

KANSAS.

ESCAPE OF THIRTY-SIX FREE-STATE POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Should the present legal persecution continue, Kansas will soon be as celebrated for escapades as France was under the reign of the Emperor Napoleon. We have a perfect shoal of Baron Capets. We have a perfect shoal of Baron Capets. We have a perfect shoal of Baron Capets.

However refined the system of imprisonment may become in Kansas, the prison buildings are susceptible of improvement—that is, if the security of the prisoners is the desired object. By some means the prisoners got a bayonet, with which an operation had been going on for a day or two.

Two nights ago, at a given signal (a song from the prisoners in one of the cells), thirty-six of these prisoners left the cells, and made their escape without encountering any opposition. Nine prisoners were left in one of the cells, who either refused to escape, or who were sick and unable to flee from their sufferings and from the filth which was preying on their health and spirits.

This escapade has excited quite a furore among the Pro-Slavery Tecumsehites. They are loud in their associations of everybody who they suppose is to blame, and equally loud in their threats of recapture. This latter "motion for a change of venue," considerably lighten the duties of the Court at Tecumseh. True, the Grand Jury at the last Term of this Court, left quite a string of indictments against Free-State men, but the difficulty in these cases is, that most of the prisoners have yet to be caught.

Gov. Geary returned from Leavenworth to Leecompton on Saturday night. Hays, the murderer of Buffum, was arrested and is in prison by the Governor's orders, contrary to the proceedings of the Court.

It is stated that the difficulty between the Governor and Leecompte will take the shape of a suit against the Governor by Hays for false imprisonment, as this is the only way of making a case of Hays legally right. The rascality of the Pro-Slavery Courts must be reached in a different way.

NICARAGUA BAIL—LAND SALES AT LEAVENWORTH.

Although the Pro-Slavery Courts in this Territory have decided in most of the cases, that a Free-State man is not a bailable subject, yet it seems there are means by which escape from the Leecompton prisons is possible. In my last, I mentioned the case of Farly, who, although under indictment, was liberated by Col. Titus of the militia guard. It is now come to light that offers of liberation have been made to the prisoners, provided they will go to Nicaragua. Nor does this matter implicate the notorious Titus alone. By the evidence it is clear that Judge Leecompte is at least cognizant of the fact.

Col. Titus has got the Nicaragua fever. Why should he be willing to leave Kansas at the present stage of affairs can only be accounted for by the usual fickleness of such rowdy characters, or because some friend there has over-persuaded him to do so, or, more likely, because a better promise of money or plunder invites him in that quarter. Be it as it may, he has been employing himself sedulously for weeks past in inducing the men under

him, and also the prisoners, to go with him to Nicaragua. A portion of his men, at least one hundred out of three hundred, will go with him. The celebrated "Red Shirts" of Capt. Donaldson, who so distinguished themselves at the sack of Lawrence, will nearly all go. We will thus get rid of part of the ruffians; but after all, it is from Missouri that Kansas has most to fear.

Among the prisoners confined at Leecompton there was a Mr. Wm. Butler, of Coos County, New-Hampshire. He was one of the fifteen who were tried and acquitted on the Hickory-Point charge, and was immediately rearrested and assigned to prison. Since then the Grand Jury have found an indictment against him for murder in the first degree, on account of his supposed connection with some other military exploits.

Mr. Butler entered the prison, but on attempting to leave it, the sergeant stopped him, and would not let him pass. This officer, who, perhaps, had not the Nicaragua fever, and suspected that all was not right, proved rather stubborn. Lieut. Cole was sent for, but the messenger who went after him came back and reported that he could not find him. There was nothing for Mr. Butler to do but to go back to the prison that night. In the morning Lieut. Cole came down with a bottle of whisky, and was still rather tipsy. Mr. Butler appealed to

"Oh, yes," said Cole, "this man is among the discharged; I have a list of the names somewhere," fumbling among his pockets. "This man's name is—"
"Butler," suggested the bogus Nicaragua volunteer.
"Oh, yes—yes, that's it—Butler—it's all right;" and thus Mr. Butler made his escape from the prison of Leecompton.

