
The War in the South.

72. Prelude.—Lawrence, as a Free-state town, surrounded by Pro-slavery neighborhoods and settlements, had, naturally, been the center of strife in the northern part of the Territory. Fort Scott, if not a Pro-slavery town, at least the point from which went out most of the opposition and irritation constantly experienced by the Free-state settlers in that portion of the Territory, became the center of the struggle in the south.

In 1842, the site of the present city was occupied as a military post; and it was not till 1855 that the Government withdrew its claim. A number of settlers were already on the public lands, but most of the adjacent country was then in the hands of Indians, and the town company was unable to organize till June, 1857; though a large number of claims were taken subject to the removal of the tribes. Once fairly under way, the town grew rapidly, and except during the Civil War has known almost unbroken prosperity.

73. Cause of the Trouble.—In the spring of 1856 a party of South Carolinians entered the county. These mingled freely with the settlers, who stated without reserve their political opinions, and gave much-needed information as to their means of defence. In this way a list of Free-state men was prepared; one by one they

were "arrested" and taken to Fort Scott, and by fraud or threatened violence were induced to leave the county. At the opening of winter the Pro-slavery men were occupying the deserted claims.

74. The Return.—During the next year, after the Free-state men gained control of the Legislature, the original settlers began to return. Their numbers were largely increased by new-comers who wished to settle in that county, and by others who were anxious to assist in restoring those who had been driven out; and they thought they were able to maintain their rights. The Pro-slavery men were notified that they must abandon the claims; and most of them acquiesced, believing resistance useless. Those who refused prepared to defend themselves; and the efforts of the returning settlers to dispossess them by force led to frequent collisions.

75. The Squatters' Court.—The District Court was disposed to stand by the Pro-slavery men, and in many instances rightfully. But the disaffection of the opposition was so great that they finally organized a Court of their own, known as the "Squatters' Court." Although without legal existence, its proceedings were marked by both dignity and justice.

In December of 1857, the deputy marshal, with a posse of some fifty men, undertook to capture the Court, but was repulsed. On the following day he returned with about a hundred and fifty men; but the Court had adjourned. On the next Sunday, after a meeting on the old ground to celebrate their victory, the Court disbanded.

76. James Montgomery.—No name is more prominent in connection with these Southern troubles than that of James Montgomery. He came into the Territory in 1854, taking a claim near Mound City, in Linn County,

where he resided till his death, in 1871. He was both a teacher and preacher before his Kansas life began, and in the entire struggle was a recognized leader. He had a retentive memory, and was a pleasant speaker. He was prompt and decisive, cool and brave, a praying fighter, and therefore a dangerous enemy.

77. Troubles in Linn County.—During the years of the claim troubles just narrated, Linn County had experienced similar disturbances. The first Missourian raid was made in the fall of 1856. The ruffians burned several houses near Sugar Mound, robbed others, and re-crossed the line with considerable plunder. Montgomery at once determined on reprisal. With but seven followers he entered Missouri, destroyed the arms of twenty Pro-slavery men, who had been made prisoners, and returned with \$250 in money and eleven good horses. The greater part of the Sugar Mound men were not prepared to sustain such vigorous action, and Montgomery became practically an outlaw, though the number who worked with him constantly increased. At this day it is difficult to determine whether his general course provoked or prevented attacks by the men of the border.

78. The Osages.—Montgomery and his followers soon came to be known as the "Osages," because of their operations along the line of the Little Osage River; and as such were a terror to all Pro-slavery men in both counties. From time to time Free-state men who were involved in trouble asked their aid, and it was always granted. Finally, United States troops were quartered at Fort Scott to maintain the peace. Montgomery asserted that they were there to protect Pro-slavery men in their unlawful depredations, and the Osages began marauding expeditions. These resulted in breaking up some three hundred

families, who fled to the town for safety—many of them leaving the county forever.

In April of 1858, a company of United States cavalry attempted to capture Montgomery. For the first and only time in the history of the Territory, the National troops were resisted. One soldier and the Captain's horse were killed, and the Osages escaped.

