

Quindaro Chindowan, December 19, 1857: p.1

Kansas and Civil War

Transcriptions are presented without changes except to improve readability.

Like the half subdued fire upon a western prairie, which is rekindled into a marching conflagration by the first breath of an opposing wind, so it would seem the Kansas excitements, renewed by the proslavery party, are again to sweep over the land with redoubled fury. The alledged pacification of that Territory is in no wise complete. The trampling down of civil rights, the parading of dragoons back and forth, the indictments for treason, conjoined to the dispersing of peaceable assemblies, have not had the effect so sanguinely hoped for by the Administration at Washington. There was a spark of manly independence left in the people there, that no executive tyranny could extinguish, and it has beamed forth into an indignant rejection of the usurpers at the last election, and rises now into a still more portentous repudiation of the work of the so-called Constitutional Convention. The men of Kansas scorn to have such an instrument yoked upon their necks, even though bidden to submit by the "powers that be." Memories of the revolutionary struggle leap to their hearts when they contemplate the attempt to force slavery upon them without consulting their will. They are American citizens, they know their rights, and they will maintain them. If the government shall succeed in its last measure; if congress shall unite with the President in accepting the constitution; if a State government with foreign rulers, and based upon principles odious to the great body of the citizens, shall be put in operation in Kansas, it requires no prophetic vision to foresee that blood will flow like water - that border ruffianism will be retaliated upon with harsh vengeance - and that a federal army will never, never reach so far as the already insurgent Territory of Utah. The responsibility, too of invoking such a dread remedy, will not rest with the free people of Kansas. They had settled the question of slavery most emphatically for themselves, but a few months ago, by an overwhelming vote against its establishment; yet, no sooner was the appeal determined, than the minions of the government, incited by the ultra slavery zealots of Carolina and Mississippi, opened a new the agitation, reconstituted themselves a convention, and seek now, by congressional intervention, to compel slavery there in defiance of popular sovereignty. When this great controversy began, none were so vehement as these same executive janissaries, and their allies, north as well as south, in proclaiming that Congress had no power to legislate for Territories, and that the people alone had the right to decide upon their domestic institutions. Now, they forswear their principles, and refuse to submit the work of their hands to the people, call upon Congress to declare it the final Organic Law. In fact, they go father than this. Heretofore, whilst there have been differences of opinion, in regard to the power of congress over the *Territories*, there have been none in regard to its incapacity to mould the institutions of a *State*. All men of all parties agreed that, in forming a State Constitution, the people had all power; Congress no power, except to assure it a republican character. Now, however, the slavery propagandists decline to let the people have a voice in framing the fundamental act of their State

Government, and appeal to Washington for a federal sanction for their fraud, and a federal army to compel obedience thereto. Upon the heads, then, of the usurpers, who have violated citizen rights - who have proved recreant to their own professed creed - who have re-opened a matter decisively pronounced upon by the people, and who have sought to establish a slave tyranny by direct congressional intervention must rest all disastrous results that may ensue. If blood shall flow from civil war, their hands will be red with the responsibility of carnage. But whatever befalls, they may not take comfort from fancied success. Kansas will never be lost to freedom. Rest assured of that.--*St. Louis (Mo.) Democrat*