

From Frederick Starr to Dear Father

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Weston

March 31st 1855.

My Dear Father,

I sit down to write to you of the most high handed outrage that our nation has ever been called upon to own before the world as one her acts.

Yesterday was the day appointed by Gov[.] A.H[.] Reeder for the election of members of the Council & House of Representatives for Kansas Ter.

For two months past there have been incessant meetings of a secret order established for that purpose throughout all this half of the state. At them it has been planned that 6 thousand men should be sent to Kansas to take possession of the polls, to over-awe voters, if possible to compel the judges of election to resign, and to cast their votes for the pro-slavery candidates.

It is calculated that at the six ferries within sixteen miles just in this region that beginning with Monday morning, and continuing four days that as many as 800 persons per day crossed into Kansas in wagons and on horseback. every man armed some with shot guns, some rifles, single-pistols[,] double, pistols, Revolvers, D[irles?], & bowie knives.

They were under various captain's, and had various destinations. Some being assigned to the Pawnee district distant 124 miles.

I can detail to you the Election in only one district. At Leavenworth at 9 o'clock yesterday morning there were about 1500 souls present. Almost all from Missouri[.] In every direction in the little patches of timber could be seen the waggons and tents of these noble honest citizens to ready

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to assist their neighbors, on the other side.

The census about four weeks ago showed 300 voters in the Leavenworth district; of these it is well known (and the names and the feelings of every true settler are known on the slavery question) that some 180 were free soil men while not to exceed 120 were pro slavery men.

When the Polls were to be opened one of the Judges (free soil) resigned, and the judges appointed the bitterest proslavery man in the region as the third judge. One of the three took the oath required by the governor. The other two refused and made an oath of their own and took it. The two proslavery judges voted there should be no one sworn at the polls that day, and the voting began, and it [MS. illegible] with such vigor that although the judges rested an hour at noon that at 3 o'clock in the afternoon 930 votes had been polled while only some 30 free state men had voted[,] all others having withdrawn from an election where such illegal regulations were adopted and where Missourians were permitted to vote without the least hindrance. [*text stricken through*] What the whole number of ballots cast amounted to I cannot tell[,] probably

not much short of 1000 in this one district while not one man more than 175 of them were real residents in the District giving a vote of more than 800 illegal, imported, hired, unprincipled, voters in the district brought over from Missouri.

Father I do not write for the papers, but I want you to sit down and write from the above dating it as of today and Leavenworth District and publish the facts with appropriate comments & appeals in the Albany Evening Journal but without reference to my name at all at all.

And, tear of the other leaf of this sheet and put it in an envelope and send it directed thus and post paid immediately. Dr. Charles Leib[,] Lancaster City[,] Pennsylvania[.]

*[document ends here]*