

INDORSEMENTS.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY ADAMS.

KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
TOPEKA, May 10, 1881.

DR. GEO. W. BROWN,

MY DEAR SIR:—This Society is greatly indebted to you for the interest you take in its object, manifested in many ways, not the least of which is your history of Kansas, as given in your several publications. I sent for and am carefully preserving two copies of the papers containing your "Reminiscences of Gov. Walker." But your own copy which you give us, with your annotations, will be a valued boon.

To be sure, only a few now appreciate the value of these records of history, though written down by the actors and observers; but the number of such will increase as time lapses; and they will, for all time, regard such work as that done by you as of priceless value. I trust you will not fail to give us the Newspaper history of which you write.*

Our work of collecting newspaper history is a specialty with us, believing they are the best materials of history, and our work being for the whole State, and not for any one locality, we are saving all the papers of the State. I think we are doing better work in this line than is being done elsewhere. It is our purpose,

*I regret to write that the promised history of the HERALD OF FREEDOM has not been written, though many falsehoods in regard to it and its positions have assumed great prominence.—BROWN.

in our next report, to give a complete chronology of Kansas Newspapers, and that of the HERALD OF FREEDOM we must by all means have—the true history, with the truth as to other papers.

Yours Very Truly, F. G. ADAMS, Sec'y.

LETTER FROM ACTING-GOV. STANTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18, 1881.

MY DEAR SIR:—Your "Reminiscences of Gov. Walker" is before me, and has been read hastily. Many of the transactions you describe took place before I went to the Territory, and I had no other means of knowing the facts than what were gathered from the newspapers, and the reports of those who professed to have access to reliable sources of information.

I do not doubt you have given a correct version of Gov. Walker's doings in Kansas, and of interviews with him; and I think you have done good service in the cause of truth by stating the facts bluntly and plainly.

As regards your 14th chapter I know the Governor had some scruples about his power to go behind the returns. I had none, for I felt the frauds were too palpably gross and patent, to admit of any hesitation. Neither of us had any difficulty after we had visited the localities, and ascertained the facts.

What you say in the 15th chapter about John Speer's statement, in September, 1879,* surprises me

*See Speer's representation, near the head of page 180, Kansas Memorial Volume of 1879.

greatly. I do not remember that any one threatened Gov. Walker and myself at Fish's below Blue Jacket's, or at any other place on our way down. If such an occurrence had taken place, I could hardly have forgotten it. You are certainly right in denying that any such threats influenced Gov. Walker or myself.

In your account of Gov. Walker's action in bringing troops to Lawrence, you say his proclamation was "bombastic," etc. I think myself, the proceedings in that emergency placed the Governor at a very great disadvantage, inasmuch as the restless and mischievous element of the Free State party, with Lane at their head, had the tact to deny their real purpose, and refrain from any overt acts of a decisive character; and thus the Governor's military display looked a little ridiculous.

Before Gov. Walker started for Washington I begged him to convene the Legislature. I told him if he did not do so, he would find a proclamation from me before he should reach the Federal city.

On the whole your book is valuable and interesting, as showing much of the inside operation of parties and prominent actors in the affairs of Kansas at the important period of which you write.

Very Truly, Your Friend,

FRED. P. STANTON.

LETTER FROM HON. ELI THAYER.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., April 29, 1881.

DEAR SIR:—It gives me pleasure to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of 20 chapters of your

"Reminiscences of Gov. Walker," as they have been published.

It is fortunate for the history of Kansas, as well as for the history of the United States, that the decisive struggle between freedom and slavery should be recorded by the facile pen of one who can truthfully say, as did Æneas:

"All that I saw and part of which I was."

Allow me to express the hope that no obstacle may prevent the continuance of these narratives so long as the minutest details of this epoch of our country's history—most potential in results—shall remain unrecorded.

It is fortunate, also, that you have begun this great work while there are many still living who are ready to bear witness to the truthfulness of your words.

Of the minute details of political action in the Territory at the time of which you write I have learned more from your pen than I ever knew before.

From the very first agitation of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, early in the year 1854, to the end of 1856, my thoughts and efforts were confined to one idea. That was to keep at all times in Kansas a strong majority of Free State men. Always after the end of the year 1854 we had such a majority. That was the one grand point, and I cared but little for Shawnee Legislatures, Lecompton Constitutions, or the pro-slavery tendencies or sympathies of the territorial officers. All these were only the foam on the sublime waves of Freedom sweeping over the prairies towards the setting sun. To submit to the inevitable was the sensible thing for slavery to do at that time,

for to resist those waves in their majestic progress was to make one tidal wave which would bury slavery in oblivion. That was done by the Rebellion.