79. Marais des Cygnes Massacre.—Among the raids and counter-raids of this year, that which resulted in the massacre of Marais des Cygnes (Swans' Marsh) is the most noted. This occurred in May, and was under the leadership of Capt. Chas. A. Hamilton—one of a family driven out of Fort Scott but a short time before. He had secured a list of some seventy Free-state men, who had been proscribed—that is, they were to be killed at sight. With a force of some thirty men he unexpectedly crossed to Trading Post, in Linn County; captured eleven men, then engaged in peaceful avocations; drew them up in line, and shot them down without mercy or delay. Five men were killed outright; five were wounded, but recovered; one was unharmed, and escaped by feigning death.

Montgomery was at once informed of what had happened, and soon after was furnished a list of those who had been proscribed. The latter were guarded so carefully, and Hamilton was watched so keenly—for the Osages were determined to kill him—that no further outrages were possible.

Five years afterwards, Griffith, one of Hamilton's men, was captured, tried, and convicted in the District Court of the new State, sentenced, and hanged. One of the wounded men was chosen as the executioner. This was the only one of those murderers who was brought to justice.

80. The Last Border Feuds in the South.—The mas-

sacre, and the subsequent action of Montgomery, created such excitement at Fort Scott and in the vicinity, that Sam. Walker, of Fort Titus fame, now deputy marshal, was sent to arrest the leader of the Osages. He accomplished this, and without force, though at great personal risk; but released his prisoner on the following day, hearing that Pro-slavery disturbers, whom he had also arrested and turned over to the military authorities, had been freed. This was the only time that Montgomery ever submitted to arrest.

Within a week the Osages were again at Fort Scott, attempted to burn the Western Hotel—Pro-slavery headquarters—and fired into the town from the southwest. Gov. Geary, like his predecessors, fearing assassination by the Pro-slavery men, had left the Territory and resigned; and Gov. Walker had been removed, undoubtedly, because of his fairness. On hearing of this disturbance, ex-Secretary Denver, now Governor, went to Fort Scott, and after a long conference concluded a truce between all parties. The terms included the disbanding of all bodies of armed men, and the suspension of all old writs issued against members of either party. It was hoped that peace had come.

It is difficult to say which party first broke the truce; but in November Benjamin Rice was arrested for a "bygone" offence, and on the same day the Osages were at work. For a fortnight there was indiscriminate plundering and threats of personal violence. Another conference followed, but without results, Montgomery being determined to release Rice. He accordingly attacked Fort Scott, captured the hotel in which Rice was confined, and set him free, and retreated in safety with property worth some \$6000. One man, on the Pro-slavery side, was shot and killed.

Under advice of the Governor, a company of militia was quickly organized and duly equipped. In February, 1859, this force began operations against the Osages, with some promise of success; but the General Amnesty Act passed by the Territorial Legislature closed the struggle, and Montgomery's men and their deeds became things of the past.

81. Conclusion.—In the last attack on Fort Scott John Brown took part, though he did not enter the town. After the Pottawatomie massacre and the events which immediately followed, he gave most of his time to raids into Missouri for the purpose of freeing slaves—in which he met with considerable success. These acts came to be regarded by even the Free-state men as simply tending to increase the border troubles, and finally a reward was offered for his capture. Few cared to undertake this task, however, and his Canadian colony of blacks grew steadily though slowly. Having left Montgomery, after the Fort Scott raid, he crossed the line, brought out fifteen slaves, and escaped with them by the Iowa route. It was the last time he saw the Territory. Within a year came the descent on Harper's Ferry, and his subsequent execution. In the following spring Montgomery and a few of his men undertook to rescue the rest of Brown's party—then in jail at Charlestown, Va.—but the deep snow prevented a successful effort.

Constitution Making.

82. Prelude.—Contrary to all expectations, the sharp conflicts of 1856 were the last serious disturbances known in the disputed ground around the Territorial