

2016

Knights of the Golden Circle

Vicki Betts

University of Texas at Tyler, vbetts@uttyler.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uttyler.edu/cw_newsttopics

Recommended Citation

Betts, Vicki, "Knights of the Golden Circle" (2016). *Special Topics*. Paper 4.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10950/428>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Civil War Newspapers at Scholar Works at UT Tyler. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Topics by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at UT Tyler. For more information, please contact tbianchi@uttyler.edu.

KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

YAZOO DEMOCRAT [Yazoo City, MS], January 14, 1860, p. 2, c. 2

Rumored Mexican Filibuster Expedition.—New York, Jan. 7.—The Tribune of this morning, says there is a well authenticated rumor in circulation, in this city, to the effect that a detachment of a mysterious military organization, known as the Knights of the Golden Circle, left this port a few days since, for Mexico. Their design is unknown, but their movements are reported to be very mysterious.

HARRISON FLAG [MARSHALL, TX], February 17, 1860, p. 2, c. 3

"Fillibusters."

The McKinney Messenger thinks recent developments show that there is an organized order of knighthood in the United States for the conquest of Mexico. Its editor demands the Press to speak out and warn the young and inconsiderate against embarking on such a criminal undertaking. How does he know anything of the moral turpitude of the undertaking, admitting that his surmises for the colonization of Mexico are well founded? Is he prepared to say that anything is going on in the fillibuster [sic] line than that which was published to the world through the columns of the New Orleans Picayune two or three weeks ago? Two of our distinguished fellow citizens to-wit: Gen. Greer, of Marshal, and Col. Chilton, of Tyler, gave notice that they felt authorized to promise the services of one thousand men from Texas for the protection of our frontier, to give publicity to which and to post Congress regarding the preparations of this much exposed State, to march to the Rio Grande to protect the lives and property of our citizens from Mexican brigands. The Picayune gave these patriotic gentlemen a flattering notice. Would there be anything wrong in that number going out there under the authority of the Federal Government? Or would there be anything wrong in that many going as peaceful colonists into Mexico?

We fear the editor of the Messenger is an alarmist. So we think the Dallas Herald regards him from the remarks of its editor while reviewing the article under consideration. The editor of the Herald says: We have occasionally seen allusions to this matter in our Eastern exchanges and have though rather favorable of it from the fact that it seemed not to meet with much disfavor at Washington from the officials of the Federal Government. Reports are yet so vague, that we cannot yet form an opinion, pro or con. If Mr. Buchanan wants Mexico for the Juarez party, let him have it even with the assistance of the K. G. C.

NAVARRO EXPRESS [CORNICANA, TX], March 17, 1860, p. 2, c. 3

"K. G. C."—Our town was the scene of considerable excitement on Tuesday morning last, caused by the advent of twenty-five or thirty men, marching under a banner with the above mysterious letters on it. Their destination and object were, of course, the subjects of curiosity and speculation was rife as to what they were any way. For our part, we were inevitably led to the conclusion that it was the forlorn hope of Falstaff's regiment, not having the rites of burial performed, going on its wanderings. We may be mistaken.

HARRISON FLAG [MARSHALL, TX], March 23, 1860, p. 2, c. 1

We are pleased to welcome the return of Gen. E. Greer from New Orleans. We have not had an opportunity of conversing with him as much as we wished to do, in reference to our border [illegible]. From his brief remarks, to us, we [illegible] inclined to think the Knights of

the Golden Circle have no cause for discouraging apprehensions. Mexico is destined to be Americanized, and that soon.

HARRISON FLAG [MARSHALL, TX], March 30, 1860, p. 2, c. 3

General E. Greer of this place, left for the Galveston Convention by yesterday morning's Western stage. He is the only delegate as far as we have learned appointed by the Harrison county meeting who feels the weight of responsibility enough to forego the expense and fatigue of the trip; these we do not suppose he would have shouldered but for other matters in which he feels a great interest. Not that we question his Democracy but for the reason that we think the frontier troubles are paramount to all other questions with him. Should he hear the sound of a war trumpet on the route his course will be changed we make no doubt, from that of Galveston to that of a bee-line to the Rio Grande. If his presence is not demanded to defend our border against Mexican brigands we expect to learn of his turning up in New Orleans as soon as the Convention shall have determined to do or not to do, for the purpose of directing the movements of the order of the K. G. C., of which he is a leader. While we disagree with him politically, we wish him the greatest possible success in his plans to redress our wrongs and punish aggression upon American rights. A state of war exists between us and Mexico. Let us stand prepared at a moment's warning to march to the scene of action. We have brave and honorable leaders; let us follow them and teach Mexican despots a lesson never to be forgotten.

