

Lieutenant of the Chicago company. My father is a military officer, and I had learned the discipline under him.

At one time during the company's stay at Lawrence, assistance was called for from the people on Little Stranger creek, toward Leavenworth. In this campaign, we took between thirty and forty horses and mules, and surprised and took a company of Carolinians who were on their way to reinforce a company of Pro-Slavery men at Atchison. We immediately released them, and returned on our horses to Lawrence. Two nights we ambushed in the woods, about 100 in number. Nothing of importance, however, occurred at either time, excepting a heavy thunder-shower, when we managed by rolling our guns up in our blankets to keep them dry.

We had not returned from this expedition long enough to become rested, before we were summoned to march to Hickory Point. We were successful in our mission, until our return, when we were all surprised, and were taken prisoners by United States troops to Leecompton. After being detained there about a week, I with some others passed the guard, and made our way to Lawrence.

Soon after I escaped, a militia company was formed for its protection, which I joined, and was elected orderly sergeant. This officer receives for his services \$20 per month. My time is now expired, and I intend settling on a claim. I have no means, except as I draw for my services (two months) in the militia. During the summer and fall I was obliged to expend what means I brought with me for the necessaries of life, such as food, clothing, etc. I am now destitute of clothing, bedding, etc., suitable for the winter. I am determined, however, to stay in Kansas and fulfill the object of my coming, which is to assist, if possible, to MAKE KANSAS A FREE STATE.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS TERRITORY, Dec. 6, 1856.

LETTER OF JAMES MONTGOMERY.*

MOUND CITY, LINN CO., KAS., May 8, 1861.

GEO. L. STEARNS, Esq., † *Medford, near Boston:*

DEAR SIR: Your favor, dated April 22, came to hand by yesterday's mail, and the duplicate, to care of G. W. Collamore, came with it.

Without designing to flatter, I must be allowed to say that you have shown yourself a friend in need. We are in a perilous position here, and have not ammunition enough to make a respectable fight. I have organized a regiment, and hope soon to increase it to a brigade. I have accepted a position on the Governor's staff, with the rank of colonel, with the understanding that I am to be a member of the war council, and that my position on the staff shall not interfere with any other command which the people may give me. I have just received a letter from Leavenworth companies, proposing to cooperate with us, and "go in for the war."

I think our true policy, for the present at least, is to defend our own doors. The Missourians have had a strong force along the line of Linn and Bourbon for several months, and they have increased it recently.

*From the Hyatt manuscripts.

† Wilder's Annals, page 461, under date of April 17, 1867, has this entry: "Death, in New York, of George L. Stearns, the early friend of Kansas and John Brown." When the noble and self-sacrificing band of men and women who befriended Kansas, and through Kansas the cause of human liberty, shall have just tribute paid them, none will be found more deserving of such tribute than George L. Stearns, of Medford, Massachusetts. Elsewhere in this report reference has been made to the great work done for Kansas by him and his noble wife in 1856. These two were the constant and unflinching friends of John Brown and Montgomery, and men of their class, and none did so much as they to furnish the means by which these devoted men carried on their warfare against slavery, and for the protection of the settlers of Kansas.—F. G. A.

They have also been trying to stir up the Indians on our border, and in this they have been aided by the agent for the Osages. Four Lodge, a chief of the Osages, is anxious for mischief; but the Little Bear gives the Missourians no countenance. He seized their emissaries, and telling them they "talked bad talk to Indian," tied them with ropes to the horns of his saddles and dragged them out of the country. The Union men near us have determined to stand their ground, and have called on us to assist them.

If we have to fight, we will carry the war out of Kansas. We have an artillery company in our town, officered by men who served in the Mexican war. I wrote you asking for those two small breech-loading guns in Lawrence. I hope you will not refuse us. They have no carriages, but we could fit them up here. I would also like to have leave to rifle them and sight them accurately. We have a gunsmith here who, I am confident, could put them in good order. In haste,

Yours,

J. MONTGOMERY.