

prisoners from the hands of officers. They threaten to rescue others. They are protecting men who have broken custody, and in every sense they are traitors, and giving aid and comfort to traitors.

In haste, your friend and obedient servant,

GEORGE W. CLARKE.

Governor WILSON SHANNON,
Shawnee Mission.

N. B. I commend my family to your protection.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

Shawnee Mission, K. T., December 11, 1855.

SIR: In my dispatch to you of the 28th ultimo, I advised you of the threatened difficulties in relation to the execution of the laws of this Territory in Douglas county. The excitement which then existed continued to increase, owing to the aggravated reports from Lawrence and that vicinity in relation to the military preparations that were being made to attack the sheriff and resist the execution of the laws. The excitement increased and spread, not only throughout this whole Territory, but was worked up to the utmost point of intensity in the whole of the upper portion of Missouri. Armed men were seen rushing from all quarters towards Lawrence, some to defend the place, and others to demolish it. The orders I had issued to Major General Richardson and General Strickler had brought to the sheriff of Douglas county a very inadequate force for his protection, when compared with the forces in the town of Lawrence. Indeed, the militia of the Territory being wholly unorganized, no forces could be obtained except those who voluntarily tendered their aid to the sheriff, or to Generals Richardson and Strickler. The whole force in the Territory thus obtained did not amount to more than three or four hundred men, badly armed, and wholly unprepared to resist the forces in Lawrence, which amounted, at that time, to some six hundred men; all remarkably well armed with Sharp's rifles and other weapons. These facts becoming known across the line, in the State of Missouri, large numbers of men from that State, in irregular bodies, rushed to the county of Douglas, and many of them enrolled themselves in the sheriff's posse. In this state of affairs, I saw no way of avoiding a deadly conflict but to obtain the use of the United States forces at Fort Leavenworth, and with that view I addressed you a telegraphic dispatch, and received on the 5th instant your very prompt and satisfactory reply of the 4th instant, a copy of which I immediately transmitted, by special dispatch, to Colonel Sumner, with the request that he would accompany me with his command to the scene of difficulty. In reply, I was informed he would immediately do so, having no doubt that in due time proper instructions would be received from the War Department. Information, however, which I received from both parties convinced me that my presence was necessary to avoid a conflict, and without waiting for Colonel Sumner, I repaired to the seat