will pay it either with my note, according to the terms agreed on between him and Dr. Webb, or in cash less interest at seven per cent. per annum.

Yours truly,

MR. J. B. ABBOTT, care of A. Rogers, Hartford, Conn.

Amos A. Lawrence.

Boston, August 20, 1855.

My Dear Sir: This installment of carabins is far from being enough, and I hope the measures you are taking will be followed up until every organized company of trusty men in the Territory shall be supplied. Dr. Cabot will give me the names of any gentlemen here who subscribe money, and the amount—of which I shall keep a memorandum, and promise them that it shall be repaid either in cash, or in rifles, whenever it is settled that Kansas shall not be a province of Missouri. Therefore, keep them in capital order, and above all, take good care that they do not fall into the hands of the Missourians after you once get them into use.

You must dispose of these where they will do the most good, and for this purpose you should advise with Dr. Robinson and Mr. Pomeroy.

Yours truly,

MR. JAMES B. ABBOTT, care of A. Rogers, Hartford.

Amos A. Lawrence.

Boston, August 24, 1855.

My Dear Sir: The rifles ought to be on the way. Have you forwarded them? How much money have you received? The Topeka people will require half of these.

Yours truly,

Mr. J. B. Abbott.

Amos A. Lawrence.

CALL FOR ASTOR HOUSE MEETING.

New York, September 5, 1855.

Dear Sir: Mr. J. B. Abbott, a settler of Kansas, now on a visit East, desires to lay before such citizens of New York as are interested in the triumph of freedom over slavery in that vicinity, some facts illustrative of the actual state of things there existing, which could not be properly communicated through the public press. For this purpose, you are urgently requested to meet us at the Astor House, on Friday evening at eight o'clock.

Charles King, John E. Williams, Horace Greeley, Paul Balrock, Alanon Nash.

LETTERS OF FREDERICK LAW OLMSFORD.

My Dear Sir: Little has been done here yet, except in the arrangements of preliminaries. To-night I had a little meeting in my room. Greeley, Field, Priestly, Elliot, Perkins, made out a list of names, and to-morrow one or two paid collectors will be employed to call personally, with a short circular note, to the effect that the Kansas settlers need immediate assistance, and urging that liberal contributions be made, which will be taken charge of and used under their directions by their authorized agent. I hope in a week from this to have funds sufficient to purchase for you 100 ———. It is thought best that the way in which the money is to be used should not be mentioned. It is for the Kansas settlers, with whom I am in correspondence, to direct that, and I keep my own counsel.

Will you please write me, authorizing me to act as agent (in your place), and also another paper directing me how to use any money that may come into my hands for
you (until further orders). Also, please write the names of your contributors in New York, and the amounts contributed by each.

God speed the right.

Yours truly,

FRED. LAW OLMSTEAD.

89 Moffat's Building, New York, Sept. 17. Care Dix & Edwards, 10 Park Place.

My Dear Sir: I can delay writing to you no longer, although I have nothing to communicate at all satisfactory. The whole fund now at my command is less than $500. I shall try a few days longer in hopes to make it up to at least $400 before I make my purchases. With regard to the objects for which I shall use it, I shall probably act as I indicated to you in my last conversation. I have the advice of a veteran officer, and I shall in a few days send you a letter of military advice which I shall receive from him for you. He entirely agrees with the view I took of your position. You have as many S.'s [Sharp's rifles] as you can use to advantage. For the bulk of your arms, the old-fashioned pieces would really be better than S.'s. This he says, with the highest opinion of S.'s for special service. I shall, therefore, probably either send you an H. [howitzer] or M.'s [muskets], and some things that will be of peculiar value under certain circumstances which are not unlikely to occur in a defensive position.

By this mail I shall send a valuable book. It is out of print, but I hope to obtain several copies which are in private hands. The pencil marks are to be disregarded, but the ink marks you are advised to observe carefully.

Yours truly,

MOPPAT'S, N. Y., Oct. 4.

NEW YORK, October 7, 1855.

My Dear Sir: I wrote you three days ago, and sent by same mail a little book, which I think will be useful.

I have ordered, and, unless my arrangements fail, shall have ready for shipment on the 10th, the instrument I proposed to purchase for you; and with it twenty-five shell and twenty-five canister cartridges, and all necessaries except powder, which you had better order from St. Louis. The necessary quantity for these cartridges will be of coarse powder, 13 pounds, and perhaps one-fourth that of rifle powder, for charging the shells. I shall send you by private conveyance, if possible, instructions for charging, etc., so clear that I think you will have no difficulty to use the instrument with the best effect, if there should unfortunately be occasion.

