THE WYANDOTTE CONSTITUTIONAL CONV\nVENTION.

RECOLLECTIONS OF HON. BENJAMIN F. SIMPSON.

The Delegates that assembled at Wyandotte on the 5th day of July, 1859, to form a Constitution for the State of Kansas, met in the shadow of coming events. For even then the approaching glory of Lincoln was lighting up the shame of the Buchanan administration, and the throes of that eventful struggle that resulted in the death of slavery were beginning to be felt through all the land. They were an earnest and thoughtful class of men, who believed that the National Republican party would soon control the Government, and admit Kansas into the Union, and to them had been committed the task of laying deep and broad the foundation of a new political fabric, rearing the superstructure, placing the columns, designing the entablature; adjusting the dome, and surrounding the structure with all the evergreens of a well-regulated State.

They numbered fifty-two; and of these thirty-five were Republicans, and seventeen Democrats—it being the only Constitutional Convention held in the Territory in which all parties participated. Eighteen delegates were lawyers, sixteen farmers, eight merchants, and five physicians; while the surveyors, land agents, manufacturers, mechanics and printers each had one or more representatives.

Robert Graham, of Atchison county, was the oldest member, and his years numbered fifty-five. B. F. Simpson, of Lykins, who was in his twenty-third year, was the youngest. Eighteen delegates were less than thirty years old, eleven delegates were over forty, while one exceeded fifty years of age.

Five were from Kentucky, one from Virginia, and England, Ireland, Scotland and Germany contributed one each.

Marshall and Washington counties were represented by J. A. Middleton, a young lawyer, native of Pennsylvania, and twenty-five years of age.

Nemaha sent Thomas S. Wright, a Pennsylvania lawyer, aged fifty years.

Brown was represented by Samuel A. Kingman, a native of Massachusetts, and then in his thirty-eighth year.

Duoniian sent down Benj. Wrigley, formerly of Ohio, a lawyer, and twenty-nine years old; John W. Forman, a merchant, from Kentucky, aged forty years; E. M. Hubbard, merchant, a native of Kentucky, and thirty

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years of age; J. Stairwalt, farmer, from Ohio, and forty-six years old; R. J. Porter, a merchant, of Troy, a native of Pennsylvania, and twenty-eight years old.

Atchison elected Robt. Graham, a native Irishman, a merchant by occupation, aged forty-five years; Caleb May, a Kentuckian, farmer, in his forty-fourth year; and John James Ingalls, born in Massachusetts, a lawyer, aged twenty-six years.

Leavenworth contributed Samuel A. Stinson, a native of Maine, lawyer by profession, aged twenty-six; Wm. C. McDowell, born in Ohio, a lawyer, and thirty-one years old; John P. Slough, of Ohio, lawyer, thirty years old; William Perry, a native of New York, lawyer, aged twenty-eight years; Frederick Brown, a native of Germany, by occupation a manufacturer, and thirty-two years old; Samuel Hipple, formerly of Pennsylvania, a land agent, twenty-eight years old; Robert C. Foster, born in Kentucky, a lawyer, aged twenty-four years; A. D. McCune, Ohio, a farmer, aged thirty-one years; John Wright, Indiana, a farmer, thirty-three years old; and Pascual S. Parks, Indiana, a lawyer, twenty-six years old.

From Johnson county there was John T. Burris, born in Ohio, a lawyer, and Dr. John T. Barton, a native of Virginia, who had lived twenty-eight years.

Lykins county was there, in the persons of W. P. Dutton, born in New Hampshire, farmer, forty-two years old; and B. F. Simpson, Ohio, a lawyer, in his twenty-third year.

The delegates from Linn county were: J. M. Arthur, born in Indiana, a farmer, and aged forty-two, and Josiah Lamb, originally from Indiana, a mechanic, and of the same age as his colleague.

Bourbon county sent J. C. Burnett, a Vermonter, farmer, aged thirty-two, and William R. Griffith, a native of Indiana, a farmer, and thirty-nine years old.

The delegate from Allen county was J. H. Signor, formerly of New York, a surveyor, and only twenty-five years old.

Woodson and Coffey sent Allen Crocker, a native of Indiana, a farmer, and thirty-five years old, and Samuel E. Hoffman, born in Pennsylvania, a lawyer, aged twenty-five years.

