

Political and General Miscellany.

From the St. Louis *Intelligencer*.

THE BITTER FRUITS—THE SUICIDE OF SLAVERY.

Our news from Western Missouri is of ominous and most discouraging character. That region is suffering from mildew and blight. Its glory is dimmed, its spirits abated, and its hope fading.

The emigration to Kansas has been almost entirely checked. Emigrants from the Northern or free States have ceased to go to Kansas, because they can find as good lands elsewhere, not cursed by mob law, nor ruled by non-resident bullies. Emigrants from the Southern States do not go to Kansas, because they will not put their slave property in peril, by taking it into a territory where there is a strong Free-soil element, threatening the security of slaves.

Any man of sense might have foreseen this result. Alabama and Georgia may hold public meetings, and resolve to sustain the slaveholders in Missouri in making Kansas a slave State. But their resolutions comprise all their aid—which is not 'material' enough for the crisis. When slaveholders of Alabama and Georgia emigrate, they go to Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. They do not come, with their slaves, to Missouri or to Kansas. Call they that backing their friends?

Thus the matter stands. The Northern emigrants shun Missouri and Kansas as plague spots of the nation. The Southern emigrants shun Missouri and Kansas, because here is the battle ground between Slavery and Free-soil.

The result is, Kansas, the fairest land under the sun, is neglected and idle; occupied by a few honest and earnest, but disheartened pioneers, and lorded over by a dozen or two feudal tyrants of Missouri, who curse by their presence the land they have desolated.

Such is Kansas,—poor, neglected and despised—and Western Missouri stands infected by the horrible contagion of outlawry, and dwindles away under the moral leprosy of its mobocratic leaders. We are assured by two gentlemen of high position in Western Missouri, but totally differing in political sentiment—one upholding the oligarchy that controls the affairs and tramples upon the people's sovereignty in Kansas, the other deploring the accursed madness of the day—that matters are gloomy enough in Western Missouri. Business is dull. Commerce is stagnant. Money is exceeding scarce, and a panic pervades the people. The fifty thousand emigrants that ought, this season, to have poured over into Kansas are not there. The prairie sod remains unbroken. The sound of the axe, and the whoop of the husbandman is not heard. Western Missouri towns are not thronged with settlers buying their outfits and their equipments of husbandry. The farmers find no market for their horses, mules, oxen and cows. There is no new and large trade springing up in Kansas. The much vaunted Kansas towns lie neglected—a mockery to their owners and a laughing stock for all men. "Dead—dead—dead"—may be written on all the country—so deep and disastrous has been the fall from the high and fond hopes of the past year.

In May last, the editor of the *Intelligencer* was in Kentucky, and he met numerous of the most respectable and wealthy farmers of that State, such as form so large a portion of the population of Missouri, who inquired earnestly about the condition of things in Kansas and in Western Missouri. They spoke of the intention they had of removing to Kansas or Western

Missouri; but said they had abandoned it utterly, for the reason that they would never think of taking their families to a region where law was set aside, presses mobbed, and men driven from the country by irresponsible and unknown bands of Regulators. They preferred the rule of law to anarchy. In a recent trip through several Northwestern States, we found that the same circumstances were most industriously and fatally used to divert emigration to those States; and to prejudice Missouri and Kansas with every class of people. The most aggravating stories of insults and outrages committed by Missourians on the persons of emigrants from the Old World or from the Free States, who are found ascending the Missouri River, are circulated in the newspapers all through the Free States; and it is impossible to conceive of the deep hatred thus generated towards our whole State in the Northern half of the Union.

Between these fires, Missouri is leading on her languid existence. St. Louis is retarded in a most woeful way. Our railroads creep at snail's pace.—We build ten miles while other Western States build one hundred. In every department of life we feel paralysis. Instead of bounding forward, buoyant, strong and rejoicing, we sit with dull eyes and heavy spirits, and listen to the tick of a death-watch.

These are the bitter fruits of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—a wicked and wrongful deed—that will yet bring hell of bitter self reproaches to its authors. Missouri did not demand that repeal. The South never asked it. Atchison solicited it—and in a moment of political insanity, the South consented to the wrong and made the wrong her own. *This was the suicide of slavery.*

Every step since taken has deepened the wrong and enhanced the danger. The Free States organized Aid Societies, and sent their men to make Kansas free. It had been free soil by solemn compact, for thirty-five years and they naturally were incensed to see its character changed. The South would have been far more indignant if a slave territory had been thus, by unexpected Act of Congress, converted into Free Soil.

The Free States had a right to be indignant that a life-long Compromise had been repealed—and they had a right to try and keep Kansas free as it had been, by peaceable colonization. They attempted nothing else. But a portion of the citizens of Missouri, headed by Atchison and Stringfellow, denounced the northern emigrants as "paupers and hirelings," because they were sent west by the money of a society; and so they held county meetings in Missouri, and raised money and sent Missourians to Kansas to make Kansas a slave territory! Were these Missourians hirelings too? and did these two wrongs make one right?

Atchison and Stringfellow, with their Missouri followers, overwhelmed the settlers in Kansas, browbeat and bullied them, and took the government from their hands. Missouri votes elected the present body of men, who insult public intelligence and popular rights by styling themselves the "Legislature of Kansas." This body of men are helping themselves to fat speculations by locating "the seat of Government" and getting town lots for their votes. They are passing laws disfranchising all the citizens of Kansas who do not believe negro slavery to be a Christian institution and a national blessing. They are proposing to punish with imprisonment the utterance of views inconsistent with their own. And they are trying to perpetuate their preposterous and infernal tyranny, by appointing for a term of years creatures of their own, Commissioners in every county, to lay and collect taxes and see that the laws they are passing are faithfully executed. Has this age anything to compare with these acts of audacity.