NATCHEZ [MS] DAILY FREE TRADER, March 30, 1860, p. 2, c. 3

The K. G. C.—A Few Remarks Thereon.

A society of the K. G. C., or Knights of the Golden Circle, will be formed in this city at an early day. The originators of this mystic order were certain military characters who resided in Lexington, Kentucky—the spring of 1854 being the date of its organization. The first object of the organization was to cultivate a martial spirit among the people of the South. The second object was to have a military organization in the South fully capable of defending our social and political rights from all assaults from our enemies at home and abroad. The past history and present aspects of our political affairs seemed to demand that an organization such as the K. G. C., fully armed and equipped and officered, was absolutely necessary. The order has steadily grown until now it numbers nearly forty thousand members, who are scattered over the Southern States of the Union, and the Northern States of Mexico. No society of the kind has in this country combined such an amount of talent, resources or numbers as has this. If we understand correctly, the present object of the K. G. C., is the invasion of Mexico. It is well known, that in this distracted country a cruel war has raged with scarce an intermission, for the past ten years. The country has been weakened by these intestine feuds; agriculture, commerce and manufacture have languished and the Mexican people have groaned under the oppression and tyranny of rival chieftains. At the present time there are two parties in Mexico, contending for the supremacy of the government. On the one hand stands the church party, with Miramon as their leader. On the other hand stands the liberal party, with Juarez as their leader. Our Minister to Mexico, Mr. McLane, has recently made a treaty with Juarez, which will be one of vast benefit to our government. Our government has already recognized the Liberal party as being the government of Mexico. The K. G. C.'s have already espoused the cause of the Liberals, and we are informed that it is their fixed determination to place it at the head of the Mexican Government, and thus aid them in restoring peace and harmony to a distracted country and an oppressed people. Our citizens will be addressed shortly on the subject of armed intervention in the affairs of Mexico,

by one of the most distinguished of the "Knights of the Golden Circle," when we hope to see a large turn out. We speak what we know, or, as Hamlet would say, "by the Card," on this subject. The statements we have made in this connection have been derived from parties who are perfectly reliable and who are entitled to respectful consideration. Long live the K. G. C.'s—Vicksburg Sun.

NAVARRO EXPRESS [CORSICANA, TX], April 7, 1860, p. 1, c. 6

Summary: Article on the Knights of the Golden Circle, take from The State and Union, summarizing a speech by Gen. Bickley in Montgomery, AL.

SUGAR PLANTER [WEST BATON ROUGE, LA], April 7, 1860, p. 2, c. 1

The K. G. C.'s.—A Baltimore paper states that the organization of the Branch of the Knights of the Golden Circle now numbers nearly one thousand men, mostly young, and many from some very respectable families. They have an Armory, where they meet for daily drill, under the instruction of U. S. officers. The aim in this association is the invasion of Mexico, and they expect to leave in a few days unmolested by Government, as they will not arm themselves until beyond the jurisdiction of the United States.

YAZOO DEMOCRAT [Yazoo City, MS], April 7, 1860, p. 2, c. 3

The Knights of the Golden Circle are *en rapport* with the Juarez Government. In going, therefore, into Mexico even in a military body of ten thousand men, fully equipped for war, they will go under the invitation of the Government which we have recognized, and thus the administration can not interfere with them. It is the design of the K. G. C. to occupy and annex Mexico *a la* Texas.—Vicksburg Sun.

NATCHEZ [MS] DAILY FREE TRADER, April 11, 1860, p. 3, c. 1

The K. G. C.

The Mobile Mercury of the 3d inst., contains the following:

Headquarters American Legion K. G. C.}
Mobile, Ala., April 6th, 1860.}
General Order No. 564}

Circumstances, which will be explained at a proper time, and in the usual way, have caused me to issue this, my official order, and I hereby command all faithful K. G. C.'s to obey the same.

Colonels of regiments, upon the receipt of these presents, and special orders this day mailed, will issue their orders to all commanders of Castles in their respective States, to assemble their forces at the earliest convenience, and at once, on the closing of the business of the Castle, proceed to elect one or more delegates to meet in final convention in the city of Raleigh, N. C., which will be headquarters until further notice, on Monday, the seventh day of May, 1860, to transact the following business.

1. To elect a permanent Commander-in-Chief for the military department of the K. G. C., to organize the several departments of the same, and to duly commission and confirm all commissioned officers.

