or buffalo chips, or who has seen her clothes-line snatched bald a thousand times by the Kansas wind, ought to have a homestead for nothing, and a pension for life. But that same wind has developed the grace and muscle of the Kansas woman. Talk about your yachts—your Puritans and Genestas! A more inspiring sight than ocean ever saw, is a Kansas woman beating up Kansas avenue in the teeth of a roaring gale.

But the worst is over; gone are border ruffians and drouth and privation; gone danger and difficulty. The sunflowers are growing on the roof of the abandoned dug-out and within the roofless walls of the old sod house. The claim is a farm with broad green, or golden, or russet acres now. The family is sheltered in a stately mansion now. Having brought Kansas about where she wanted it, the Kansas woman is devoting attention to culture, to literature, to music, to art. She discusses all the artists from Henry Worrall to Praxiteles; all the musicians from Nevada to the piper who, according to Irish tradition, played before Moses. She belongs to the Kansas Social Science Club, and traverses the fields of human knowledge and investigation, from hired girls to the most abstruse problems of society and government. In the summer she goes to Long Branch and Saratoga, and is accompanied by her daughter, born in Kansas, a girl who has caught in the meshes of her hair the light of the Kansas sun, and in her eyes the violet shadow that girls the Kansas sky at evening. With this beauteous companion she goes about the world, blessed with that calm serenity which characterizes people who have an assured position; who do not want the earth, because they already possess all of it worth having. But if you would disturb this dignified repose; if you would see the frown of Juno, and hear something like the thunder of Jupiter, just intimate to her that Kansas is not the best country in the world, or that it was ever anything else.

It was a Kansas woman who was the first of her sex to climb to the summit of Pike's Peak. Long before there was a bridle-path—much less a railroad—she clambered on her little woman's feet over rocks, through snows, up into the rare, cold atmosphere—up higher than the bird's wing beats the air, up to the very crest, and there saw what no woman's eyes ever saw before. And to-day in Kansas song and story stands the Kansas woman. She has climbed through difficulties to the realms of the stars. Below her lower the dark clouds, and mutter the reverberating thunders of civil strife; below her are the mists of doubt and difficulty; below her are the cold snows and bleak winds of adversity; above her God's free heaven, and before her Kansas as she shall be in the shining, golden to-morrow.

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LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

FROM EX-GOVERNOR J. M. HARVEY.

London Bridge, Virginia, January 22, 1886.

Secretary of Committee of Arrangements for Quarter-Centennial Celebration—Dear Sir: Please tender my thanks to the chairman and all the other members of the committee, for the invitation to be present and participate in the celebration.

I regret that feeble health makes it impossible to travel so far at this time of the year, but I will be with you in spirit, for I shall always rejoice in every thing that tends to the honor and prosperity of Kansas.

Very respectfully,

James M. Harvey.
FROM HON. R. S. HICK.

SAN DIEGO, CAL., February 2, 1886.

Hon. F. G. Adams, Secretary Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas—Dear Sir: I thank you for your kind letter of January 14th, enclosing an invitation to the quarter-centennial celebration at Topeka.

Owing to the demoralized condition of the roads and mails, it only reached me a few days ago, but that made no difference; for while nothing would have pleased me more than to have met with my old friends in Kansas on that occasion, it would have been impossible for me to have attended, even if I had received the invitation in time; but I hope to be back in Kansas a month or two in the spring or early summer. Very truly yours,

R. S. Hick.

FROM SAM'L. K. FORSYTH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 15, 1886.

Secretary Committee of Arrangements, Topeka, Kansas—Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of invitation to attend the quarter-centennial celebration of Kansas. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to be with you, but my business is so that it is not possible.

You can rest assured that I have a full appreciation of the historical importance of the event you are to celebrate. I am yours truly,

SAMUEL K. FORSYTH.

FROM DR. W. R. DAVIS.

WUSDAN, DOUGLAS CO., KANSAS, January 13, 1886.

Hon. D. R. Anthony, Gov. John A. Martin and others—Dear Sir: Your cordial invitation to me to be present and participate in the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union, to be held at Topeka, has been received, and be assured it will afford me great pleasure to be present and greet the surviving members and officers of that convention.

I remember affectionately and with high respect, the founders of our State and of our civil and religious institutions—such men as Simpson, Burnett, Ingalls, John A. Martin, Kingman, Greer, S. O. Thatcher, Blood, Ritchie, Ross, and Burris.