One discharge of it at musket range is considered equally effective with a simultaneous fire of one hundred muskets, while its moral effect in producing consternation and panic upon an enemy, especially of undisciplined men, is far greater. If you can use it properly, as I doubt not you will, it is worth a dozen field pieces.

It will come by the underground, via Chicago and ———, as agreed.

Yours truly,

ACTING COMMISSIONER.

NEW YORK, October 24, 1855.

My Dear Sir: I have this day shipped the goods, (noted in previous advices to you,) in five cases (marked 1—5) to care of B. Slater, St. Louis.

Yours, respectfully,

FRED. LAW OLMSTEAD.

JAMES BURNETT ABBOTT, Esq.; Lawrence, K. T.

The history of this gun since the time of its recovery after the battle of Titus's, has not been fully traced. It is believed to have been in southeastern Kansas about the time of the troubles in that quarter, in 1858. Hon. Joel Moody and others remember that it was in Linn county for a time, during the war of the Rebellion, and that it accompanied Lane's brigade in the expedition into Missouri in 1861. The entire career of this interesting and very illustrative relic can no doubt yet be traced. Since the war it has
been in the keeping of the authorities of the city of Lawrence, by whom it has been now for many years watchfully cared for. But Maj. Abbott always regarded it as the property of the people of Kansas; and he prudently held receipts for it, in order that he might, if possible, direct its final disposal in such manner as might be presumed to be most satisfactory to the generous friends of freedom in Kansas who contributed the means with which it was procured. The following papers refer to it:

FROM MAJOR J. B. ABBOTT.

LAWRENCE, K. T., Feb. 3, 1858.

CAPT. O. P. BAYNE, Little Oaise—Dear Sir: I saw your letter, accompanied with Mr. Johnson's and others, and also one was put into my hands last night by Mr. P. B. Plumb. The first I referred to Gen. W. A. Phillips, as I was engaged on the Board of Commissioners to investigate frauds at the elections of the 21st of December and 4th of January, and could not give the attention which your necessities required. I understood that Gen. Phillips had gone down, and the howitzer, with ammunition, were at his disposal, and consequently rested satisfied, knowing the deep interest which the General felt in your cause. To-day I learned that Phillips was yet in town, and waiting for the return of Gen. Lane, in order, as I suppose, to get direction of the Board of Militia. If I had been at liberty, I would have started at once, recruiting all the way to Fort Scott. I would have acted entirely independent of the Territorial militia. I would have made the expedition paid the whole expense, and made no calculations for any pay whatever from the present Government. I would have driven out every band of robbers I should find in your county, and would have destroyed their nests; and in doing this, I am satisfied the people would sustain me. And I believe this to be the only practicable plan to successfully put a stop to these unendurable outrages.

JAMES B. ABBOTT.

COL. THOMPSON'S RECEIPT, AND EXPLANATION.

MAY 13, 1861.

Received of J. B. Abbott, per A. Cutler, one howitzer, delivered to me as Quartermaster South Division Kansas Militia.

E. D. THOMPSON,

Quartermaster South Division Kansas Militia.

In reference to his possession of the howitzer, Colonel Thompson, in answer to inquiry, writes the Secretary of the Society, from Lawrence, under date of February 22, 1881, as follows:

In relation to receipt for howitzer, the circumstances were these: At that time I had been appointed by Gov. Robinson as Lieutenant Colonel and Acting Quartermaster, and was attached to the staff of Maj. Gen. Samuel Walker, commanding the Southern Division of the Kansas State Militia. There were reports in circulation of a threatened incursion by the Rebel sympathizers, then congregating in western Missouri, which caused a general looking-up of arms and material, and as I was also acting ordnance officer the gun was turned over to me as such. A few days afterwards the Second Kansas Volunteer Infantry, which was being organized here, and of which I became Adjutant, was suddenly ordered to the border, and from thence to the Missouri campaign, and I left the gun here. Whether formally turned over to any one, I do not now recollect.

Allow me to express my interest in the zeal and exactitude with which you are gathering up these reminiscences, which, however trivial, will become hereafter of interest to all our citizens.

I am, respectfully yours,

E. D. THOMPSON.
The following note is self-explanatory:

MAJOR ABBOTT'S APPLICATION.

LAWRENCE, KAS., Feb. 9, 1881.