2. To elect a permanent financial chairman, and to thoroughly organize the moneyed department of the K. G. C.

3. To elect a permanent President of the third or governing department of the K. G. C., and to enact a code in accordance with the laws of the United States and the objects of this association, and top provide a board of advisement.

4. To determine upon equipment and time of motion—to prepare an address to the people of the Southern States; to erect such a standard of membership as will clear the association of all vicious character, and do all other necessary and lawful work embraced in the honorable time of the K. G. C.

Delegates, whether from the organization or the people, will have to bring proper credentials. Southern gentlemen, with evidences of social position are respectfully invited to partake in every part of the labors of the Convention, except what pertains to the mere ceremonial of the order exclusively.

No political or religious complications or questions can be entertained by the said Convention, when understood in a partizan [sic] or sectarian sense. The Convention will sit from day to day, until its labors shall have been completed, when it will adjourn, to meet no more as a Convention in the United States. As the aims and objects of the K. G. C. have been so much misrepresented, and as they should be so dear to every Southern heart, the newspapers of the Southern States friendly to the advancement of Southern interests and American enterprise are respectfully requested to copy. All letters must be addressed to Raleigh, N. C.

George Bickley, K. G. C.,
President American Legion.

Gen. Quitman was the founder of the order of the K. G. C.

NAVARRO EXPRESS [CORNICANA, TX], April 21, 1860, p. 2, c. 3

Gen. Bickley, “chief cook and bottle washer” of the K. G. C.’s, has called a convention of the whole organization to meet at Raleigh, N. C. on the 7th of next May. We think he is a humbug.

NAVARRO EXPRESS [CORNICANA, TX], April 21, 1860, p. 1, c. 6

“Knights of the Golden Circle”

We had a call from Capt. I. T. Davis, of Upshur, who is a member of the above named mysterious order, yesterday morning. The Captain informed us that he has a company numbering some fifty three men just ahead of him, several along and fifteen on his trail; also, that there are about fifteen companies, numbering in all some several hundred men, who are endeavoring to get together, and that their intention is to march immediately into Mexico. Captain Davis has authority to initiate all who feel desirous of joining the order. His men were raised in Upshur and Hopkins counties.

Messrs. B. H. Ragsdale and T. C. Ripley, members of the “Press-Gang” also paid us a visit. We suppose there [sic] intention is to hang the banner on the outer wall,

“Charge, Chester, charge!

On, Stanly, on!”

[Centerville Times.

HARRISON FLAG [MARSHALL, TX], April 27, 1860, p. 2, c. 4

A Card to the K. G. C. of Texas.

Having been absent from the State since the last of February to examine into the affairs of the order, it becomes my duty to report to you my knowledge of the same. Gen. Greer and

myself went to New Orleans at that time to meet Gen. Bickley in person, and arrange for our department at an early day [rest of long article fades out on microfilm.]

ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], November 5, 1860, p. 1, c. 4

The "K. G. C."

Below we give from the Austin "Southern Intelligencer" an account of the speech of Gen. Bickley which meets the necessity of the case so well that we transfer it to our columns instead of going into a review of the speech as reported in the Herald.

["] The following placard was displayed in our city on last Wednesday:

K. G. C.

Gen. Geo. Bickley, President of the American Legion of K. G. C. will address the citizens of Austin on the character and aim of the Knights of the Golden Circle, at the Hall over Darden and Maynard's, this (Wednesday) evening at 7½ o'clock. The public is respectfully invited to attend.

As our people are not much given to running after sights [except the circus,] and would not be humbugged even by the Biological, Odological Dr. Hale, the notice of itself would have excited but little attention in these speaking days, but for the circulation of a pamphlet by the orator, who is understood to be the President of the "K. G. C."

This pamphlet produced some excitement among a number of our citizens, who otherwise would not have attended the meeting. Among the passages which look to the political aspect of the thing, we copy the following:

"The Knights of the Golden Circle constitute a powerful military organizations [sic], as a nucleus [sic] around which to hang such political considerations as will, if well managed, lead to the disenfranchisement of the cotton States from the oppressive majority of the manufacturing and commercial interests of the North."

"The great West was being rapidly settled by Europeans who arrived in our country with deep rooted prejudices [sic] against slavery, until the anti-slavery party was no longer confined to the manufacturing districts of New England, but like some fatal epidemic, it has spread over the whole North and West."

