

From Daniel Woodson to Lt. Col. Philip St. George Cooke

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(No[.] 4)

Lecompton, K. Territory

Executive Office,

Sept. 1, 1856.

Lt. Col. P. St. George Cooke,

Commanding U.S. Dragoons,

Near Lecompton:

The Marshal of the Territory [having?] officially reported to this office, that the "ordinary course of judicial proceedings and the powers vested in him as United States Marshal, are wholly inadequate for the suppression of the insurrectionary combinations now known to exist through the whole extent of the Territory," it becomes my duty [*text stricken through*] as the Acting Executive [*text stricken through*] to make a requisition upon you for your entire command or such portion of it as may in your judgement be consistently detached from their ordinary duty, to aid me in [*text stricken through*] suppressing these insurrectionary combinations and invasive aggressors against the organized Government of the Territory of Kansas.

Your command or such part of it as you may deem necessary will therefore proceed at the earliest moment to invest the Town of Topeka, disarm all the insurrectionists or aggressive invaders against the organized Government of the Territory to be found at or near that point--level [*text stricken through*] to the ground all their breastworks, forts or fortifi[cations,] keep the head men or leaders in close confinement and all [*text stricken through*] persons found in arms against the Government as prisoners, subject to the order of the Marshal of the Territory.

[*text stricken through*] It is [*text stricken through*] very desirable to intercept the invaders on the road known as "Lane's Trail" leading from the Nebraska line to Topeka, if therefore, your force

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is large enough, to admit of it, a detachment should be stationed on that road with orders to intercept all "aggressive invaders against the organized Government of the Territory," that may [*text stricken through*] make their appearance.

Very respectfully,

Danl. Woodson

Acting Gov. Kansas Territory.