

1856

Lawrence City, Ky. Sunday May 15th
 Dear Ed. I wrote you a note in
 great haste yesterday, that I
 would send it by the steamer.
 That is the quickest way, at present.
 We have accounts from Lawrence
 up to mid-night last night.
 The border ruffians are sure of
 their prey this time. The Lawrence
 party are defeated. Our advice
 are that the people, by the flight
 of Robinson & Reader are discouraged
 , discouraged & wedone. They are
 now in this dilemma. Reader having
 understood the process of a U.S. officer
 , that functionary issued his pro-
 =clamation, under which the Buford
 party & Missouri forces, amounting to
 over 2000 men, with artillery, are
 assembled on the ground. The
 U.S. Marshall demands an unconditional
 =al surrender of the town. To resist
 him & his force, is to resist a
 officer of the U.S. to submit is to go
 to certain destruction. What are
 they to do?

In the mean time fate has been
against them. Yesterday, we learn
that a load of rifles - 75 - was
seized by the B.R.s, at Franklin
5 miles only from Lawrence. Some
pieces of cannon have also fallen
into their hands. Robinson, Brown
of the "Herald" & Miller of the "Free State"
are certainly prisoners, & the safety of
Reeder is problematical, so far as
I can learn. As to the flight of Robinson
& Reeder - the former seems to have
been counseled to leave by his friends
& left with the understanding, that
Reeder should the next day be arrested
on the attachment. This seems to have
been the advice of the Committee
& the fair understanding of the
Community. That Reeder did not live
up to it, is without doubt to be
ascribed to his fears. It might be
said, however, that had he been
arrested there is but little doubt
that he would have been instantly
hung. There was this little & it was
thought best that he should rely upon
that, in order at once to save the people.

- of Lawrence. It was asking a poor
deal of man, but as Reader had
brought on the issue, & had afterwards
agreed, to be arrested, I think he
ought to have submitted. If they catch
him now they will assuredly take
his life sans ceremony. As to Rob-
-inson, Shannon sent a deputy
Marshall to bring him from Minnie.
It is not likely that he will ever
see his friends again. You will
wonder that Lawrence is no longer
at this time. In fact they do not
muster over 200 armed men, the
reason is plain. The siege of Dec
exhausted the resources of the
people & they are not able to
maintain troops from the country.
The firm of Hutchins & Co, alone
paid out \$8000. I am told by a brother
of the merchant. Besides that the
farmers are busy planting & the
Lawrenceites have cried "wolf" so
often that they are loath to go
before a disturbance begins. Arms
were also taken away to the country
& not returned.