Yours truly,

WESLEY R. DAVIS.

FROM GEO. B. GILL.

APTON, IOWA, January 26, 1886.

Hon. F. G. Adams, Topeka, Kansas—Dear Sir: I see by the papers that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas is to be celebrated at the Capital on the 29th of January. If I remember correctly it was also on the 29th of January, 1859, that John Brown bade a last and hurried farewell to Topeka, on his way north. It was the 31st that the passage across Spring creek, near Holton was made, usually called "The Battle of the Spurs." I am almost certain that I am correct, and unless some well-sustained record will place it on a different date, I will feel sure that he left Topeka on the 29th of January, which if correct, might in some kind of a theological way be construed into a coincidence.

Yours sincerely,

[John Brown's Secretary of the Treasury.]

FROM EX-GOVERNOR CRAWFORD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 25, 1886.

Hon. D. R. Anthony, Chairman of Committee on Quarter-Centennial Celebration—My Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind invitation
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to be present and participate in the proceedings at the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union.

It would afford me great pleasure to be with you on that occasion, and learn anew the history, trials, tribulations and achievements of our proud young State, but business of a pressing nature will prevent my coming.

The history of Kansas is the history of stirring, thrilling events. While the whole North was in deep sleep, unconscious of danger, and in profound ignorance of the movements of the powerful enemy, Kansas was awake; on the picket line, and first to sound the reveille. As her sons were brave and magnanimous in war, they have proven themselves just and generous in peace. With open hearts and outstretched hands, they welcomed to hospitable homes and good neighborhoods the people from every State, North and South, and foreigners from every civilized country.

As a result, we have to-day a great State, composed of honest, intelligent, progressive, contented and prosperous people; people who own their homes and have the facilities for educating their children; people who are true to each other and loyal to their Government.

For these blessings we all should be thankful. Our people ought to celebrate and rejoice over the magnificent structure which they, with their own hands, have carved out and erected in the midst of the "Great American Desert."

With its institutions, its homes and farms, its schools, colleges and churches, its roads and public buildings, its credit at home and abroad, the State of Kansas stands prominently in the front rank of States, the pride and admiration of all. It has furnished homes to many homeless people.

England, Ireland and Scotland, with a population of thirty-five millions, are said to contain less than thirty thousand land-owners. Kansas, with a population of twelve hundred and fifty thousand, has more than two hundred thousand land-owners. Kansas is a free State under a republican form of government; the other is a despotism, administered by despotic hands. Hence the difference. These things should be kept steadily in view, and impressed upon the minds of future generations.

I trust that this celebration may be preeminently successful, and go far toward renewing the ties and friendships which have heretofore characterized our people, and made Kansas what it is.

With good wishes for all. I remain sincerely,

SAMUEL J. CRAWFORD.

FROM GEN. C. W. DARLING.

THE ONEIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Utica, N. Y., January 19, 1886.

D. R. Anthony, Esq., Chairman—DEAR SIR: I regret that it will not be in my power to accept your courteous invitation to attend the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union, and to participate in the proceedings. With thanks for the invitation, I remain yours respectfully,

C. W. DARLING,
Corresponding Secretary.

FROM DR. GEO. W. BROWN.

RoxFORD, ILL., January 20, 1886.

GENTLEMEN: Your kind letter of the 11th instant, inviting me to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union as a State, and participate in the proceedings, came duly to hand. Please accept my thanks for your kind remembrance.

Having shared with you in all the events connected with the early history of Kansas, to the close of the great Rebellion, and subsequently watched from a distance
the growth of the Central Commonwealth, with the interest akin to that of the parent
for a loved son, allow me to extend to each of you, and to all my old compatriots,
my hearty congratulations that you and they have survived to witness the grand
consummation of our early wishes and labors, to see its virgin soil densely popu-
lated with a great, prosperous and free people, uncorrupted by the blight of slavery,
and leading in the great reforms which mark the progress of the race. I ardently
wish circumstances were such as to enable me to be present on the interesting occa-
sion, but they are not; so I must forego the pleasure.

I trust the convention will be a grand success, and hope many of the participants
in it will survive to share in the half-century celebration, and that the future growth
and prosperity of the State will be commensurate with that we have witnessed in the
twenty-five years now closed.

