HEADQUARTERS, SHAWNEE MISSION,
Kansas Territory, November 27, 1855.

SIR: Reliable information has reached me that an armed military force is now in Lawrence and that vicinity, in open rebellion against the laws of this territory, and that they have determined that no process in the hands of the sheriff of that county shall be executed. I have received a letter from S. J. Jones, sheriff of Douglas county, informing me that he had arrested a man under a warrant placed in his hands, and while conveying him to Lecompton he was met by an armed force of some forty men, and that the prisoner was taken out of his custody, and open defiance bid to the law. I am also duly advised that an armed band of men have burnt a number of houses, destroyed personal property, and turned whole families out of doors in Douglas county. Warrants will be issued against those men, and placed in the hands of the sheriff of Douglas county for execution. He has written to me, demanding three thousand men to aid him in the execution of the process of the law and the preservation of peace.

You are, therefore, hereby ordered to collect together as large a force as you can in your division, and repair without delay to Lecompton, and report yourself to S. J. Jones, the sheriff of Douglas county, together with the number of your forces, and render to him all the aid and assistance in your power, if required in the execution of any legal process in his hands. The forces under your command are to be used for the sole purpose of aiding the sheriff in executing the law, and for no other purpose.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

WILSON SHANNON.

Major General WILLIAM P. RICHARDSON.

HEADQUARTERS, SHAWNEE MISSION,
Kansas Territory, November 27, 1855.

SIR: I am this moment advised, by letter from S. J. Jones, sheriff of Douglas county, that while conveying a prisoner to Lecompton, whom he has arrested by virtue of a peace warrant, he was met by a band of armed men, who took said prisoner forcibly out of his possession, and bid defiance to the execution of all law in this Territory. He has demanded of me three thousand men to aid him in the execution of the legal process in his hands. As the southern division of the militia of this Territory is not organized, I can only request you to collect together as large a force as you can, and at as early a day as practicable report yourself, with the forces you may raise, to S. J. Jones, sheriff of Douglas county, and to give him every assistance in your power, in the execution of the legal process in his hands. Whatever forces you may bring to his aid are to be used for the sole purpose of aiding the said sheriff in the execution of the law, and no