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Lawrence, N. J. Jan'y 12th 1859

My Dear Sir;

We have had an exciting time here in the Legislature to-day but I think the Anti-Montgomery men will succeed in their measures, and I also think that when they find they will get better that they will get some of their own notions put into the reports and then yield opposition and vote pretty unanimously in favor of some Territorial measure looking to the suppression of the troubles in Sum & Bourbon Counties.

Had the Sec. of War not issued orders for the return of the U. S. Troops we should have made a general clearing out of that country in a short time. The accounts from that country are really distressing and I have no faith in our Marshal that he will do any thing useful. I am in hourly expectation of hearing from him, but cannot bet on him with any certainty. If it was not for the desolation sweeping over those counties I could very well enjoy the fight going on in the Legislature. Had my opposition been prosecuted with vigor they could not raised a party here to sustain Montgomery, but the withdrawal of the Troops gave life and vigor ^{to} the rebels and they

are now moving every possible nerve to make a rally. But I think we will beat them in the end, but they must do it in their own language. Well, language does not amount to much, if they come out at the right end, at last. They have tried every thing that they thought would change the issue, even to getting, or trying to get Jim Lane, your old Brig. Genl. to force me into noticing him, by opening a correspondence &c. &c. You will see the result. My letter to him, has silenced that gun, and it is a dead dog to-day.

The order to withdraw the troops was a great mistake, but as I had prepared the way to throw the responsibility off upon the Legislature of settling these difficulties, I am not disposed to complain, for it is impossible for these things to be understood at Washington as they really exist here. But I assure you had we ^{had} time to wipe Montgomery and Brown out, before the recall of the troops, there would have been a throwing up of hats in this Territory, if not all over the Union, that would have proved silenced all their sympathizers, wherever found. My plans were so perfect and so secret that the whole thing would have been over before a word could have been sent up.

I wrote Marshal Fair, informing him of the decision at Washington. But he put off towards Paolo, without ever sending me a word or line in reply. I sent with him 60 stand of Territorial arms, 2 plants of ammunition, to arm his police