

From the Kansas State Central Committee to Philip St. George Cooke

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Lawrence.

Sept[.] 3 1856

Col. Cook

Comdr[.] of U.S. Forces at Lecompton,

Sir, The Free State men of [*text stricken through*] Kansas are now in arms, for the purpose of protecting their property from destruction & the lives of themselves & families from the inhuman atrocities of organized bands of assassins from an adjacent state. Appeals to the civil authorities have proved fruitless. As a last resort & to avert the impending Evil, we appeal to the authority you possess. We respectfully represent that our ranks are composed of bona fide citizens of Kansas & none other. To satisfy you of the truth of this averment, we invite you in person to visit & inspect our ranks. If any other method of proof of this fact would be more acceptable to you, it will be Equally Convenient w/us.

We ask you to assure us protection for our lives & property & to that end that you

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will dispen[s]e or cause to be dispen[s]ed the band of house-burners, horse-stealers & men-scalpers--from Missouri--Known as the Kansas Militia, now assembled at Indianola on the Fort Riley road, at Lecompton, near your camp & at some point at Easton and other places in the Santa Fe road. If this shall be done we will lay down our arms & thankfully assume our ordinary occupations.

If you do not possess power to do this, perhaps you might feel at liberty to insist that the war be [*text stricken through*] conducted on principles generally recognized among Christian belligerents, as just & honorable, [*text stricken through*] prohibiting the destruction of the property of inoffensive persons & the assassination of prisoners & defenceless persons.

By order of the Kansas State Central Com.

H[.] Miles Moore, Sec.

P.S. Should we deem it necessary to decide this question by an appeal to arms, would you deem it your duty to interfere in case of conflict? Yours &c -- H.M.M. Sect. K.S.C.C.