

1855

Leavenworth City. Mo. Dec 13th

Thos Parrott Esqr Dayton O

Dear Father Yours of the 29th

ultimo & also Edw. Ir^o in my return from Lawrence yesterday. We have been in a state of war, for the last ten days. I have not time now to give you a history of the particular difficulty, which brought about an appeal to arms. It is sufficient at present to say that a determination had long existed in Missouri to drive the free state settlers out of Kansas & the present state of things has been designedly brought about to that end.

I raised a company here & went to the assistance of Lawrence. I was at a subsequent priou Commissioned as a Lt Col in the first Regiment. We had about one thousand troops in Lawrence, with various munitions of war, fts - batteries - cannon &c & would have made it a bloody battle, if an attack had been made, though doubtless the Missourians would, through an overwhelming numerical force have overcome us at last. On last Saturday I was taken prisoner by a detach =

= ment of Missourians from their camp
on the Wakarusa. They were about 300
in number & my party - sent out to
convoy a load of powder into town -
did not number twenty. We were obliged
to surrender. They marched us 15 miles
to their camp on the Wakarusa
where they had 1000 men, of the most
desperate character, under the lead of
Atchison. At first I thought I should
certainly be hung, but having got out in
swimming my horse over Kansas river
it seemed to me through that cold &
horrible night that every minute would
be my last, through the halter or through
the effects of the cold. On Sunday a
treaty of peace was made & I received
a passport to Lawrence immediately.
The adjustment was highly honorable to
our cause & upon the other hand very
unpalatable to Missouri. Thus has ended
this first array of hostile armies in Kansas.
I would have written to you during the
disturbance, but feared the solicitude
it might create. I had done up a
package directed to you in case anything
should have happened to me, & placed it