From Anderson county, James G. Blunt was sent. He was born in Maine, was a physician, and thirty-three years old.

Franklin county was represented by James Hanway, a native of England, a farmer, and was forty-nine years old.

Douglas county had seven delegates, as follows: Solon O. Thacher, born in New York, a lawyer, twenty-eight years old; James Blood and his brother, N. C. Blood, natives of Vermont, both merchants, the first thirty-nine and the other forty-two years of age; Wm. Hutchinson, a Vermonter, farmer, and thirty-five years old; R. L. Williams, born in Kentucky, a merchant, and aged forty-two years; P. H. Townsend, New Hampshire, a farmer, thirty-
three years old; and Ed. Stokes, a Pennsylvanian, a manufacturer, thirty-five years of age.

Shawnee county sent John P. Greer, a native of Ohio, a lawyer, aged thirty-eight; John Ritchie, Ohio, farmer, aged forty-one; and H. D. Preston, New Hampshire, farmer, aged twenty-eight.

Madison, Hunter, Greenwood, Butler and Wilson counties constituted one district, and elected George H. Lillie, of Ohio, a lawyer, thirty-five years old.

Osage, Morris, Breckinridge and Chase counties made one district, and sent James M. Winchell and William McCulloch, who was a native of Scotland, a farmer, and aged forty-four.

Wabaunsee, Davis, Dickinson, and Clay counties were a district, represented by E. G. Ross, who was a native of Ohio, a printer, and thirty-two years old.

Pottawatomie county sent Luther R. Palmer, a native of New York, a physician, and forty years old.

Jefferson county was represented by C. B. McClelland, Ohio, a merchant, thirty years old.

Jackson county sent Ephraim Moore, Ohio, a manufacturer, aged thirty years.

Riley county was heard from in the person of Samuel D. Houston, a native of Ohio, a farmer, aged forty years.

A very large proportion of these delegates were comparatively new men, who had not participated in the Free-State meetings and councils, and were unacquainted with each other. This enabled the old stagers in Territorial politics, like Winchell, Thacher, Ritchie, Ross, Blood, Kingman, Hutchinson, Hauway, and Houston, to control the organization.

This was not had, however, without the usual picket firing and reconnaissance in force, for in those days the Neosho Valley, the Border Tier, and Nineteen Disfranchised Counties were jealous of the Lawrence and Leavenworth politicians; and little geographical tea parties, like the one recently held at Great Bend, where men spit fire, breathed blood, and predicted the most direful results if the valleys were ignored by the highlands, were of frequent occurrence.

The fight for the Presidency of the Convention gave occasion for the invocation of this local prejudice, and James M. Winchell, who was interested in a town called Superior, in Osage county, but who spent most of his time in Lawrence, or oscillating between these points, was the beneficiary of this senseless antagonism between combative localities, and was chosen permanent President of the Convention. He was a skilful organizer, and a shrewd manipulator of men. His victory was the easier from the fact that none of the more celebrated chiefs of the Free-State party were members of the Convention. Lane, Robinson, Pomeroy, Conway, and Phillips were not candidates, while Ewing and Parrott were beaten at the election—Leavenworth
county, at that time, being darkened by the fogs and smoke of a Democratic majority.

Winchell came to the Territory as the accredited correspondent of the New York Times; was about thirty-five years of age, rather under the medium height, of delicate frame and slight build; was an accomplished parliamentarian, of quick perceptions, great decision and remarkably clear statement; his manners were genial, he was a fluent speaker, and possessed the average impartiality of a presiding officer. He had the first and most essential qualifications of a successful man, for he fully recognized the fact that absolute fidelity to friends was the basis of all political action, and he gave to those who had championed his cause for the Presidency the chairmanship of the most important committees. He was addicted to a blue coat and brass buttons—of course a swallow-tail. A frock with brass buttons is an abomination in the sight of the Lord, and is never permitted outside of the army and the other branch of the service that was presided over so long and gracefully by that Neptune of the Wabash, whose first lesson of seamanship was poling Judge Usher across the river in a flat-bottomed craft called a sloop.