HON. SAMUEL KIMBALL, President of the Council of Lawrence—Dear Sir: I have been requested by the Hon. F. G. Adams, Secretary of the Kansas Historical Society, and also by a number of the early Free-State settlers of our State, to try and make arrangements to have the mountain howitzer, (purchased with the donations of money made by gentlemen in New York city, in July and August, A. D. 1855,) placed in the State Historical room at the Capitol, with a brief history of said gun to be engraved thereon.

Knowing that you were one of the early settlers, as well as one of the earnest workers in the Free-State cause, and must therefore be in sympathy with this movement, I therefore take the liberty, in behalf of those I represent, as well as for myself, to request that you lay this matter before the Council of your city, (who, I understand, have said gun in custody,) and if possible obtain permission to have the same sent to Secretary Adams, for the purpose above mentioned, by to-morrow, so that mention can be made of the fact in the Historical Report, now going to press. If this request is granted, I am authorized to say that all expense of transportation, repairs and engraving will be borne by the Historical Society.

Hoping for a favorable consideration and action in this matter, I remain,

Very truly yours,

JAS. E. ABBOTT.

Mr. Kimball promptly responded to this request—procured the consent of the members of the City Council and of City Marshal Sam. Walker, and shipped the gun to the Historical Society. In common with many others, Mr. Kimball and Marshal Walker have a personal interest in this old relic. When it was carried off by Capt. Titus and others of Sheriff Jones’s posse, at the sacking of Lawrence, on the 21st of May, 1856, Capt. Walker pledged himself to its recovery within six months from that time. Less than three months thereafter, on the 16th of August, he stormed Titus’s fort, captured its commander, and then extorted from Governor Shannon a stipulation that this howitzer should be given him in exchange for his prisoner. Mr. Kimball rode in the posse with Walker when the stipulation was redeemed.

The papers which follow refer more or less to events connected with this howitzer.

RICHARD B. FOSTER’S STATEMENT.

The following account is here given, for the object of making clear the connection of the events which are mentioned in the papers which follow it, as well as some of those which precede it. It was written by Rev. Richard B. Foster, who has been for years past a prominent and well-known citizen of Osborne county. The account is extracted from a letter written by Mr. Foster to his brother, the Rev. Daniel Foster, and was published in the Lowell (Massachusetts) Journal and Courier, of August 30, 1856. It was written from Lawrence, and dated August 19th. It is found in that mine of materials of Kansas history, the Webb scrap-books, in the collection of our Society:

I was a participant in three glorious affairs which took place in this Territory last week, to wit: At Franklin on the 12th, at Washington on the 15th, and at Titus's camp,
near Lecompton, on the 16th. First, let me say that war is a terrible thing. I have before heard of it: I have now seen it. I have heard the balls whistling about my ears. I have stood where men were shot down as you would shoot wild beasts. I have heard the groans of the wounded and dying. I have seen the bloody corpses of the dead, and truly war is a terrible cruel thing. Still, war is preferable to slavery. But to the facts: Since the cessation of hostilities in June, Bafford's gang, who came to "see Kansas through," have been busy fortifying themselves at different points in block-houses, in squads of from twenty-five to fifty in a place. These gentry are above working for a living. They depend upon the contributions of Southern aid societies—they have eke out their means of subsistence by depredations upon the Free-State men. Their most common mode is stealing horses, which they run off to the border counties of Missouri and sell. Any kind of plunder, however, when the odds are ten to one in their favor, is in their line. The most outrageous and reckless of these bands was collected in a camp and log fort near Lecompton, under Col. Titus, of the Territorial militia, who, with good reason, suspected of having been formerly a pirate on the coast of Florida. The Free-State boys had for some time brooded over a plan for breaking up these dens of thieves. Last Tuesday, the 12th of August, Maj. Hoyt, one of the most highly esteemed and honorable citizens of Lawrence, went into one of the camps on Washington creek, which was under the command of Capt. Saunders. He went without any arms, as a Free-Mason, upon the invitation of Saunders, a brother Mason. He was received with apparent kindness, and on leaving was accompanied by two men, who shot him in a piece of woods. They lodged two balls in his body, and then shot him after he had fallen, through the head. They put some corrosive substance upon his face to disfigure him, and returned with his horse and effects.