Please convey to all the actors in your early history my assurance of high regards.

Sincerely yours,

G. W. Brown.


FROM HON. THOS. P. FENLON.

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, JANUARY 12, 1886.

D. R. Anthony, Esq., Chairman Quarter-Centennial Celebration—Dear Sir: Yours
of the 11th inst., inviting me to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of our
State into the Union, to be held at Topeka on the 29th inst., is received. I thank
you for this kind remembrance, and, if possible, I will be on hand and do what little
I can to add to the festivities of that memorable anniversary.

I remember well the 29th of January, 1861. Tom Ewing, Jim McAlpin, myself
and others (I cannot now remember them all) took the old "Kickapoo" cannon
about where you now live, and fired it time and time again in honor of our admission.
"Without regard to race, color or previous condition of servitude," and without re-
gard to politics, I will be glad to meet the old boys of the 29th of January, 1861.

Truly yours,

THOS. P. FENLON.

FROM HON. SAMUEL R. PETERS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 14, 1886.

Committee of Arrangements, Topeka, Kansas—Gentlemen: I have your invitation
of the 9th inst., asking me to be present at the Quarter-Centennial Celebration of the
admission of Kansas into the Union.

It would afford me great pleasure to comply, but I fear my duties here will pre-
vent my going. I can assure you, however, that I realize the importance as well as
the anticipated pleasure of this celebration, and were it possible for me to be pres-
ent without neglecting interests confided to my care, I should endeavor to be with
you.

The contrast between 1861 and now, in the condition of our country, as well as in
the condition of Kansas, is most remarkable. In the last twenty-five years our Gov-
ernment successfully passed through its last crucial test. Prior to that time it was,
at least to some extent, an experiment.

When I take into consideration the virtue, intelligence, and advancement of our
people, I feel satisfied that our existence as a Nation will be as lasting as time. In
securing this permanency, Kansas has wrought a very important part. Her pro-
gress, prosperity and wealth have been phenomenal. Her influence is felt everywhere,
and her future is unclouded. As the most visionary prophet fell far short of foretelling
her wonderful progress in the first twenty-five years of her growth, so now the
most vivid imagination would fall short of portraying what the next twenty-five
years has in store for our beloved State.

Let us all discharge our various duties to the best of our ability, with an honest
and conscientious fidelity, and thereby assist in placing her at the very front of the sisterhood of States in this Union.

Wishing you and all interested a pleasant and profitable celebration,

I am very truly yours,

S. R. Peters.

FROM HON. C. F. MANDERSON.

SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, JANUARY 15, 1886.

Messrs. D. R. Anthony and others, Topeka, Kansas—Gentlemen: I have your letter of invitation to be present on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas. The event certainly recalls to the memory of thousands, an epoch in our history of great political significance, in the light, especially, of what preceded and followed the coming of Kansas into the Union.

It would afford me pleasure to be with you and those who will attend, but my official duties here will prevent, which I greatly regret.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES F. MANDERSON.

FROM R. C. COLEMAN.

GOSHEN, N. J., JANUARY 2, 1886.

D. R. Anthony, Esq., Chairman, &c.—Dear Sir: Your invitation to attend the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union on the 29th day of January, inst., has been received.

I should be very much pleased to attend, but official duties will require me to be in Orange county at that time.

The celebration of an anniversary of this event, so rich in historical incidents, must certainly prove a very interesting occasion. But I shall have to content myself with reading an account of it.

I remain yours,

R. C. Coleman.

FROM JOHN BROWN, JR.

PUT-IN-BAY ISLAND, LAKE ERIE.

OTTAWA CO., OHIO, JANUARY 25, 1886.

To Committee of Quarter-Centennial Celebration, Topeka, Kansas—Gentlemen:

Your invitation to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union awoke me out of a kind of "Rip-Van-Winkle" sleep. Not in a cave or the "Kauterskills," but in an island in Lake Erie, have I for a quarter of a century been dreaming?

Surely it was but yesterday since there assembled on the high ground south of the "Kaw river," in a low, broad, two-story stone building a body of resolved men, having, it seemed to me, more than an average share of intelligence—men full of magnetic fire, not their lips merely, but their entire being "touched with a live coal from off the altar of freedom;" men whom neither swollen streams filled with running ice, nor threats of bodily harm, could hinder from meeting to do their duty in a legislative capacity under the Topeka Constitution.