"The Republican or Northern party is abolitionized—the Southern party is going rapidly to secession. All parties in the North are free-soil; all parties in the South are constitutionalists, and when the provisions of that instrument are violated, then our people are secessionists. It is quite true that there are many pro-slavery men in the North—men who have stood by us [illegible] there are men in the south who are in favor of the Union [illegible]—men who to preserve the Union, would give up the slave institutions of the Southern States, and re-enact the farce and folly of Jamaican Emancipation."

"It is then clear that the acquisition of Southern territory by the Federal Government is a dangerous experiment, and not to be countenanced for one moment."

"Northern men have been called to edit our papers and Northern women to educate and train our daughters. The one propagates abolitionism by insidious clippings of abolition arguments, and weak comments thereof; the other, while their conduct is, so far as we have observed in the main, irreproachable, by constantly reminding the child of our duty to be kind and affable, and that we are all the work of the Creator, and of one race, so impress the child's mind that by the time it arrives at maturity it is already abolitionized."

"The third division or degree is also divided into two classes, the "Foreign and Home Councils."

This is the political or governing division. The "Home Council" is one of pure advisement, and takes no active steps. It is unknown to the public or the first division of the K. G. C., and intended to guard us against infractions of the law. Like other "Home" classes it enjoys advantages known only to the order.

The Foreign Council is divided into ten departments, representing respectively the interests of agriculture, education, manufacture, finance, police, war, navigation, law and foreign relations. Also from the "Foreign Council" there is selected three classes as a high court of appeals and entrusted with the making laws for the government of the K. G. C. These classes represent respectively the interests of capital, manufacturing and mining interests, and the interests of commerce [?] and agriculture.

"Our people must present an unbroken front—no division should now be tolerated. The old party issues should be forgotten, and we should have but one Electoral Ticket in the South, and that should be for a representative man. We now need men who will step boldly out and declare themselves either for or against us. The disposition to "shirk" the question and issue is ill-adapted to the dangers which now threaten us. Let us know our friends and our enemies."

"There is a mercantile objection, [illegible] that the K. G. C. will not "pay." To this objection we refer to the history of the Hudson's Bay and East India Companies.—The K. G. C. is precisely such an association as those, and as they won empires for Great Britain, so may the K. G. C. for a Southern Confederacy."

"It would make the South strong in or powerful out of the Union."

"Let the people go to work in earnest and the South will soon be mistress of her own interests and destiny. Put off this crisis another term and we are lost. The border States are slipping from our grasp, and unless the people are aroused to a full sense of their danger, the Southern Confederacy will embrace only the cotton States." ["]

We have made our quotations this extensive because it saves the necessity of a full report of the speech, which was in sentiment to all extents and purposes the same.

It is true the speaker began by denying all political objects and purposes; and he patriotically advised the election of Breckinridge, Douglas or Bell, if either could defeat Lincoln.—He disavowed disunion objects—and yet he insisted that there are but two parties—a Northern and Southern party; and he sought to teach that there should be but these sectional parties and to doubt the patriotism of all who thought differently. He regarded it as a foregone conclusion, that if Lincoln was elected, resistance would surely follow, and the "K. G. C." would become the rallying army for the Southern disunionist.

He read the first and second degrees of the order, but not the third. As the first degree swears "allegiance to the order, &c., and the speaker invited any one not satisfied to ask questions, Judge Paschal, [Union elector] rose and said: "I am not satisfied with the oath, and I wish to inquire, whether the "Allegiance" which you swear rises above or in subordination to the Constitution and the laws of the United States and of the respective States, where the members of the order may be?" The speaker said "yes" and to prove it he read from the first degree which says:

4. "You do each swear to obey the laws of the United States provided the same are consistent with the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States and the States in which you live; that you will do no act of which an American citizen should be ashamed?"

Judge Paschal said:

"Do the members of the order assume to themselves to determine the constitutionality of the laws of Congress and to resist them, or do they refer that question to the lawful tribunals of the land?"

Gen. Bickley said: "As citizens we do judge of the constitutionality of laws, and act accordingly." At this answer, most theatrically expressed, the leading Breckinridge State officers present, applauded vociferously, as indeed they did at every sentiment of a revolutionary character.

The speaker then proceeded to give the Mexican view of the subject which he denied was filibusterism; but only a decent way of getting hold of the country, by some kind of conquest, and the bringing it into the United States, or else adding it to the Southern Confederacy. The plan was certainly more ornamental than practical. And the denial of Filibusterism was as little convincing as the denial that the thing is being used as a political engine.

But upon this part of the speech we have no criticism at present.

