

From Andrew Brownlow to Hamilton R. Gamble

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Sugar Creek Grove
Buchanan county MO
August 1 1862

Govenor gamble[,]

under the circumstances causes me to drop you a few lines as i think you ought to know some things that is going on in this part of the state where we have bin troubled so much the Kansas thieves[.] i can say to you in all candor the trouble is now as great with some[,] at least half[,] of the citizens as ever was at any time during the war[.]

in this neighbor hood there is at Least one third of the men now Enrolled under your Last call abolitionist some of them from Kansas Enrolled for the purpose of plunder take all pains to see all the negroes and persuade them to Kansas or other meanness say to go to Kansas and you are free join the army under Blunt or Lane and if you have a family they will all be free[.] some of the men are a disgrace to the state of MO or any nation[.] go around in the different neighbor hoods in search of arms and in several cases they have caught young Ladies[,] striped their clothes of their heads pretending they were in search of pistols and say they *[text stricken through]* have a right to seize [seize] any thing they want[,] provisions [provisions] and horses[.]

some men Engaged in this never owned [owned] a horse and never would if they had to work for it and get it honestly[,] go to some private residence[,] take just as much provisions [provisions] as they want[,] seize [seize] the Best horses[,] insult the family[.] all this is done and they say you ordered it, so there is just as good union men that has not Enrolled their names and went in to the service as lives[.]

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I will say to you i Enrolled[,] belong to Captain Perry's Co[.] at Dekalb and i know that i am as good a union man as lives But no abolitionist nor thief. i can say i am a constitutional union man for the constitution as it is and the union as it was[.]

there is just as good and honorable secessionist here as any men have taken the oath[,] stay at home[,] attend to their own [own] business[,] and say they are willing to do any thing that is in accordance with the constitution[.] But these scamps i have bin alluding to say they shant stay in the state and if they Enroll they will shoot them for they regard them as Enemies[.] they say that General Loan at Saint Joseph says he will drive the southern men from this part of the state[,] all that dont Enroll and go in to service[,] and take all their property so they cant take any thing away that the men in the service can pay themselves in that way[.]

it can be proven by a dozen good men that General Loan did say that if the general government didnt confiscate all rebels and all those that sympathise with the rebels that he was not for the government[,] they should leave and further he General Loan knowed one thing darned well that him and the southern people could not both live here together and he be [MS. illegible] if he didnt intend to stay[.] he intended to drive all the southern people from this section of the state[.] this is so[,] for it can be proven[.] John [P.?] Bruce the journal man knows it to be so[.]

taking all in to consideration the people have a good excuse for complaint[.] [if?] you may think this all gass--you will find out some day[.]

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Gov Enor [Governor] gamble[,] you have all ways bin an honest man[.] so sed [said] i want you to send some man you have confidence in[,] sende him in dis guis [disguise] and you will find that general Loan is playing in to the hands of the Kansas theieves[.] why is it he Employes so many Black abolitionist in his Business from Kansas[.] there is just as good men and as Loyal to the goverment in MO as in Kansas But Ben Loan employes for his clerks and in fact non [none] But abolitionist will he employ or appoint to anay [any] office[.]

the Tax paying class of people of this county is southern men and the majority is southern in feeling so you may know what such proceedings will bring about[,] more Porters[,] more quantrells and Bush whackers than Ever[.]

I think you ought to protect all property as it is currently reported her [here] that you protect no slave property[,] no property be longing to southern men[.] to the contrary you say to the state malitia take all the armes[,] all the good horses[,] all the provishions [provisions][,] strip young Ladyes dresses over there heads and Expose there person in search of pistoles[.] i will say to you ther is some young ladyes here i have no doubt But they have armes and Last winter they kneedeed [needed] them for self protection from thes [these] Kansas thieves that came in to mo and my opinion is that if you dont do some thing to protect the people on the Border all there property will all Be taken to Kansas[.] what the militia or the theeves calling them selves state malitia get dont [don't get][.]

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I can say to you i think a great many men that have Enrolled think they will stay at home and harrass there neighbors for private difficultyes and some i know of and heare of a greate many that say they dont in tend to serve[.] if such conduct is allowed as is By some they will be one third or half of of the state militia now Enrolled and [MS. illegible] to servis that will go to Bush whacking or to the rebel army[.] you may take it to you self if youre daughter was Exposed By pullilng her dress over her head By foure men of the Last of creation who [never?] paid 5 dollars tax in there lives who had bin acused of stealing all there lives and known to be roqus [rogues][,] Drunkards and then take youre Best horse es and ride them off and say you had nothing that was yours[,] would you join any such company or regiment[.] such as this will make desperate men out of good citisens[.]

i can say i have seen all of this and know it to be so and worse than all the vary men that was guilty of thes acts when i told them it was two Bad said to me i shoot your damed [damned] Braines out if you Ever say a woorde about it[.] you cant say a woorde in this county about such things and be saff [safe] one day[.]

i can speake for my self i cant stay in my company if thes woorkes is allowed[.] captain perry is at Dekalb with his company and one third of his men will leave him if thes things go on[.] it is the first Letter i Ever ritten to any officer or publick man[.] i am a farmer and knowe but little of government ffares [affairs][.]

Andrew Brownlow