Hoping you may continue to revive these memories of the great struggle, "the cause of causes," I remain,

Very Truly Yours,

ELI THAYER.

GOV. ROBINSON'S INDORSEMENT.

LAWRENCE, Kan., Jan. 26, 1881.

FRIEND BROWN:—So far your "Reminiscences of Gov. Walker" are very interesting, and strictly accurate so far as they cover matters of which I was cognizant.

On the 29th of March Gov. Robinson wrote again:

I have read all your chapters with increasing interest, as they appear, and as yet find nothing to criticize. Your chapter 16 contains much that was not personally known to me, but so far as I do know it is correct. Kansas history would be very incomplete and one-sided without your statements, and I am very glad you have lived to make them. Heretofore the effort has been to make all matters hinge on a few conflicts, on a few insane movements, ignoring the vital questions that decided the contest in favor of freedom. It is high time the truth was told, and the whole truth, and your "Reminiscences" were written. No one else has the material and facts to write this part of our history as well as yourself, and I feel that we owe you more than we can ever pay for your services to the cause of truth.

After completing the work the Governor wrote again, as follows, on May 2, 1881:

I have just finished reading the slip containing the "Conclusion" of your "Reminiscences of Gov. Walker." To say that I have read every line with deep interest and great pleasure, is but half the truth. I am exceedingly pleased that the political history of Kansas is at last being recorded, and by so able and competent a pen as yours. No person can better write of these events than yourself, as you are a very important part of them, and were in a position to learn every material fact.

You and I well know that the struggle in Kansas was chiefly political, and it was the policy adopted by the people which saved the Territory to freedom, and not the incidental skirmishes in a few localities. Unyielding devotion to principle and unflinching moral and physical courage were essential, but without political sagacity all would have been lost. In every instance the policy we advocated was adopted by the people, so far as I remember, always excepting some impracticables, demagogues, and a few well meaning persons.

* * *

I am more and more convinced that it is your duty to keep your pen employed till it has covered the whole field of the Kansas struggle. Posterity will do you ample justice, if the present generation does not. Should you continue, and publish your writings in book form, it will be more valuable than all the works of the kind I have seen, and I have no doubt will be in great demand.

Very Truly,

C. ROBINSON.

LETTER FROM GENERAL EWING.

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL,
NEW YORK, May 6, 1881.

DR. G. W. BROWN,

DEAR SIR:—I have read with great interest and pleasure your "Reminiscences of Gov. Walker." I took no prominent or active part in the public events therein described, except in the 23d of December Convention, and in the campaign and election which followed it; and in the signal exposure of the frauds by which the attempt to make Kansas a slave State was baffled and finally defeated. So far as your narrative covers these most important events, I believe it to be a valuable contribution to the history of the ever memorable struggle for the freedom of the Territories, and fully accurate.

Very Truly Yours, THOMAS EWING.

LETTER FROM COL. WALKER.

LAWRENCE, KAN., MAY 9, 1881.

FRIEND BROWN:—I see by the last Gazette you have concluded your very interesting "Reminiscences of Gov. Walker." The subject of your recollections never had justice done him by former writers on Kansas affairs, and I am pleased to know there is one man living who has the courage and ability to write the true history of those dark days. It takes more courage than I possess—and I always thought I had a good share of it—to write the truth about those times, while so many of the participants still live to criticise each trifling error. I believe I could face a

twelve pound battery without flinching; but I could not write of those early times and endure the bitter personal assaults from those who had less opportunities for observation than myself, which would be sure to follow.

Much of our history has been misrepresented. You had opportunities of knowing much that was transpiring which was hidden from others. I was located near the Border Russian capital; was forced into repeated conflicts with the conspirators, and participated in all the troubles to the end. Appointed U. S. Marshal, and elected Sheriff—the first Free State man serving in those capacities—I think I can tell when genuine Kansas history is written. Of course you saw many things which did not come under my personal observation. We used to wonder who was the correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, and talked of the correctness of the reports from Kansas during the autumn of 1857. I own I was greatly surprised in reading your Reminiscences, to learn that you were their author.

