

From John M. Schofield to Thomas Carney

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Head Quarters, Department of the Missouri,
St. Louis, Mo.

August 29th 1863

Governor: --

I have forwarded a copy of your letter of the 24th to the War Department and requested the President to appoint a Court of Inquiry with full power to investigate all matters touching military affairs in Kansas, and have urged it strongly. I have no doubt the Court will be appointed, and that the responsibility for the sad calamity which has befallen Lawrence, will be placed where it properly belongs.

Be assured that nothing within my power shall be omitted to visit just vengeance upon all who are in anyway guilty of the horrible crime and to secure Kansas against any thing of the kind in future; Meanwhile let me urge upon you the importance of mo-

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-lifying as far as possible the just anger of your people, or rather of reconciling them to the necessity and propriety of leaving it to the United States troops to execute the vengeance which they so justly demand.

It needs no argument to convince you of the necessity of this course, without it there would be no end to retaliation on either side and utter desolation on both sides of the border would be the result.

Anything you may require in the way of arms for your Militia and complete outfit for your new regiments of Volunteers shall be furnished at once.

Immediately upon receipt of your letter, I ordered three thousand stands of arms to be shipped to you at once, and to day have ordered some horses for the 15th Regiment. The arms are not of the best class, but are the very best I have, and are --

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perfectly serviceable.

Permit me to suggest that your Militia should be thoroughly organized throughout the state, and that every town should have arms in store, under a small guard, sufficient to arm the Militia of the town. The arms can be easily supplied by the General Government. Without such organization no town in Missouri or Kansas near the border is safe unless it be occupied by United States troops, and to occupy them all you will perceive is utterly impossible with the force under my command. To entirely prevent the assemblage of such bands of desperate outlaws as that under Quantrell in the summer season is simply impossible without five times my present force.

In a State like Kansas where every body is loyal such a state of things could not exist. But when half or more of the people are disloyal of all shades as in Western Missouri, and consequently

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cannot be permitted to carry arms, whether willingly or un-willingly they are the servants of these brigands and are entirely at their mercy.

If they resist their demands or inform upon them it is at the peril of their lives. I do not wish to extenuate in any degree the crime of those who are at all responsible for these inhuman acts. They shall suffer the fullest penalty; But I simply state what a moments reflection will convince you are facts, to show the necessity for full preparation on your part to assist me in preventing the recurrence of any calamity like that which befell Lawrence.

I am informed that a meeting was held at Leavenworth a few days ago in which it was relsolved that the people should meet at Paola on the 8th of September for the purpose of entering Missouri to recover their stolen property. If this were the only result of such expedition or if their vengeance

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could be limited to those who are actually guilty there would be no objection to it; but it is a simple matter of course that the action of such an irrepressible organization of enraged citizens would be indiscriminate retaliation upon innocent and guilty alike.

You can not expect me to permit any thing of this sort. My plainest duty requires me to prevent it at all hazards and by all the means in my power; But, I hope a few days of reflection will show the popular leaders in Kansas the folly and wickedness of such measures of retaliation and cause them to be abandoned[.]

I shall confidently rely upon your powerful influence to prevent any such action on the part of the people of Kansas as well force me into the painful position of having to oppose them in any degree particularly by force.

Be assured, Governor, of my earnest desire to do all in my power to promote the peace and security of Kansas.

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I shall be glad at all times to know your views and wishes touching your State.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
J[.]M[.] Schofield
Major General.