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DEFENCE OF KANSAS.

By Henry Ward Beecher.

A battle is to be fought. If we are wise, it will be bloodless. If we listen to the pusillanimous counsels of men who have never shown one throb of sympathy for Liberty, we shall have blood to the horses' bridles. If we are firm and prompt to obvious duty, if we stand by the men of Kansas, and give them all the help that they need, the flame of war will be quenched before it bursts forth, and both they of the West, and we of the East, shall, after some angry mutterings, rest down in peace. But if our ears are poisoned by the advice of men who never rebuke violence on the side of power, and never fail to inveigh against the self-defence of wronged Liberty, we shall invite aggression and civil war. And let us know assuredly that civil war will not burst forth in Kansas without spreading. Now, if bold wisdom prevails, the conflict will be settled afar off, in Kansas, and without blows or blood. But timidity and indifference will bring down blows there, which will not only echo in our houses, hitherward, but will, by and by, lay the foundation for an armed struggle between the whole North and the South. Shall we let the spark kindle? or shall we quench it now? But, that intelligent citizens may the better judge, let the facts of this case be reviewed.

At the adoption of our Constitution, a system of Slavery, thought to be then declining, and that would be ejected by the *vis medicatrix* of the spirit of Liberty among the people and in their institutions, received unexpected vigor and growth from various commercial and political reasons; and from being a mere peccant humor in the blood, it has well nigh come to be the blood itself of this great Government! So that, with an outward form of Freedom, with laws and institutions bearing the civil aspect of Liberty, the veins of this Government are filled with black blood, and the heart and every artery beat with the fatal current of Slavery.

In 1819, Slavery demanded a portion of free territory. It was refused. The fierce battle that followed was not fought