Shortly after his departure the militia of Col. Titus were relieved from their duty as guards; the dragoons took their place, and the Pro-Slavery militia crossed the Kaw River and started for Leavenworth, where they were to be disbanded. That night ten of the Free-State prisoners made their escape from prison, and passed the guards. (There were only two dragoons on guard.) They have reached Lawrence. Indignant at the escape, Col. Titus (who was still in Leecompton at last accounts) made complaint against the dragoons and officers, asserting that they knew of the escape and connived at it. The two dragoons and the officer of the guard have been arrested.

Among the prisoners who escaped this last time is Captain Mitchell, of Topeka. The readers of THE TRIBUNE will remember that Capt. Mitchell was lawlessly arrested by a mob, in Weston, Mo., some weeks ago. He was carried to the city of Leavenworth, where he was kept by the ruffians for two weeks, and was finally sent to the prison at Leecompton, where he was thrust amongst the other prisoners. Up to that time there was no writ, nor anything on record against him. If there is now, he has never seen or heard of it. I have just seen him. His hands are horribly bruised and cut by the cruel treatment he received while in prison. About a week ago, Col. Titus and his militia, for some reason or other, undertook to court the prisoners. For this purpose they were formed in line. While forming the line, Col. Titus turned to Mitchell and said:

"Captain, fall into line."
"I did not know," replied Mitchell, "that there were any captains among us prisoners."

On this, Titus rudely seized him by the collar and dragged him into line, the attendant guards, with muskets, bayonets and sabers, being there to sustain him. Capt. Mitchell was indignant, and Col. Titus knows his opinion of him. Enraged, Titus undertook to inflict personal chastisement on the prisoner, when Mitchell seized him by the beard, and the heroic Mitchell was rapidly getting the worst of it when the guard interfered. Col. Titus immediately ordered the prisoner to be bound, when his hands were tied behind him with the cruel, cutting cords that had so bruised and mangled them. Thus secured, the gallant Titus approached him to strike him, when Mr. Hampton, who had charge of the convicts, and who appeared to have rather more manhood, interfered, and, stepping between them, told Titus that he must not strike that man. Thus prevented, Col. Titus vented his spleen against the bound prisoner in abuse, calling him all the opprobrious names his fancy could suggest, and threatening to gag, whip and shoot him.

"Col. Titus," said the calm and heroic Free-

State prisoner, "you may tie me and whip me, or kill me, for I am in your power; but you cannot make me beg as pitifully for mercy as you did in Lawrence."

In order to illustrate the different treatment of different kinds of prisoners, I will mention an incident that occurred a few days ago. The store-pipe in the prison having slipped down, the building took fire. Immediately the alarm was given, when all of the Pro-Slavery militia, who were in their quarters, at least two hundred and fifty at the time, rushed out with their arms, and surrounded the prison-yard, and threatened to shoot any prisoner who should leave it. Among the rest, Hays, the murderer of Buffum, who was, or ought to be, a prisoner, came, with a dragoon saber drawn and flourishing, and was vociferously threatening to cut any one down who should attempt to escape. Hays is the only Pro-Slavery man whom I have ever known to be retained prisoner in the Territory, and he is merely kept by the authority of Gov. Geary. His imprisonment is a mockery, as the above incident will show. He rooms with his guards, and drinks with them, and is only a prisoner in name.

The escapades recently have considerably lessened the number of prisoners. Beside the convicted, twenty-three in number, there are only six prisoners yet left in Leecompton to be tried. There are some nineteen more in Tecumseh. The bogus Sheriffs and Deputy-Marshals must be pretty active, or "Othello's" occupation" will soon be "gone."

There was some trouble at Leavenworth the day before yesterday. It originated between the Pro-Slavery men. Those who have claims have been allowed to purchase them at the valuation. One Pro-Slavery man endeavored to take advantage of this by purchasing several tracts which he pretended to have claims to. This business was arrested by his endeavoring to buy, in the same way, a claim belonging to another Pro-Slavery man. A violent dispute and quarrel ensued, when the agent adjourned the sale until the matter could be corrected. The sales were to be resumed this morning.

No attempt on the part of Leecompte has been made to resume the Court at Leecompton. Nothing of importance had transpired at Tecumseh.

REPLY TO THE ATTACK OF J. A. HARVEY ON THE KANSAS AID SOCIETY.