This act set the train on fire. The Lawrence boys determined to disperse these scoundrels, and recover some of their stolen property. That evening we started from Lawrence, i. e., 25 horsemen and 50 footmen. On arriving at Franklin, the first point of attack, we found the enemy had been apprised of our expedition, and were prepared to give us a warm reception. Their log fort was flanked on the one side by another log building, in which was kept the post office, and on the other by a large hotel. We could make no impression upon them with our rifles, and they refused to surrender. We were determined, however, to recover our cannon, which we wanted for routing these nests of land pirates. We accordingly surrounded the fort, and commenced a brisk firing with Sharp's rifles, which they vigorously returned. This continued about three hours. One of our men was killed, and several wounded. We then loaded a wagon with hay, backed it against the post office, and set it on fire. When the flames burst forth, the poltroons cried lustily for quarter. We then extinguished the fire, the enemy in the meantime making their escape. They left in our hands the cannon, and upwards of fifty muskets. We took our own arms again, and emptied upon the ground several barrels of whisky, and went on our way. The citizens of Franklin took no part in this attack.

The night had passed in this engagement at Franklin. We had now to prepare balls for the cannon, and we were not ready to proceed to Saunders' till Friday. We marched upon his fort to the number of nearly 500. When about three miles distant, they could see us on a hill, and they at once fled. We found their flag in the bushes, with the motto, "Enforce the laws." Some arms, ammunition and tens fell into our hands here. We reduced the fort to ashes.

That night Col. Titus was out with his desperadoes, engaged in his favorite pastime of stealing horses, and intending, as it is supposed, to attack Judge Wakefield's house, which, however, he found too strongly guarded. They stole three or four horses and went back to their fort, little dreaming how hard retribution was treading on their heels. In the morning his fort was surrounded, and the firing commenced. One of our best men, Capt. Shombre, was mortally wounded before our cannon arrived. That was soon
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 armed 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 sack 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 contemporaneous 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 Leompton, 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. Hickerson, 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 those 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 Lecompton. 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.
murdered man. When the corpse was exposed, the men were very indignant, and swore revenge.

Next morning the men wished to be led to the fort, but Lane deemed it imprudent, (or rather, I should say "Capt. Cook," who had not as yet undisguised himself.) He sent the same scouts out again, who returned about 11 o'clock. Cook wished to postpone the attack until next morning, but the men becoming so enraged at the suggestion, he changed the programme that he made, and arranged that the attack should be made that afternoon.

At 2 o'clock the whole number of about five hundred accordingly set out for the fort. Before they had got in sight the enemy fled, leaving forty guns, the horse of the murdered Hoyt, and much other plunder, in our possession. We returned to our encampment, and after dispatching a hasty supper started for Lawrence.

Before all the men had left the camp, intelligence reached us of new difficulties at Lecompton. We immediately changed our course, and steered for this place. We marched until about midnight, when we arrived in the vicinity of Judge Wakefield’s. Here we encountered a gang of horse thieves, headed by a desperado under the appellation of Col. Titus. This gang, finding themselves closely pressed by our advance scouts, at once fired upon them; which was returned with such success as to wound and kill two of their men. One of their number was taken prisoner; also two of their horses were left on the ground, which were secured by our party.

We stopped for the night about a mile from where this occurred. During the night, Titus, fearful that we would attack him in his house, which was a mile south of Lecompton, on the Lawrence road, sent a dispatch, and caused the whole force in town to come to his defense. They returned, however, early in the morning.

At daybreak, the horsemen under Schomber, learning the state of affairs, started in advance of the main body to surprise Titus and his men, and take them prisoners. They rode so close to the house, that they were fired upon unaware. Several men were badly wounded—Capt. Schomber mortally. One of the men in the house was killed by a return fire.

Soon the whole force came up. The cannon was stationed in front, about 50 rods from the house, the Chicago Sharp’s riflemen diagonally from it below, and covered by a rail fence. After a few discharges of the cannon and rifles, a white flag was suspended from the window, when the firing ceased. All who were in the house, nineteen in number, were taken prisoners. Their horses, arms and munitions were also taken, when the whole force took up their march for Lawrence. The reason why the company did not pursue their journey to Lecompton, was on account of the United States troops interfering.

Directly after, Gov. Shannon came to Lawrence, which was the Sunday following, and Col. Eldridge addressed the men assembled, numbering over 500. He stated that they, of Lawrence, would probably be subject to an attack on the part of their enemies to invade the town again. It would be necessary to have men for her defense, and if the Chicago company would relinquish, for the time being, the project of locating their claims, and remain and be ready against any emergency to fight if necessary, he, as agent for the committee, would be responsible for their support. The men, on account of this promise, remained.