Passing before my mental view, I see the leading men of those days, and though military titles were plenty, and their honors borne with becoming modesty, the title of "Honorable," suddenly acquired by a few of our citizens as representatives of the people and authorized to sit as legislators on the upper or lower floors of that State House, was a distinction felt, though it could not be seen. From the Senate Chamber I see the tall form of Henry J. Adams, he of dark complexion, clear-cut features and bright eyes; of calm exterior, yet when speaking having the power of an oracle.

At that time in Topeka many were assembled who were members of the "third house;" yet, as all seemed desperately in earnest, it would be invidious to say who were and who were not of the "honorable." There was positive, impetuous S. N. Wood; strong, deliberate, determined, energetic Captain Sam. Walker; the sunny-
hared, silver-tongued Martin F. Conway; Father Tuten, of "blue-jeans" memory; John Speer, "State Printer," anxiously working for the common good; G. W. Brown, of sinuous nature and manner "child-like and bland;" H. H. Williams, who, rather than fail of being present and taking the oath as a legislator under the Topeka Constitution, made the entire journey on foot from the valley of the Pottawatomi to Topeka, and returned by the same conveyance, as I have good reason to know; Charles A. Foster, and O. C. Brown, of Osawatomie, and David Starr Hoyt, soon afterwards stealthily killed on the Wakarusa.

Time and space will not allow of my wandering far from the pretty hamlet which General Lane, on the occasion of his being elected with Governor Reeder, United States Senator, under the Topeka Constitution, in an open-air speech near the Garvey House, called the "beautiful city of Topeka."

Yes, as "the chromos are turned on," there comes into view the "Garvey House" and its proprietor, E. C. K. Garvey, the plump, rosy, garrulous little Irishman. His house was the headquarters of what Lane called "skullduggery."

The night before the election of Lane as Senator, he asked me to come to his room in the Garvey House. In the darkness of midnight, (for he lighted no lamp,) he said:

"Brown, I want to talk with you, and as we must not be heard, come and lie down on my bed here, with me. Now, Brown, I know you and you know me, and you know I am not the man to forget my friends. To come to the point at once, I want you to vote for me to-morrow."

I replied: "I am sorry, General Lane, that you have said this, but it looks as if you suppose I am in the market for sale."

"Excuse me," he said; "I should have been more thoughtful; have you anything against me that would deprive me of your vote?"

"Gen. Lane, I will frankly tell you that I have not, at least during a part of our acquaintance, had a good opinion of you."

"Why?"

"Well, do you remember the speech you made last summer in Lawrence, in which you said that, 'so far as the rights of property are concerned, I know no difference between a negro and a mule?' I heard you say that."

"Well, Brown, I've felt like kicking myself ever since."

"General, I determined this morning, some hours before you invited me to call on you here, that James H. Lane would get my vote to-morrow."

He threw his arms around me and hugged me like a brother.

"Brown, you are a man after my own heart, and I want you in our secret order."

"Is it the same that G. W. Brown gave my brother and me some knowledge of last fall, soon after Barker was killed?"

"I don't know, but you are just the man I want. Now, Brown, stand up, and I will put you through the first degree; but before proceeding I will explain its objects and obligations, from which you can conscientiously join our order. Its object is to unite our Free-State men, enable them to recognize each other in the dark as well as in the light; in short, to make each member of the order know the other, and make him feel that the other is in full sympathy with him, and can be depended upon under all circumstances to aid to the best of his ability in promoting the common cause, which is to save Kansas from the curse of slavery. You can see at once," said he, "that through this we can come to feel each other's shoulders; you understand me?"

"Yes, yes."

"Of course you do. Upon honor, I assure you, that a man who loves freedom,
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his country, and the government of his fathers, will find nothing in this order to object to. Are you ready for the obligation?"

"Yes; but wait a moment. Do Governor Robinson, and our other good and true men belong to or favor this, as G. W. Brown did last fall."

"Well, I cannot tell you everything pertaining to the order at this stage. Wait a little." He said: "Robinson, and others I might name, are all right; but working chiefly, (as I understood him,) in the higher degrees."

"I am ready, I said."