In another column we copy from The St. Louis Democrat of the 2d inst. a communication from J. A. Harvey, now of Kansas, but formerly of this city. Mr. H. was one of the company that started from Chicago for Kansas last June, and was turned back on the river by the Missourians. He left here as the commissary of the company. Afterward, while in Iowa, he was elected captain of the fragment that pushed through to Kansas; and upon the breaking out of difficulties there last Summer, he was chosen colonel of several small companies of Free-State men, and has retained that title ever since. Thus much as regards the biography of the "Colonel," and now a word in reply to his attack on the Aid Society.

At the very time Harvey was writing his complaints against that Society, his agent, Mr. Army, was on his way to Kansas to dispense a large amount of relief to the destitute and suffering, and when Harvey's statements were first seen by the Society, he was probably enjoying the aid sent to him, and is now, perhaps, regretting his hasty and ill-advised publication.

Every sensible person must know the difficulties the Society had to encounter in forwarding aid to the Free-State people of Kansas. The Missouri River was closed against them by the Black Democratic Ruffians. Neither provisions, clothing, nor emigrants could be sent by the natural as well as the national highway to the Territory. The tolls, the tedious, expensive land route across Iowa and Nebraska was the only way left by which the Committee could forward succor. And even on this route their trains were stopped and captured by United States Dragoons and Flying Artillery, and dogged by the freebooters led on by Stringfellow, Titus and Atchison, with robbery and murder as their objects. Every train was obliged to run the gauntlet between the warriors of Pierce and the assassins of Atchison. Some managed to reach their destination by means of stratagem, forced marching, and long detours from the direct road, without being captured by the dragoons or having to fight the "Law and Murder" Democrats.

The land march from Iowa City to Topeka was about four hundred miles; much of this distance was a wilderness, where no human habitations were to be found. There were no bridges over the streams, nor roads across swamp or plain. The provisions for the emigrants had to be wagoned along for hundreds of miles. The expense and tardiness, the peril and hardship to be met and overcome may be conceived; yet, in despite of these obstacles, the Committee, in the course of two months, actually planted in Kansas 1,000 able bodied immigrants—nineteen of every twenty of whom are there to-day, and will remain permanently in the Territory. But this was not all. A very large amount of want among the old settlers was relieved. Means of self-defense were furnished to the Free-State residents as well as to the new immigrants, by which they were enabled to make so gallant and stubborn a defense of their rights against the Ruffian hordes who invaded them with the determined purpose of "wiping out," to use their own language, "the last Free-State man in Kansas." Nothing prevented the utter extermination of the Free-State men, and the loss of the cause of Freedom in that Territory, but the persevering and heroic efforts of that same maligned and libeled Aid Society. A "speculating operation" forsooth! The truth is, there is not a member of the Aid Committee, who, in addition to great loss of valuable time, and the deepest anxiety of mind, but is out of pocket hundreds of dollars—some of them thousands, in addition to their first subscriptions, for the succor and relief of the struggling Free State people. There has been no favoritism in the distribution of aid—no partiality for one portion of the settlers over another. To relieve those most in need first, and to help all requiring assistance, have been the rule and intent of the Committee. In whatever the Committee fell short of its aim, must be ascribed, entirely, to the inadequacy of the means at command, and to the obstacles interposed by lawless ruffians to the transmission of relief by the natural channels of communication with Kansas, and not to negligence, "speculation," or faithlessness, as alleged by Harvey & Co.

As soon as the Missouri river became navigable for Free-State men, the Aid Committee lost not a day in availing itself of that channel of communication to pour in relief to the settlers. Clothing and provisions, groceries and other necessities have been disbursed with a liberal hand. The amount of assistance shipped by the river and distributed over the Territory within the past six weeks has been so large that, with what remains to be sent, very little danger of extreme destitution need be apprehended, and no Free-State man or family will be obliged to leave the Territory this Winter, in consequence of the policy of the Committee to give money to the emigrants miscellaneous, as that method of relief is subject to great abuse and "speculation," not on the part of the Committee, but of the recipients. Money would be wasted and absorbed in a thousand ways without accomplishing the purpose for which it was given. Aid in the more tangible form of bread and raiment was conceived to be more efficient and economical than in the subtle shape of gold, for the relief of actual destitution. But many of those who composed the Chicago Company thought differently. They have been importunate and impatient to feel the sensation of coin in their palms instead of bacon in their mouths or coats on their backs. This, perhaps, is human nature, but of that sort not in the power of the Committee to gratify.

