

Leavenworth K. T. Dec 13th/55
Edwin A. Parrott Dayton. O

Dear Ed. Your

favor of the 29th inst was received whilst
absent at the war, through a mesen-
-ger. On the breaking out of the difficulty
, which was not ^{un}expected, but which
on the other hand was premeditated —
indeed I knew that the plan was con-
-cocted at the law & order meeting in
Leavenworth, for immediately thereafter
wagon loads of bread were sent into
Stehison & several pieces of cannon to
Kickapoo & small arms at other places
to await the signature, which was
intended to be made. I left for Lawrence
on Saturday night the first of Dec at
10 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock & reached there at 12 of the
next day, having been fourteen hours
in the saddle. On arriving there I found
that there was about 500 Missourians
with several pieces of artillery, encamped
on the Wakarusa about five miles
south of Lawrence. At Le Compton on the
north about 300 & at Douglass 5 miles
west of Lawrence 250.

To meet these forces we had in Lawrence
about 500 men, with superior arms - Pieces
of Cannon & four Tranches or rifle batteries thrown
up in the streets. All parties had out
scouting parties as well as picket guards
at night. In fact the picket guard of the
Wakarusa came so close to the
Lawrence guard as frequently to challenge
each other & sometimes to exchange shots.
In one of these encounters Barber - a Free
State man - was shot, ^{dead} on Thursday night.
Our reinforcements came in slowly - those
of the Missourians rapidly. Stringfellow & Atchison
were the real leaders of the Missouri forces
although Sherman had them enrolled as the
Militia. Whilst trying to get a load of powder
& lead into the town on Saturday evening
& being separated from my men I was
taken prisoner by a large party of the
Missourians from the Wakarusa. They marched
me 15 miles to Head Quarters, skimming
the Kansas river in our course & placed
me under guard. The camp presented a
scene much like what I imagine
Jannetorium to be. The wind blew a perfect
gale & the camp fires made the woods look
like a vast sea of flame & smoke.

- Long lines of wagons - loaded with provisions
& ammunition - great stacks of arms - U.S.
sabres & guns (they had robbed the U.S. Arsenal
at Lexington or Liberty rather), piles of
Shell & canisters of shot, lying by the large
6 & 12 ~~the~~ ^{pounders} pieces of brass artillery - from the
arsenal at Liberty - the marching & counter-
marching of armed men, ulciny guard &
scouting parties, the deep & bitter execration
of this hellish crew against "the d-d
abolitionists," all this, with my notorious
hostility to their organization, was calculated
to make me feel very uncertain of my
fate. About 12 o'clock P.M. however I was removed
from the camp, to the General's Head Quarters
& had an interview with Shannon. I
learned from him that an adjustment
of the difficulty could be had in the morning.
The night was one of great distress to me lying
in the ground with my clothing frozen
to me & not knowing what moment some
desperado would raid me to my account.
Next day articles were arranged. But that
was not found sufficient. Shannon had
agreed to a peace but the Missouri troops
would not. All Sunday morning the camp was
tossed with inflammatory stump speeches.