Never can I forget the weird eloquence of his whisper as he breathed into my ear the words of the ritual of the first degree of the order, gave me its sign, grip and password, and its grand hailing-sign of distress, which in the night-time was "Ho! Kan-s-a-s," uttered in loud voice, with accent on the last syllable, long drawn out.

Next morning he duly invested me with the emblem of my degree, which was a narrow, black ribbon, worn in the button-hole of the shirt-collar. He added, "When you return home, begin at once the work of organizing in your own neighborhood."

My rifle company, previously organized, of men living on Pottawatomie creek and vicinity, a few miles from Osawatomie, met for drill near an old log house not far from Partridge's, on a claim, I believe, of Judge James Hanway. In that old log house we deposited our arms and adjourned in a body to attend the opening of Judge Cato's court, held at Dutch Henry's house. After his charge to the grand jury we all returned and resumed our drilling exercises near that old log hut, a picture of which (mismnamed "John Brown's cabin") Governor St. John presented to me in the Governor's room in the State House at Topeka, in the summer of 1879, when I was there in the interests of the colored refugees from the South.

At that drilling exercise father was present. He, Judge Hanway, James Townsley, my brother and brother-in-law, William Thompson, August Bondi, (and his near friend, whose name I cannot this moment recall,) the Partridges, H. H. Williams, Cochran and others, were then members of my company, having signed my muster-roll soon after the adjournment of the Topeka Legislature.

At the close of the drill I said to several of my men that I wanted to see them privately in a ravine in the woods, (I think it was a little northeast of the house where William Partridge, his wife and his sister Mary Partridge lived;) and one at a time I initiated them into that eminently practical order, whose animating spirit was General James H. Lane.

That order in its infancy (it had no other life) died of inanition, through lack of being properly nourished by the then "Major General of Kansas Volunteers."

After the ball held in the chamber of the lower house, which Lane and many even from Lawrence attended, (headed by a delegation of "Stubs" known also as "Company A," I saw him no more. He had my heart and hand; he has them still; I would not be divorced.

Where shall I stop reeling off these threads of reminiscences? I will close by referring to one incident merely, which I ought to mention as a testimony to my friend ex-Governor Robinson. Around him in those days there lingered a subtle air of mystery quite captivating to young men and to most women, and well calculated to inspire devotion. I write from experience. After thirty years, I cannot even now, in spite of some part of that experience, check some heart-throbs of old-time loyalty.

My unrequited love for him, alas, is not singular in having "wasted its fragrance on the desert air." With vivid clearness, I recall my emotions on meeting Governor Robinson within a few hours after my release on bail as treason prisoner, at Leecompton, by Judge Lecompton.

We met on the east side of Massachusetts street in Lawrence, nearly opposite
where Mr. Thacher (I believe) published a paper in 1879. Gov. Robinson was going south, I north—he on the sidewalk, I on the street, when he hailed me, saying:

"John, stop a minute; I've some money for you."

He then handed me a twenty-dollar gold-piece.

I said, "How does this happen?"

"It's money that has come to me from the East to aid needy Free-State people, you and the rest of us, and I don't know of anybody to whom it would likely be of more use than to you and some of your folks."

"I certainly feel very grateful to some one," I said, "and if you know who it is that has sent the money, please let him or her know of my gratitude; I will step in and write you a receipt for this money."

"No, I haven't time now; it's all right as it is, and you need not bother your head about it."

Perhaps my venerable friend has to me and to others often done good by stealth, taking no receipt, on the principle "Let not your left hand know what your right hand doeth." However, it affords me a genuine pleasure to let it be known even to the new generation, where twenty dollars went of that fund of which Gov. Charles Robinson (under the Topeka Constitution) had the handling. I would also hereby acknowledge the receipt of sundry "blessings" from my Governor Robinson, all of which, I trust, are duly appreciated. I am sure that I would not willingly deprive my old-time idol of even the least jewel in his crown; for towards him in his declining years, I cherish no animosity, but instead will ever keep in view the Governor Robinson as he appeared to me in my days of unsophisticated greenness.

In the spring of 1802 I had the privilege of looking from Mount Oread, near Lawrence, over the valleys of the Kaw and Wakarusa, and again from the same standpoint in 1879, seventeen years later. What may have been the growth of Kansas in seven years, since I was there last, I can only judge by comparing the Kansas of 1856 with that of 1879, covering a period of twenty-three years. When I saw her last her "gates were ajar" to the colored refugees from the South, many of whom (from the mud and filth where for a time they were compelled to tarry outside the walls) caught only a glimpse of their Canaan, and closed their eyes forever.