And now a word in relation to the Chicago Company, and the immediate charges alleged against the Committee by Col. Harvey and his associates. A Committee was appointed by a public meeting of the citizens of Chicago, last June, to collect money and send emigrants to succor the sorely-pressed Free-State men in Kansas. It made an engagement with a company of seventy-five able-bodied men, who promptly volunteered on the following conditions:

- 1. The emigrants agreed to go to Kansas in good faith and with a fixed purpose to become bona fide and permanent settlers.
- 2. Upon arriving there they pledged themselves to assert no man's rights, but to defend their own against wanton aggression; to submit to United States authority; to resist or violate no valid law; and to behave themselves as good citizens in every respect.
- 3. To settle contiguously to each other, and preempt claims to land.
- 4. To obtain employment with as little delay as possible, and to become self-sustaining as quickly as they could.

On the part of the Committee, it engaged to pay their passage from Chicago to Kansas; to furnish them an outfit consisting of a large quantity of provisions, blankets for all the men, efficient weapons for self-defense, and plain food, for one year; but each man to supply himself so far as he could, and not to call on the Committee unless he was in actual need. The object of the Committee was not to offer a bounty or bribe to any man, but merely to assist those desirous of emigrating thither who did not possess enough private means of their own, and to aid them after getting there until they could become self-supporting.

The sum of \$1,000 in cash was sent along in the hands of an agent, to pay their expenses in getting from Leavenworth to their place of settlement. After reaching Lexington they were stopped by the Missourians and disarmed; when they got to Leavenworth they were sent back, down the river—losing their tents, and actually committed the folly of paying to the captain of the steambot the \$1,000 in the hands of their agent, for taking them back as prisoners to Alton!

It may be imagined that the Committee was not very favorably impressed with this last piece of financing. However, passing that over, the Committee furnished them the means of traveling from Alton to Iowa City, where they went into camp for some weeks preparatory to making the overland trip. While in camp, many of the men abandoned the Company, and scattered off each for himself. In the mean while, before the Company began its march through Iowa and Nebraska, the Chicago Committee was superseded by the National Kansas Committee, and resigned, surrendering its funds and functions to that Committee. The Chicago emigrants, in camp at Iowa City, were duly apprised of these changes, and moved forward under the auspices of the National Aid Society. There was no special agreement made with them. They took their chances for better or worse, with all other emigrants. They were furnished with teams to transport them, provisions to sustain them, and arms to defend them; and all was done for them that lay in the power of the Committee. The amount of expenditure from first to last, on account of the Chicago Company, considerably exceeds the original estimates for a much larger number of men, and is several times greater than the sum expended for the benefit of any subsequent emigrants of equal numbers.

The railing accusations, the charges of malfeasance, of broken pledges, of favoritism, loosely and inconsiderately thrust forth against those Committees by Harvey and others, have no foundation in truth whatever, and are the products of a malicious or a misled imagination.

In conclusion, it may be proper to state that we write from a personal knowledge of the facts, and not at the dictation, suggestion or by the advice of the Aid Committee—having not even consulted with them on the subject. Nor should we give those incoherent and false allegations so lengthy a review, but because of the respectability of the medium through which they first received publicity.