The manner in which he presided over the Convention, his judicious use of the patronage of his position; his efforts on the floor, showing thought, research and ability as a debater, and a capacity for other and better places, made Winchell many friends and some reputation, and he began to talk and be talked about for the United States Senate— for he it ever remembered that Washington is the Mecca of the average Kansas politician; the Senate the Baitul-llah; the Committee of Indian Affairs the gray stone at the southeast angle of the Kaaba that it is so meritorious to touch. As soon as the Constitutional Convention adjourned, most of the members went to Lawrence as delegates to the Congressional Convention, and they there made Winchell President of that. On the 12th day of October succeeding came the Convention to nominate State officers, under the Wyandotte Constitution. Winchell made an effort to obtain the Presidency of that, but was defeated by Wm. A. Phillips, of Arapahoe county, by two votes. Arapahoe county at that time embraced all of the territory west of the Dickinson county line that now constitutes the larger part of Kansas, and the greater part if not all of Colorado. Winchell's next appearance was in the Territorial Legislature—the last—as a candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives, but John W. Scott, of Allen county, defeated him. He lingered in the State until Lane and Pomeroy were chosen as our first Senators, and then went back to New York; where he died a few years ago. The last House of Representatives of the Territorial Legislature contained seven members who were among the delegates to the Wyandotte Convention—Wm. Perry, of Leavenworth county; Geo. H. Lillie, of Breckinridge; John T. Burris, of Johnson; B. F. Simpson, of Lykins; James Hauway, of Franklin; James M. Winchell, of Osage; and J. C. Burnett, of Bourbon. Three
of its members subsequently became Attorney-General of the State, and I
give them in the order of their election: Simpson, Guthrie, and Brumbaugh.
But to return to the convention, and reserve this House for a future sketch.
S. O. Thacher, of Douglas county, was made President pro tem., with great
unanimity, a large minority having favored his election as President instead
of Winchell. The applicants for the position of Secretary of the Convention
were numerous and untiring in their solicitation of members for their votes
and influence, but no one of them seemed to be regarded with the degree of
favor that created reasonable probabilities of success, and doubts were en-
tertained of their fitness for the place.

John A. Martin, of Atchison, was there to witness the opening ceremonies,
and to report them for his paper. He was a most devoted crusader in the
cause of freedom; was young, enthusiastic, hopeful, and withal of practical
methods. Two years before he had invaded a strong Pro-Slavery neighbor-
hood, bought what had been their own newspaper, and thus employed one of
their most formidable batteries against them, and had been largely instrumen-
tal in working up a Free-State sentiment that was then strong enough to control
that locality. He had been one of the warmest advocates of the organiza-
tion of the Republican party in the Territory, and was one of the secretaries
of the Oawatonic convention. His generous treatment of the public men
of the Territory, his freedom from local or personal prejudice, was in such
marked contrast to the action of many of his cotemporaries as to create a
most friendly feeling in his behalf, and the delegates generally had confi-
dence in his judgment and discretion; so that the suggestion of his name as
Secretary, at a consultation of delegates held to consider that and other
questions, was accepted at once and with great unanimity as the proper solu-
tion of the difficulty of selection. The first intimation he had of the action
of that caucus was when its committee waited on him, and urged him to ac-
cept the place. It is perhaps useless to add that he discharged the duties
of Secretary to the entire satisfaction of the body, and his bearing and con-
duct were such that he endeared himself to the delegates; and to-day, when-
ever you find a member of that body, you find a warm friend and ardent
admirer of John A. Martin.

My record of him might stop here; but it is so pleasant to say kind words
of a friend, with the consciousness that no one can truthfully say aught else,
that I add his subsequent well-known history. He was one of the first State
Senators from Atchison county, and then postmaster of the city; led one of
our best infantry regiments as a colonel during most of its term of service—
a gallant soldier, without stain or blemish; has represented the Republicans
in all but one national convention since 1860; is now serving the fourth term
as a member of the National Committee; and has fostered and improved his
paper, until to-day it is the most influential of all our dailies.

J. L. Blanchard, of Anderson county, was selected for Assistant Secretary,
and made Col. Martin a very popular and efficient help-mate.
The position of Sergeant-at-Arms was assigned to George F. Warren, who had a prescriptive right to the office, having served in that capacity at every session of the Territorial Legislature since the advent of the Free-State party to power. Warren was an active, restless busybody, who conscientiously believed that the whole responsibility of any convention or Legislature that he was connected with was upon his shoulders, but he always discharged the duties of his position with great efficiency, and relieved the monotony of adjournments by the purchase of Territorial scrip at 40 per cent. discount.

