

From W.E. Prince to James Henry Lane

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Head Qr Fort Leavenworth

Sept. 23d 1861.

Genl.,

The force at Lexington surrendered Friday the 20th. Genl[.] Strugis is at Kansas City, was unable to get into Lexington. Enemies force, reported 3500 strong. Your entire column expected by Genl[.] Strugis at Kansas City. The enemy will make no demonstration of any importance upon southern Kansas. A portion of your force must be formed at once with Strugis at Kansas City, it is to be regretted that this was not [perfected?] as [originally] suggested. The several columns of the Federals in the Field, are too small to act independently against the enemy in [war?] who are [*text stricken through*] operating, without the shadow of a doubt, as a unit.

It is supposed that Genl[.] Hunters Command Federals will attack to day from the Sedalia side with 15000 men. Please communicate your position and movement and strength of force[.]

Respectfully[.]

W.E. Prince

Cap[.] U.S[.]A[.] [Commanding]

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[*handwriting changes*]

Head Qrs. Fort

Sir

Genl[.,]

This order must be complied with promptly and you will please march by the shortest available Route[.]

S[.]D. Sturgis

[*handwriting changes*]

This letter made Lane my enemy but the interest of the public [MS. illegible] demanded the movement; if it had been executed the plans of the enemy would have been frustrated & he might have been totally defeated.

W.E.P.