GOV. REEDER ON THE CONDITION OF KANSAS.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 5, 1856.
HON. M. F. CONWAY.—Dear Sir: I am truly gratified at the legislative appropriation for Kansas which has been made by the State of Vermont, and I sincerely hope that the example may be generally followed by our friends in other States. If the men who have so long carried on this struggle upon the soil of Kansas for free labor and the rights of the North are to be sustained—if Kansas and the regions beyond are to be saved from the curse of Slavery extension, the example must be imitated. The cause of Free Kansas has been for the last two years my sole occupation, and there is probably no view of the case which I have not diligently and anxiously considered. Kansas if left to its natural course under the present rule of Missouri, will as certainly become a Slave State as that an object will drift down the current; and that, too, although there is a large majority of Free-State citizens; for the government is not that of a majority, but of a minority perpetuating its own rule, and protected by a league with the people of Missouri. From this state of things the majority have no immediate escape except by revolution, which the General Government prevents, and in which the Free-State men would have to conquer not only the usurping minority who now govern them, but also their Missouri allies and protectors. The only remaining remedy is to sustain those already on the soil, and fill up the Territory with new settlers, until they shall outnumber the thousands of men from Missouri who invariably vote at our elections, by the connivance of those who hold and control them, and under cover of the infamous election-law enacted for that very object. Nothing will do this, and at the same time protect our present population from the relentless policy of impoverishment, persecution, and extermination pursued, as you know, in every conceivable form heretofore (and destined to be carried hereafter, as far as possible, into the operations of the land-office) except a most vigorous and continuous effort, backed by a liberal supply of funds. Moneys raised by individual effort must be limited in amount, and require immense labor and no small expense to collect. The field has already been largely gone over and considerably exhausted. Without legislative aid, it is highly probable that we cannot accomplish much beyond what we have already done. Why, then, should not Northern legislators aid the enterprise? The preservation of those vast regions for the absolute necessities of our surplus and emigrating labor, which cannot dispense with them, except to the great injury of the Northern States, will, in a pecuniary point of view alone, make such appropriations a wise investment. To this might be added the advantages of trade and commerce and railroad enterprise which would flow from the rapid filling up of that country to the Pacific Ocean with a Northern people, and which in the necessity of the case must be drawn to the Atlantic through the Northern States, dropping its riches along the route. Dedicate it to slavery and the wasting labor of the negro, and for all the benefit to be derived to the North it might as well be a sandy desert. I will not discuss the considerations of patriotism and humanity and civilization, for these are too obvious and too extensive for this letter. I repeat then, what objection can be raised against the action of a State Legislature? I can see none which would sustain my vote for an instant, and I trust I would be one of the last men to advise any one to cast a legislative vote which I would hesitate to cast myself. The object is not one which contemplates the least interference with the function of the Federal Government, but is simply a donation of money to relieve the necessities of late fellow citizens now settled in the Territory, and to aid men to emigrate and settle there, with a view to advance the power and glory of our common country—to promote incidentally, the progress, and the welfare of every Northern State, and at the same time legally and peacefully, by unobjectionable means, to counteract the vile despotism and oppression which is striving by force and fraud to stay and pervert the natural course and consequences of our country's institutions. It is too plain for argument that such appropriations would violate no provision of the Federal Constitution, no provision of any State Constitution, and no Federal State or Territorial law; and not only this, but neither the General Government nor the Territorial Government, nor a State Government have the power to enact any valid law to prevent any other State or any individuals from extending such relief if they choose to do so. In a word, unless there is something in the constitution of the donating State, limiting the power of the Legislature over the moneys of the State, this question of State appropriations for Kansas is as mere a question of expediency as would be an appropriation to a lame, ravaged or plague stricken city or district either in or out of the State bounds; and while it will violate no constitutional or legal provision, is called for by all the considerations of moral obligation and expediency which usually influence good and wise and patriotic men. It will be like bread cast upon the waters and seed sown in good soil.

Allow me to express my great gratification that you personally are engaged in this work. Your high ability, your personal zeal and energy, your sacrifices for Kansas, and the estimation in which you are held by our people, testified by your election to the Bench of the Supreme Court under the State Constitution, as well as the fact that you are a Kansas emigrant from a Slave State, all indicate you as the proper man to take this matter in charge.

Very truly yours,
A. H. REEDER.

COLLISION ON THE NEW-YORK AND HARLEM RAILROAD.

The through train on the Harlem Railroad which left this city on Tuesday night, when about forty-five miles this side of Albany, came in collision with the down freight train, throwing the engine, baggage and one passenger car down an embankment, and making a complete wreck of the engine of the freight train. The most remarkable fact connected with the accident is that no one was killed, and no serious bodily injuries were sustained by any one. Even the engineer, a few minutes after the collision, emerged from the ruins of his engine unhurt. A number of seats in the second car were torn from their fastenings and many of the passengers were more or less bruised. The second-class passengers were rescued from a disagreeable confinement through a hole in the side of the car. An extra train arriving conveyed the passengers to Albany early on Wednesday morning.