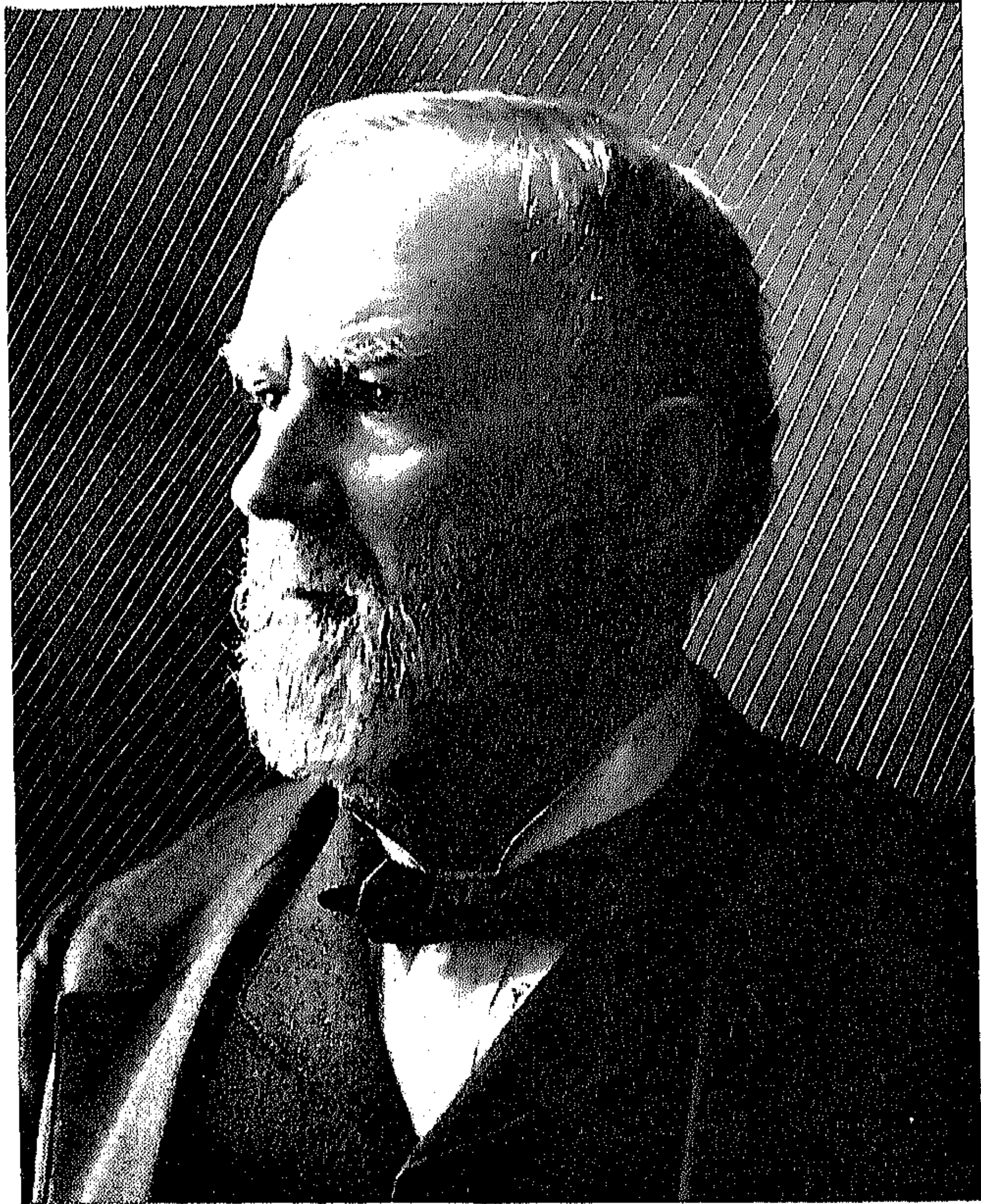
On Gov. Walker's first arrival in Kansas, he sent for me, and we had a long conversation. He said he had heard of my affair with Col. Titus and others; that I was a native of his own State, of the same locality and of the same name. We even found we were of the same family. He always treated me afterwards with great kindness and confidence.

You are correct in your statement that I was in the Governor's tent and heard the conversation reported by you in regard to the collection of taxes, etc., as detailed in your 11th chapter, and I can vouch for the truth of what you have there written. I was also a

member of the secret organization which you mention, but I am glad to write, *I never favored the murdering policy.* I was always for open war, not secret assassination.

Govs. Geary, Walker, Stanton and Denver, all, were in favor of "equal and exact justice to all men," and, consequently, were true to the Free State party, though known as Democrats. Republican as I am, it gives me pleasure to know that you have done justice to all of them.

