THE CITIES OF KANSAS

The great prominence given by President Buchanan in his recent Message to the affairs of that unquiet Territory, the agitation concerning which has created so deeply a breach between two sections of the Democratic party, and upon which the eyes of the United States have so long and with so much anxiety been fixed, has induced us to engrave views, from sketches made on the spot by our own correspondent, of the four principal cities within its bounds. Kansas - but a little while ago the youngest of our Territorial sisters - has so long been the debatable ground between the opposing interests of slavery and freedom, has contributed so largely to the embitterment of party strife, and has given rise to so many new questions and new complications in our domestic policy, that we feel convinced of the deep interest with which our readers will regard the first views of the important cities of Leavenworth, Topeka, Lawrence and Lecompton that have ever been published.

CITY OF LEAVENWORTH

Our engraving is from a sketch by our own correspondent, which was taken from the
residence of Amos Reese, Esq., situated upon an elevation near the river, in South Leavenworth, and directly facing toward the north.

Leavenworth is the largest, most populous and flourishing city in Kansas Territory, and one of the heaviest commercial cities above St. Louis, on the Missouri River. It occupies a charming site along the west bank of the Missouri, about four hundred and sixty miles, by steamboat navigation from St. Louis, and immediately adjoins the lands of Fort Leavenworth, the present headquarters of the Western Division of the United States Army.

The face of the country surrounding the city is beautifully diversified with groves of forest trees, and gently undulating hills, delightful valleys and broad rolling prairies, beneath which lie immense strata of limestone, sandstone and coal. The whole region in the vicinity, and for many miles around

Leavenworth, is very fertile, well adapted to agriculture, and already dotted with well-cultivated farms and elegant suburban residences, among which Jeremiah Clarke, Esq., is the most prominent, and is built upon a spot where less than half a dozen years, stood an Indian lodge and upon the grounds now so tastefully laid out and handsomely ornamented with shrubbery and flowers, camp fires to the red men were lighted.

The census in Leavenworth in 1854 showed a population of 'ninety-nine men, one woman, and no babies, total one hundred,' being the whole number of inhabitants in the city and its vicinity. It now contains a population of more than eight thousand, and is increasing in wealth and business as rapidly as in numbers of inhabitants.

CITY OF TOPEKA

Topeka was founded by the "Topeka Town Association" in 1854. But little improvement was made, however, during that year, there being no lumber in the country for building purposes.

The town is situated upon a sloping eminence, seventy miles in the interior, on the Kansas River, and is surrounded by a rich agricultural country, well supplied and beautiful streams of pure water, and many fine groves of timber. The drawbridge at Topeka is one of the prominent improvements of the place, and is the only bridge that spans the Kansas River, having the additional peculiarity of being the largest structure of the kind in the Territory. It was built during the present year, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars.

Topeka figured conspicuously in the political history of the Territory. It was here that the celebrated "Topeka Constitution" was formed in 1855; and it was at this place that the "General Assembly of the State of Kansas" convened in 1856, and was shortly
afterwards dissolved by Col. Sumner, for "concocting treasonable acts against the United States Government;" electing United States Senators, &c. This was also the "military rendezvous" for the Free States men during the troubles of 1856, and a fort was built for their protection, in case of an attack, from the pro-slavery men. The "Old Fort" is still to be seen, in a fine state of preservation, near the center of the town. It was constructed of earth and sod.

Topeka now has its churches and schools; a public library and literary Societies, and the rough appearance of frontier life is fast giving place to the more refined and intelligent manners and customs of civilized society.

**CITY OF LECOMPTON**

This is one of the most pleasant and delightful inland towns in Kansas. It is situated upon the banks of the Kansas, or Kaw River, some sixty-five miles from its confluence with the Missouri, forty miles from Leavenworth City, and about five hundred by water from St. Louis, Missouri. The site of Lecompton is one of peculiar beauty. The town is embosomed in ancient forest trees, which, through the good taste of the inhabitants, were cut down no farther than was absolutely necessary to provide space for the erection of buildings. The country in the vicinity is characterized by a remarkable degree of fertility, and is fast becoming settled by tillers of the soil.

The work on the capitol building has been suspended, until an appropriation is made by Congress for its completion; and the structure, so far as it has gone, presents a dilapidated appearance, rather resembling the ruins of a once stately edifice, with its broken columns and heavy cornices scattered over the ground, than a Territorial capitol in course of erection.

The office of the Chief Executive is established in a building of very unpretending exterior, for the present. The United States Land Office is also established at Lecompton, where a heavy amount of business is done in land sales, and much money is annually paid in for Government lands.

The business of Lecompton is improving, and the population is increasing rapidly.
CITY OF LAWRENCE

Shortly after the passage of the "Kansas and Nebraska Bill" by Congress in the spring of 1854, a party of about twenty men, from New England and New York, came to the Territory, and halted at the present site of Lawrence, upon which they found the cabin of Mr. Stearns, a hardy frontiersman. They purchased his cabin, and laid out a town, which they called Wa-ka-ru-sa, but subsequently the name was changed to Lawrence. The site upon which the town is built is one of much beauty. It lies upon the south bank of the Kansas River, about 50 miles from its mouth. The Delaware Indian Reservation occupies the whole region of country for many miles on the opposite side of the river, and is unexcelled in beauty and fertility in the Territory.

Lawrence contains a population of upwards of two thousand, and has a good share of Western enterprise. The Eldridge House, a new and elegant building, created upon the site of the old Free State Hotel, which was destroyed during the political troubles in 1856, is the largest and most costly hotel in the territory, and is a monument of the energy and perseverance of the Eldridge Brothers, who are the proprietors, and who have done much to develop the resources of the portion of Kansas in which they reside.

There are many exciting incidents connected with the political history of Lawrence, all of which are familiar to the ear of every intelligent reader in the length and breadth of our land, and need not be here reported.