Walter R. Davis was the good-looking and able Chaplain of the Convention. His prayers were short and fervent, his Sunday sermons able and eloquent. He made himself a universal favorite by his pleasant demeanor, and great interest in the daily sessions, and we all confidently looked forward to the day when we could salute him as Bishop.

The organization was speedily completed by the prompt formation and announcement of the committees by President Winchell. The selection of Blunt, as chairman of the Committee on Militia, was such a happy coincidence that in the light of subsequent events it looks like inspiration, but it is hardly possible that Winchell could surmise that in a few short years he would be one of the most distinguished soldiers of the Republic.

Kingman was chairman of the Judiciary, and he was subsequently both Associate and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Thacher, the Legislature; Burris, the Schedule; Graham, the Corporation; Simpson, the Finance and Taxation; Ingalls, the Phraseology; Jas. Blood, the Ordinance; and Preston, the Apportionment.

In such a body as this, composed of fifty-two active minds, every one of which was ambitious to have some thought or suggestion engrafted on the body of the organic law, there was an earnest struggle for leadership, and in such a contest the fierce winnowing fan soon separates the chaff from the grain, and first-class capacity goes straight to the front.

The discussion of questions wandered over a large range of inquiry, and embraced an unlimited variety of subjects, and while occasionally some one delegate showed his superiority on a question to which he had given thought and preparation, it was soon easily discerned that the leading and controlling men were Thacher and Kingman, on the Republican side, and Stinson and McDowell among the Democrats. Their familiarity with the whole structure of fundamental law was enforced by the prompt and vigorous discussion of questions that would be suddenly ejected into the body of the debate in the shape of amendments to the reports of the committees that had in charge special parts of the instrument, and of which they could have no knowledge until they were offered by their authors as additions or substitutes to articles or sections. This brought into requisition their ready knowledge and wonderful comprehension, and was the severe test by which the leadership of the Convention was determined.
I know the treachery of memory, and the alternate “shine and glimmer” of recollection, and fearing that my early impression of the mental power of these men might have been the product of most personal friendly relations, and that I might have awarded them a prominence not justified, I have, since I commenced to write this sketch, carefully read the reported discussions of that body and reviewed its scenes, incidents and labors; and having done so, I am satisfied that I have accorded the leadership where it properly belonged.

At the same time it is due to others and to the truth of history to declare that Winchell, Ingalls, Slough, Blunt, Wrigley, Blood, Houston and Burris were among the leading men of the Convention, and greatly aided in giving expression to the most wise and beneficent provisions of the Constitution.

What a galaxy of bright minds there was in Leavenworth in the early days!—Stinson, Ewing, Parrott, Perry, McDowell, McCahon, Slough, and Gamble. I name only those that are gone. There is some good material left. Of all these, the most genial, magnetic, versatile and accomplished was Samuel A. Stinson. He was born in the good State of Maine, and if I mistake not, was a graduate of Bowdoin, the oldest and best endowed college in the State. He was tall, well formed, with a bright, fresh face—indeed, his complexion was as delicate as that of a woman—with hair struggling between shades of brown and light, a joyous disposition, pleasant smile, and most affable manners. He devoured books, rather than read them, his tenacious memory enabling him to call up their contents at will. His voice was clear and flute-like, with the most persuasive accents, and his wit sparkling and contagious. It was impossible to be in his presence and listen to his bright sallies without having all your brighter and better faculties started into action. He was a most graceful and fluent speaker, with a wealth of words and great power of oratorical amplification. His poise was perfect, and his gestures the most appropriate and graceful, with no “smell of the lamp,” or strained effort, about his production; and yet they were exuberant, fervid, and rich. He was the Rufus Choate of the Kansas bar. He was the Democratic candidate for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, under the constitution to the formation of which he contributed so much, but which he was finally prevailed on not to sign; was subsequently elected Attorney General of the State, and as such conducted the impeachment cases against Secretary of State Robinson and Auditor of State Hillyer, being pitted against Governor Shannon and the Hon. Fred. P. Stanton, both eminent lawyers, with long years of experience to aid them, and established national reputations to sustain them; and whatever may be the opinions of the men of those days as to the motives, merits and results of the impeachment cases, all must admit that the professional triumph of the trial was with Stinson. He was only twenty-six years old when a member of the convention. The gods loved him, and he died at his old home in Wiscasset, Maine, on the 20th of February, 1866, aged thirty-three years.
An entirely different type of man was his colleague from Leavenworth county, William C. McDowell. He was the son of a prominent lawyer and politician of Ohio, and was born at Hillsborough in that State, and educated to the bar. He was a strong, logical talker, trying always to submit every question to the purifying process of reason, but without the captivating graces of oratory that so distinguished Stinson. His speeches were studied efforts, carefully arranged, with copious citations, and numerous authorities. He was convivial and very pleasant in personal intercourse, and told stories and repeated witticisms with great effect. But the stories and wit were not of his own creation, for he was not an electro-motor like Stinson, who generated the most sparkling gems of thought and expression by both repulsion and attraction.