You may be interested in an incident in which I took a small part. While the Lecompton Constitutional Convention was in session the Governor's signature was desired for some purpose. He refused to give it. The Ruffians threatened to take his life. He fled to Secretary Stanton's cabin, on the river three miles east of Lecompton—where you and Robert Morrow found him on the 19th of October—and dispatched his then Aid, Capt. Walker, of the regular army, to me to come and help defend him. We found Mr. Stanton and the Governor, with another man, and at once barricaded the doors and windows for an attack. About ten o'clock at night we were visited by a man from Lecompton, who said the leaders had learned of the Governor's hiding place, and had determined, if he would not sign his name to the instrument, to kill him. But the Governor remained firm and unflinching, resolved to die before he would do what he conceived a wrong. At the same time some of our own party were abusing him because he was a Democrat. We remained on guard until 4 o'clock in the morning, when I was sent to Lecompton to learn what was transpiring there. I found the



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saloons full, but soon came to the conclusion from what I heard, that their threats were *bluster*, so I returned and reported, and was soon after discharged from duty. Very Truly Yours,

SAMUEL WALKER.

LETTER FROM CHAS. S. DUNCAN.

LAWRENCE, Kan., May 8, 1881.

DOCTOR BROWN:—With regard to your "Reminiscences of Gov. Walker," I am glad to say, after a careful perusal of the work, it embodies the exact facts, in every essential particular, as they came under my personal observation. In reading I could not but feel grateful that one of the "old guard" survived who could so truthfully and minutely record every important event occurring during the period of which you write. I assure you, Friend Brown, that your work is highly prized and shall be carefully preserved.* Yours Respectfully, C. S. DUNCAN.

*See p. 107. Mr. Duncan is still living at Lawrence. He was one of our earliest and most substantial merchants.

LETTER FROM HON. ROBERT MORROW.

LAWRENCE, Kan., April 21, 1902.

DOCTOR BROWN—DEAR SIR:—I have read the advanced sheets of your forthcoming "Reminiscences of Gov. Robert J. Walker, and the True Story of the Rescue of Kansas from Slavery," with great interest. Your statements are very interesting, and so far as I have knowledge are strictly truthful.

You understood Gov. Walker better than most of us. I greatly regret our people did not treat him with more consideration, and not with so much distrust. He gave us good advice, and faithfully observed his promises.

I remember going with you to Lecompton, to invite the Governor to come to Lawrence. We found him and Secretary Stanton, two miles east of Lecompton, occupying a log cabin in the woods, near the bank of the river. You describe very accurately the incidents of that interview.

I lived at Lawrence all the time you mention, and was conversant with all the leading events as they transpired. I was a member of the Committee of Public Safety, of which you were one, as were Charles Robinson, Jas. Blood, Wm. Hutchinson, C. W. Babcock, G. W. Smith, Lyman Allen, Samuel Walker and G. P. Lowry, the latter serving as chairman; and was intimately concerned with every important event connected with the Free State cause. I was one of the party after the fall election of 1857, who went to Oxford to look after the frauds there perpetrated. On our return we met Gov. Walker and Secretary Stanton on their way there.

My recollection is, that I went with you on a second occasion to see Secretary Stanton, then serving as Acting Governor. Gov. Walker had left Kansas. Our object was to induce him to convene the Territorial Legislature to head off the Lecompton Constitution. Gov. Stanton said it would cost him his official head, but he encouraged us to expect a proclamation from him in the direction we asked.

In looking over the names mentioned in your book

as in attendance at the Grasshopper Falls convention, where the voting policy was fully adopted, I think you and I only remain. All the rest have joined the silent majority, but the people of Kansas are enjoying the rewards of their labor.

We have Gov. Walker, yourself, and those who acted with you, to thank for the glorious outcome. Even after we gained control of the Territorial Legislature there were persons so unwise as to urge that the Territorial Legislature adjourn *sine die*, and give place to the Topeka government. I was a member of that Territorial Legislature, and was well posted in the movement. Those who favored it were very indignant because the Territorial government, then in Free State hands, and was being wielded for freedom, would not give way to the new project.

I know well the element you had to contend with which did you all the injury they were capable, but you have outlived them all. You have done a valuable work in writing your history. It is only justice to the memory of Gov. Walker that you, who know the truth so well, should relate it for the benefit of posterity. Yours Truly, ROBERT MORROW.*

*Mr. MORROW came to Kansas in the early spring of 1855, and located in Lawrence. He identified himself from the beginning with the Free State party, and with the material interests of the city, and was one of our most trusty advisers on all political questions. He erected the Morrow House, the first creditable hotel in the city, which was greatly esteemed under his excellent management. Mr. Morrow was a member of the Territorial Legislature and voted for the repeal of the bogus statutes, and served one term in the State Senate. Faithful to every trust, he and his good wife, both far advanced in years, are still in Lawrence where they probably expect to spend the residue of their lives. May they be long protracted. Mr. M's photograveur faces these pages.