During our sojourn here we were constantly active. Some of the men of the Chicago company went to Osawatomie; others assisted in bringing grain and hay to Lawrence. At one time we went to Topeka, under Col. Harvey’s command, to bring arms and other munitions that were in charge of Mr. Moore to Lawrence.

About this time, as I had been a scout, and was pretty active when the regiment was made up, I was given the office of Adjutant. Prior to this, I had been elected First
Lieutenant of the Chicago company. My father is a military officer, and I had learned the discipline under him.

At one time during the company’s stay at Lawrence, assistance was called for from the people on Little Stranger Creek, toward Leavenworth. In this campaign, we took between thirty and forty horses and mules, and surprised and took a company of Carolinians who were on their way to reinforce a company of Pro-Slavery men at Atchison. We immediately released them, and returned on our horses to Lawrence. Two nights we ambushed in the woods, about 100 in number. Nothing of importance, however, occurred at either time, excepting a heavy thunder-shower, when we managed by rolling our guns up in our blankets to keep them dry.

We had not returned from this expedition long enough to become rested, before we were summoned to march to Hickory Point. We were successful in our mission, until our return, when we were all surprised, and were taken prisoners by United States troops to Leomopon. After being detained there about a week, I with some others passed the guard, and made our way to Lawrence.

Soon after I escaped, a militia company was formed for its protection, which I joined, and was elected orderly sergeant. This officer receives for his services $20 per month. My time is now expired, and I intend settling on a claim. I have no means, except as I draw for my services (two months) in the militia. During the summer and fall I was obliged to expend what means I brought with me for the necessaries of life, such as food, clothing, etc. I am now destitute of clothing, bedding, etc., suitable for the winter. I am determined, however, to stay in Kansas and fulfill the object of my coming, which is to assist, if possible, to make Kansas a free State.

Lawrence, Kansas Territory, Dec. 6, 1856.

LETTER OF JAMES MONTGOMERY.*

Mound City, Linn Co., Kas., May 8, 1861.

Geo. I. Stearns, Esq.,† Medford, near Boston:

Dear Sir: Your favor, dated April 22, came to hand by yesterday’s mail, and the duplicate, to care of G. W. Collamore, came with it.

Without designing to flatter, I must be allowed to say that you have shown yourself a friend in need. We are in a perilous position here, and have not ammunition enough to make a respectable fight. I have organized a regiment, and hope soon to increase it to a brigade. I have accepted a position on the Governor’s staff, with the rank of colonel, with the understanding that I am to be a member of the war council, and that my position on the staff shall not interfere with any other command which the people may give me. I have just received a letter from Leavenworth companies, proposing to cooperate with us, and “go in for the war.”

I think our true policy, for the present at least, is to defend our own doors. The Missourians have had strong force along the line of Linn and Bourbon for several months, and they have increased it recently.

*From the Hyatt manuscripts.
†Author’s Annals, page 461, under date of April 17, 1857, has this entry: “Death, in New York, of George I. Stearns, the early friend of Kansas and John Brown.” When the noble and self-sacrificing band of men and women who befriended Kansas, and through Kansas the cause of human liberty, shall have just tribute paid them, none will be found more deserving of such tribute than George I. Stearns, of Medford, Massachusetts. Elsewhere in this report reference has been made to the great work done for Kansas by him and his noble wife in 1856. These two were the constant and unfailing friends of John Brown and Montgomery, and men of their class, and none did so much as they to furnish the means by which these devoted men carried on their warfare against slavery, and for the protection of the settlers of Kansas.—F. O. A.
They have also been trying to stir up the Indians on our border, and in this they have been aided by the agent for the Osages. Four Lodge, a chief of the Osages, is anxious for mischief; but the Little Bear gives the Missourians no countenance. He seized their emissaries, and telling them they "talked bad talk to Indian," tied them with ropes to the horns of his saddles and dragged them out of the country. The Union men near us have determined to stand their ground, and have called on us to assist them.

If we have to fight, we will carry the war out of Kansas. We have an artillery company in our town, officered by men who served in the Mexican war. I wrote you asking for those two small breech-loading guns in Lawrence. I hope you will not refuse us. They have no carriages, but we could fit them up here. I would also like to have leave to rifle them and sight them accurately. We have a gunsmith here who, I am confident, could put them in good order. In haste,

Yours,

J. Montgomery.