I never heard Stinson on the stump, but McDowell was one of the best talkers in that line in the Territory. I recollect a joint discussion between Marcus J. Parrott and McDowell at Paola, in the fall of 1859. Parrott was the Republican candidate for Delegate to Congress, and the Democratic nominee was Sanders W. Johnston, who had been one of the Territorial Judges, and a Free-State man, who was then practicing law in Leavenworth. For some reason he never met Parrott in debate. In the earlier stages of the canvass, Geo. W. Purkins, a somewhat celebrated lawyer of Leavenworth, essayed the task, but the qualities of the Parrott metal soon caused him to retire, and McDowell was thrown into the breach to try and save the Territory to the great National Democratic party, that was composed of the old Pro-Slavery and the Free-State Democrats, who fused on the organization of the Republican party in the Territory.

Parrott was the most splendid declaimer in the Territory. He strung adjectives to adverbs and attached them to nouns with a fertility of arrangement and a variety of meaning and expression that was wonderful. He was to all intents and purposes a disciple of Buckle, and most of his public addresses were an amplification or a paraphrase of some texts of that most ingenious writer. Before an audience he was bright, captivating andearnest. He had been prominently associated with the Free-State cause, and had great personal popularity; but McDowell had an indescribable way of "putting things" to a crowd that was irresistible, and I thought his closing speech at that meeting was a most extraordinary effort; and I recollect well that he took the house by storm, although two-thirds of the audience were ardent supporters of Parrott. McDowell was elected Judge of the First District, at the election under the constitution, and died in 1867.

Thomas Ewing, jr., did not possess the social qualities of either Stinson, McDowell or Parrott—he was more reserved and dignified; neither had he the ever-bubbling wit and the ready learning of Stinson, nor the eloquent recitative powers of Parrott; but he did possess the most sturdy, massive and comprehensive mind of any man that ever lived in the Territory. But it required great occasions and intense excitement to develop his qualities.
All who were present will recollect his wonderful exhibition of power in the discussion of the question of voting or non-voting under the Lecompton Constitution, at Lawrence, in December, 1857. I heard him once under circumstances that I shall never forget. It was in Washington during the impeachment proceedings against Andrew Johnson. Both sides had arranged for a great popular demonstration in front of the Judiciary Square, and it happened that both meetings were called for the same evening, at the same place. The speakers' stands of the respective factions were almost within hearing distance of each other, and the friends of impeachment, and the adherents of Johnson, were only separated by a scattered line of metropolitan policemen. The excitement was intense, and great trouble was imminent. I never saw such feeling, or saw such emotion portrayed, even on the eve of a great battle. The crowd of highly-inflamed people that attended both meetings was simply immense. I recollect that a large number of Kansas people attended the impeachment meeting, with the old fighting Territorial blood surging through their veins, and the history of their State flitting through their heads, with chips on their shoulders, eager for some angry Johnsonite to knock them off. The impeachment speakers were moderate and conservative in tone to the last, when a Radical member of Congress from Tennessee made one of the most personally offensive and savage attacks on Johnson that I ever heard from the lips of man. I think it was Gen. Stokes. Both crowds had by that time become tired, and great numbers had left, but the excitement was so great that those managing the impeachment side thought best to dismiss their meeting.