"Truly," the destruction of the poor is their poverty."

Thanks to the Infinite Providence, the priests and Levites were outnumbered by the Samaritans. Some of these, notably Governor St. John, Chief Justice Horton, F. G. Adams, the Commonwealth newspaper, J. C. Hebbard and others, it was my privilege to know and to never forget.

Permit me in conclusion to offer this sentiment: WONDERFUL! GLORIOUS KANSAS! her phenomenal success, the natural fruit of the tree of righteousness, planted and growing in her soil.

JOHN BROWN, JR.

FROM HON. P. P. WILCOX.

DENVER, COLO., JANUARY 24TH, 1886.

TO D. R. ANTHONY, CHAIRMAN; F. G. ADAMS, SECRETARY; S. N. WOOD, JOHN MARTIN AND OTHERS OF COMMITTEE—GENTLEMEN: I have received your invitation to be present at the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union, to be held at Topeka on the 29th instant, and regret that my engagements are such as to render my acceptance impossible.

But though I cannot be with you in person, I beg to assure you that I shall be no more forgetful of the day, and the old friends who will clasp hands and mingle congratulations on that occasion, than I am of the stirring events in which they and I were actors, and through whose successful issues, a State was founded in the wilderness and has grown to conspicuous prominence and influence in the great sisterhood.
Pardon the pride of a pioneer of ’55 which prompts me to recall some of the experiences of those early days. I went from Missouri to Atchison, Kansas, in company with about five hundred other Democrats, on the 20th of March, 1855, to assist a scattered population in depositing a sufficient number of votes to make the numerical strength of the Territory appear respectable, possibly to help the cause of slavery a little; but finding the country in that vicinity very attractive, I devoted the day to locating a claim adjoining the town-site, and through my eagerness to become the owner of 160 acres of the public domain. I lost the chance to do some of the tallest voting ever heard of at any other election in the history of Missouri. Although at that time Atchison could scarcely boast a single permanent citizen, there were about 3,500 votes in that precinct that day, and I am quite certain the number of votes cast represented the majority, as I heard of no one being killed.

On the 7th day of May following, I removed to my claim, and from that time until 1860 I took an active part in the political affairs of the Territory, helping to undo what the Pro-Slavery invasion, of which I had been in some measure a part, had accomplished at that election. I remained long enough to see freedom established, and Kansas on the high road to her present wonderful prosperity. Leaving her, I only went out from the mother to assist in rearing her child, in whose vigorous growth my early hopes have been fully realized. And now, from my mountain home in Colorado, I send greeting to the friends of my earlier years on the plains of Kansas, congratulating “Border-Ruffians” and “Jayhawkers” alike on the prosperity wrought by their efforts, and the harmony and good-will that now prevail among them.

Very respectfully,

P. P. Wilcox.

FROM FRANK B. SANBORN.


To the Quarter-Centennial Celebration Committee, Topeka, Kansas—Gentlemen:
Your note of the 11th inst., inviting me to participate in the celebration of the admission of Kansas into the Union, on the 29th, found me too much occupied with engagements to accept the invitation, as I would gladly have done.

I remember that event well, and for three or four years previous had been doing what I could to secure the admission of Kansas as a Free State. That victory was worth all that it cost, and without it the great contest for freedom in the civil war might have had a different immediate issue, though none can doubt that slavery would have died at last. Its first deadly wound was given on the prairies of Kansas in 1856; though a four-years war was necessary to complete its destruction. I thank God that I had some share in piercing its rhinoceros hide, when it was trampling down the rights of white men in Kansas, with the National Government doing what it could to help the beast, and hold its victims still. I thank God that John Brown and other brave men were on the spot to chase and finally to drive him back into the Platte Purchase, where he was hunted to death a few years later by General Lane and the Union soldiers. It was no time for moral suasion, and I rejoice that the men of Kansas did not rely upon that alone, nor upon political management; but were ready to fight for their cabins and their ideas. The result is, that you have a State where freedom means something to every citizen, and a history of which you have a right to be proud. I have seen some recent attempts to write this history in such a way that if the historian told the truth, you ought to be ashamed of yourselves; but it is easier for one man to be mistaken than for a whole people to be in ignorance of their own annals; and I look to the men who have known Kansas from first to last, of whom there are many still living, for such a history of Kansas as shall be good reading for you and for me, and for our children after us.
Such gatherings as that of the 29th instant will promote the work of the historian, and give a new impulse to your excellent Historical Society, which is doing so much good work. I am indebted to it for many agreeable hours when I visited Kansas in 1882, and I shall never cease to be interested in all the institutions of your noble State.

