

From Philip St. George Cooke to John W. Geary

[page 1]

Headquarters camp near Lecompton

Oct. 15th '56

To His Excy.

Jno[.] [John] W. Geary

Governor Kansas Terr.

The morning after my last communication,--on the 8th Inst. I marched back with the dragoons, & encamped close to the fortified house at "fort;" I caused the vicinity to be again searched, some dry goods which I heard were found the day before, & marked "Grasshopper falls," had been removed[.] They were still working on the house within the redoubt;--this they have commenced to pull down.

Ascertaining the night of the 9th that a large body had come by the North within twelve miles, I concentrated the troops early the 10th, & soon after, a large force with twenty wagons appeared[.]

Their leaders [MS. illegible] approached me, & announced themselves as Col[.] Eldridge, "Gen[.] Pomeroy" &c. Said they were immigrants &c: Soon Col. Preston Dep[.] Marshall approached[,] produced the Governor's proclamation of Sept[.] 11th & said it was necessary to search the wagons for arms & munitions of war;

[page 2]

They refusing consent, I immediately caused it to be done; my display of force being such that no resistance was offered. It was found that there was with the horses in the wagons, a complete armament, for the whole number of men,-- on fourth as cavalry, the rest as infantry: A good deal of threat & [MS. illegible] language was used on their part, [MS. illegible] and unnoticed:-- I gave the Dep. Marshall my [MS. illegible] opinion, that they were a "combined part or body furnished completely with arms and munitions of war."

With some hesitation I consented to an arrangement being made by the Marshall by which escort would be given to them to conduct them to the Governor:-- He found they would not consent, and arrested them; I therefore put them under guard, and [put?] them next morning in charge of B[.] Maj[.] Sibley care of a squadron of 2d. dragoons, to be brought before you.

"Col[.] Eldrige, in his explanations to me, said there was a part of them of from "fifty to seventy five", coming several days behind, with ox teams: but he did not claim that they were

[page 3]

[bringing?] property belonging to them in advance:-- not to me certainly:-- This party had no stock, furniture or [MS. illegible] carried by emigrants.

Nothing new had occurred for two days, when on the morning of the 12th, I left Col. Johnston with 1st Cavalry and light artillery company, to remain until further orders on that frontier.

I have just arrived, & hasten to give you this information, of the affairs at the north.

With high respect

your obt[.] Servant

P[.] St[.] Geo[.] Cooke

Lt. Col[.] 2d. Drags.

Cm. of forces in the field