I walked over to the other one, that was still in progress. Ewing was just beginning his speech, and his face and frame showed that he was swayed by the most intense excitement. The torches had burned low, and their dying and spasmodic flare threw a weird light over the scene. Ewing seemed to have expanded into colossal proportions, and with a face darkened by passion, and a voice that could be distinctly heard above all the noise and din of the crowd, was denouncing the leaders of impeachment, their plot to destroy the Government, their allies and abettors, the public sentiment that demanded the removal of Johnson, and predicting all kinds of disasters should the President be impeached.

I did not relish such talk, and I walked away from the scene with my old army commander, Gen. Blunt. We proceeded several blocks before the silence was broken, and then Blunt said, in his slow, deliberate, and mournful way, "I never liked Ewing—I never thought he was sincere—but that is the most tragic and impassioned speech I ever heard." And it was. It has been a marvel to me ever since that he did not so inflame the Southern adherents of Johnson that night as to cause bloodshed.

The great speech of that convention was delivered by Judge Solon O. Thacher, of Douglas, in opposition to a resolution offered by Mr. McCune, of Leavenworth county, asking that "free negroes" be excluded from a resi-
dence in the State. From the circumstances attending the delivery, I do not believe that the effort was a premeditated one, for the cruel proposition was offered in the midst of the consideration of other questions, and without notice. After several others had spoken, and notably, Gen. John Ritchie, who had made a most earnest protest against it, Judge Thacher took the floor, and delivered the most scholastic, eloquent and unanswerable argument in opposition to it. That speech settled the question in favor of the absolute freedom of the Kansas soil to all colors and conditions in life. I am sorry to record the fact that the occasion demanded such a splendid tribute to freedom, for the vote stood twenty-one for it, and twenty-six against it.

Kingman, Thacher, James Blood, Winchell, Blunt, Burris, Graham, Ingalls, Greer, Griffith, Hutchinson, Slough, Stinson, McDowell, Ritchie, Wrigley and Houston participated in all the general debates, Houston and Blunt doing perhaps more than their fair share of talking. The hard-fought questions were the establishment of the northern and western boundaries of the State, the exclusion of free negroes, the apportionment for members of the first State Legislature, and the homestead-exemption clause. Finally, when the constitution had been adopted as a whole, and was ready for signature, the Democrats refused to sign, principally because of the apportionment, for by the adoption of that all hope of the election of Democratic United States Senators was gone. The justification for that apportionment scheme, that to the naked eye looked somewhat like "skullduggery"—a familiar expression in those days—was the fact that in the election for Delegate to Congress, the Republicans had only about two thousand majority in the Territory; that the Free-State Democrats, and many who had never been Democrats, but were opposed to the negroes coming into the State, and the Pro-Slavery men, had formed a formidable and compact organization, and this, aided by all the power and patronage of the Federal Government, might control the organization of the State on our admission, and for this reason a most ordinary dictate of political action was observed by forming the Senatorial and Representative districts in such manner that the Republicans would be assured of a majority of the Legislature. It caused great feeling at the time, and the Democrats in and out of the convention howled like a Marshall county cyclone.

Of the members of the Convention, J. M. Arthur and Josiah Lamb, of Linn county, are both dead.

Wm. R. Griffith, of Bourbon, was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction at the first election under the Constitution he helped to form. He died at Topeka, on the 12th day of February, 1862. J. C. Burnett, of Bourbon, was elected to the last Territorial Legislature; was a member of the first State Senate; appointed Register of the Fort Scott Land Office, and now lives in Russell county. Caleb May, of Atchison, now lives in Montgomery. Robert Graham, of Atchison county, is dead.

John J. Ingalls, of Atchison, is now the senior Senator from Kansas. He
was the recognized scholar of the Convention, and authority on all questions connected with the arrangement and phraseology of the instrument. Whenever he suggested a verbal amendment it was adopted by consent. He was then in his twenty-sixth year, and was a comely youth to look upon. But I will venture the assertion that he would not wear at his daily attendance in the Senate such a hat as he wore during the sittings of that Convention! It was a cheap, broad-brimmed chip, with the crown shaved up until it assumed the shape of a cone, and then straws were taken out until there were more holes in the top than plaits of straw; and while time has effaced the other peculiar features of that wonderful tile, I do recollect that it was an ever-recurring subject of comment.