Truly yours,

F. B. SANBORN.

FROM GEN. W. T. SHERMAN.

912 GARRISON AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, MO., JANUARY 27, 1886.

Col. D. R. Anthony, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS—MY DEAR FRIEND: I was very much gratified yesterday by the receipt of your kind letter of the 26th, enclosing me a certificate of membership of the State Historical Society, and by you will assure the members thereof that I appreciate the honor, and would be only too happy to share in their meeting, were it at all practicable.

It seems to me but yesterday when all of Kansas was occupied by Indians, except Leavenworth Fort and a few missions, and now it ranks among the first of the food-producing States of our Union. Even yet the great mass of our people hardly recognize the magical change wrought in the past thirty-five years. Yet little by little the truth will be made manifest, and the pioneers or their children will realize that they have been rewarded for the toil and trials of 1855-6, as also the more serious struggle of 1861-5.

Last summer Mr. Bayard, Secretary of State, who had just come from your State University, at Lawrence, where he had made an oration, asked me in the presence of several gentlemen, if I had ever been there, and if I had ever seen a more beautiful rural landscape than the one from the college hill up the valley of the Wakarusa! Of course I had been there many times, and admitted it was, beyond question, a most lovely view, justly entitled to a fair comparison with that from Pilot Knob near Leavenworth; that from the Soldiers' Home, at Washington, looking down the Potomac; or, the most famous of all, that looking up the Valley of the Thames from Richmond Hill, above London.

Wishing you and your association all honor, and again thanking you for the valued compliment,

I am sincerely your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN.

FROM HON. P. B. PLUMB.

SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, JANUARY 25, 1886.

Col. D. R. Anthony, Hon. John Martin, Hon. A. H. Horton, and others, Committee, etc., TOPEKA, KANSAS—GENTLEMEN: Your invitation to participate in the exercises which you have arranged for the 29th inst., I would gladly take advantage of did not the stress of official duties imperatively forbid.

The event to be commemorated properly holds the first place among the numberless stirring incidents which have punctuated the history of Kansas. Many of these will doubtless be vividly recalled by distinguished men who bore a part in them, and the result of your deliberations will necessarily be to brighten and perpetuate historical associations of great value.

The rapidity with which momentous results and conspicuous achievements succeed each other, and the wonderful developments that are compassed within a comparatively brief period, are emphasized by the fact that many of the men who participated most notably in the struggles which preceded the formal establishment of the commonwealth are yet either in the meridian of life or but little advanced beyond it.

The earlier history of Kansas is as unique as its later annals have been singular in their record of successful progress. The influence of the local contentions and trials of those first years pervaded the whole country, divided political parties, fanned
partisan excitement to an unparalleled pitch, and planted the seeds of civil war, so formidable as to astonish the world. And when those local trials were happily ended by the act of admission, the prophecy of Mr. Sumner was fulfilled, and Kansas became indeed a "ministering angel to the Republic."

It was a felicitous preference which selected as the first Chief Magistrate of the infant State a man whose devotion to the interests of Freedom had been consistently conspicuous, and who had attested that devotion by personal dangers and sacrifices; nor can it be denied that each one in the lengthening line of his successors has guided the commonwealth not only safely through dangers, but by prudently progressive steps has led her towards the realization of the dreams of a model government.

I cannot doubt that your meeting will prove eminently successful, and my regret that I cannot personally share in the enjoyment of the occasion is earnest and profound.

Very truly yours,

P. B. PLUMB.

FROM FRED. LAW OLDMSTED.

BROOKLINE, MASS., JANUARY 15, 1886.

F. G. Adams, Secretary—Dear Sir: I much regret that my engagements will not permit me the pleasure of attending the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of Kansas into the Union, to which I have had the honor to be invited by your note of the 11th inst. on behalf of the Committee of arrangements.

Very respectfully,

FRED. LAW OLDMSTED.