

properly called on, to aid in the arrest of any one charged with their violation, and aid and assist in the preservation of the peace and good order of society; while, on my part, I gave them every assurance in my power that they should be protected in all their rights and defended against any unlawful aggressions. It is proper I should say that they claimed that a large majority of them had always held and inculcated the same views. The assurances I received entirely satisfied me that no one against whom a writ had issued was then in Lawrence; that they had all fled, and that they were harboring, concealing, or defending no one against whom a writ had been issued, and that hereafter there would be no combined effort made to prevent the service of any process in the county of Douglas. This was entirely satisfactory and all that had been desired. But to satisfy the forces that surrounded Lawrence so that they could be induced to retire in order was the great difficulty to be overcome. To issue an order to the sheriff to disband his *posse*, and to Generals Richardson and Strickler to disband their forces, would have been to let loose this large body of men, who would have been left without control to follow the impulse of their feelings, which evidently was to attack and disarm the people of Lawrence. Early on the morning of the 8th, through the influence of some leading men, I procured thirteen of the leading captains in the Wakarusa camp to be appointed a committee to confer with a committee from the Lawrence camp, to meet at Franklin, midway between the two hostile forces. I proceeded to the Lawrence camp and returned to Franklin in the evening with the committee, where the proposed interview took place. This interview, which lasted for some time, resulted in producing a better state of feeling, and the committee from the Wakarusa camp were satisfied to retire without doing anything more, and so reported to the army. This, with the active exertions of myself and others, produced a better feeling among the men, and by daylight on the morning of the 9th I felt I could with safety order the forces to disband, and accordingly done so. They retired in order and refrained from any act of violence, but it was evident there was a silent dissatisfaction at the course I had taken. But I felt conscious I was right, and that my course would be sanctioned alike by the dictates of humanity and sound policy. I returned to Lawrence on the 9th and remained until the morning of the 10th, when, everything being quiet and safe, I returned to this place. Everything is quiet now, but it is my duty to say to you frankly that I have forebodings as to the future. The militia or volunteer corps cannot be relied on to preserve the peace in these civil party contests, or where partisans are concerned. A call on the militia will generally only bring in conflict the two parties. I am satisfied that the only forces that can be used in this Territory in enforcing the laws or preserving the peace are those of the United States, and with this view I would suggest that the executive of this Territory be authorized to call on the forces of the United States when in his judgment the public peace and tranquillity or the execution of the laws may require their assistance. Should there be an outbreak it will most probably be sudden, and before orders can be obtained from Washington the crisis will have passed. I send you herewith