John T. Burris, of Johnson county, my room-mate, was a member of the last Territorial Legislature, and soon after the election of Lane and Pomeroy was appointed United States District Attorney; resigned that place to serve in the army as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Tenth Regiment, and mustered out at the expiration of its term of service. During the Price raid, in the fall of 1864, he served on the staff of Maj. Gen. Blunt, as a volunteer aide, and he and I carried the field orders in all the various engagements. He was as gallant a soldier as ever wore a sword. After the war he was Speaker of the House of Representatives, and on the formation of the Tenth Judicial District was made Judge. He is now practicing law at Olathe.

Edmund G. Ross, of that convention, and afterwards United States Senator, (and as a member of the Legislature I voted for him,) was another army comrade. He lost two horses at Little Blue. All through that day he was one of the coolest and bravest.

Gen. Blunt, with a little army of 3,500, fought Price's whole force, while the Kansas militia and other troops were within hearing of our guns and wanted to come to us, but were held back by Curtis and Carney. Some day the history of that campaign will be written, and the credit given to James G. Blunt that is his; for he, and he alone, among all the generals, saved Kansas from ruin and devastation. Had it not been for him, brave Tom Moonlight, gallant Charley Blair and heroic Sam. Crawford would never have had an opportunity to fight for their State and their homes.

James Hanway of Franklin, Col. James Blood of Douglas, Luther R. Palmer of Pottawatomie, and John P. Greer of Shawnee, are still living in their respective localities, honored and respected citizens.

R. C. Foster, of Leavenworth, who was next to the youngest member, and with whom I served in the State Senate in 1867-8, is the attorney for the M. K. & T. Railway Company for Texas, and lives in Denison.

George H. Lillie lives at Eureka, Greenwood county, and is Probate Judge. I had the pleasure of spending an hour in his office last summer, and found him the same kind, generous friend as when we associated in the Convention and Territorial Legislature. Samuel Hipple and Wm. Perry are dead.
Every day when at home I see the genial face and good gray head of Wm. P. Dutton, of Lykins. Slough went to New Mexico; fought gallantly in the army, and was killed in an affray with an army officer, soon after the close of the war. The subsequent history and location of the others are unknown to me.

I could never fathom what it was in the history or action of Kansas that has caused a cruel fate to decreed that, at the close of every deliberate body held in the State, there should be a disgraceful supplement in the shape of an investigating committee. The Constitutional Convention was no exception to the operation of this rule—abounding in shame, and giving birth, sustenance and employment to an infinite number of the flannel-mouthed whores of that foul hag, Mrs. Candor, whose mendacious tongues and contentious lips caused more well-defined and specific stenches to arise than could be possibly manufactured in the city of Cologne. This particular disgrace was occasioned by the statement of a delegate from Doniphan, Mr. E. M. Hubbard, that Wm. Hutchinson, one of the delegates from Douglas county, had offered him a good lot if he would vote for Lawrence as the temporary capital of the State. On this statement becoming known to the members of the Convention, an investigating committee was ordered and appointed, and commenced its labors.

Hubbard swore to the truth of his statement; Hutchinson denied under oath. Hubbard then swore that the delegate from Douglas was a liar, and the delegate from Douglas, being duly sworn, deposed that the delegate from Doniphan was "another." And thus ended the testimony. The committee reported the "facts" to the Convention, and the whole subject was "laid on the table"—the usual parliamentary resort, when no one knew what else to do.

For nearly twenty years Kansas has lived and prospered under the shelter of the edifice reared by these men, with such changes and modifications as time and different circumstances have required. This lapse of years has been sufficient to demonstrate that the builders were endowed with a reasonable knowledge of the wants of the future. But if this is not so, for one thing they are justly entitled to the kind remembrance of the men of to-day: they limited the State indebtedness to such a sum that much of the financial prosperity of the State can be attributed to their wisdom and foresight respecting that limitation.

A new year is dawning. No one can foretell the evils that lurk in its shadows; but its sun will cast genial rays upon a million people—happy, prosperous, frugal, temperate, and duly observant of all the duties, obligations and requirements of the Wyandotte Convention.

Paola, January, 1881.