In the course of the remarks, frequent reference was made to the order being a "police regulation." When through, Judge Paschal took the stand and read the last paragraph in the pamphlet, in these words:

"The people must begin to examine the state of the nation, and determine on a line of policy united to the exigencies of the times. If the K. G. C. shall succeed we shall hear no more of the disunion, and, if so, it will be a secession of the North—not the South. We shall stand by the Constitution and the Government that will see that every provision thereof is religiously obeyed. Outside of all other considerations, the South ought to support and extend the K. G. C. organization and Domestic Police system—and [illegible] nucleus for her military system. That we [much of rest of column illegible] ican People."

Judge Paschal then said: "I have understood that it has been said that the order acts as spies upon travelers, and even marks baggage, and that baggage has come marked to this city as suspicious. Is this so?"

Gen. Bickley—"It is."

Judge Paschal—"I wish to know if the Mexico which you may find in the District of Columbia, points to the contingency of the Presidential election, and if the order stands ready to obey Southern Governors and to raise the standard of rebellion, if they are not satisfied with the "Presidential election?" Gen. Bickley made quite a flourish of trumpets, and was understood to answer in the affirmative.

Gen. Bickley then said he wished to ask Judge P. a question. But instead thereof, he went into some declamation about the duty of citizens to obey their Governors; stated that Gov. Pettus of Mississippi and other Southern Governors were members of the order, and would act if Lincoln should be elected. He said that should he (B.) be in Texas, and Gov. Houston call for his services, his "tried sword" would be drawn, to march to the District of Columbia, or wherever else the Gov. might command. Or should he be in Virginia, as little as he liked Gov. Letcher, he would march at his command. And he knew that Virginia would not submit, &c.

As to the "baggage searching," the spotting of men," &c., he said there ought to have been such an order thirty years ago; that people were welcome to search Bickley's baggage, and no sound man should object to it. It was intended for the nutmeg men, the Yankee peddlers [sic], and such suspicious characters. His question was: "Did any one object to these sentiments, objects and practices."

Judge Paschal said: "This is not the place to express my full sentiments in regard to all I

have heard to-night. It is the meeting of a man, who says he has expended six years and thousands of dollars in the cause. Great as I think his errors, I would speak of him with respect and courtesy.

But to the avowal that the order is a secret police; accustomed to denounce individuals; working by secret means, (as dangerous to the innocent as the guilty;_ that it marks baggage, and sends forward its suspicions with the unsuspecting traveler, that it is a secret order which undertakes to pass upon the soundness of Southern citizens, having a common interest in the subject of slavery—I say that it is the institution of the order or Robespierre, which will plunge us into a sea of revolution worse than the bloodiest days of France. It cannot, it will not be tolerated." He then briefly pointed out some of the consequences.

And he continued: "You all know that I never belonged to any secret order, and therefore I may overrate the dangers of secret higher law and political orders. I denounced the know-nothing order, because I saw in it a government and degrees, which taught an habitual disregard of the constitution in favor of the freedom of religion and the eligibility of all free white citizens of the United States to office. But here is an order which goes many steps further. It is "military, financial and political;" and its purposes by secret means, to attain its ends. It arrays itself with the misguided partizans [sic] who threaten to overthrow the government, should they not elect their candidate! And it proposes, by secret means, to proscribe all who will not fall into their revolutionary purposes. It is then a secret political agency, and one which establishes a police above the laws, which are sufficient for every emergency.

As to the sentiment that it is the duty to obey the governor, even should he raise the standard of rebellion. I have no language strong enough for it. Revolutions must be the work of the people. We elect governors to see that the laws are executed; not to inaugurate revolution. When the public voice is to be tested on such a subject, the question must be submitted to every voter; because each of them has an interest as high as the governor himself. Much as I love the Governor of Texas; highly as I honor his judgment and patriotism, yet I declare, that should he usurp the power of calling for soldiers to resist the constitution, laws and lawful authority of the United States, I would denounce him as a traitor to his oath. But I fear no such consequences.—Houston will never lead a rebellion; nor do I believe that any governor will take any such responsibility. Evils exist, dangers threaten, but to the people belong the questions of life, liberty, property and honor. All appeals to their judgments and passions, should be open and public. All plottings and cabals will be met by counter plots, until if continued you will have civil war at home and in our very streets. Improvident men are now [most of rest of column illegible] lowered by the temper of the crowd.—There were however, some repetitions of the necessity of purely "northern and southern parties," and of fight and fury, whereat a few of the intense Yanceyites applauded with diminished enthusiasm.

We give this brief report to the public. We trust that Gen. Bickley will publish the entire speeches. We would hold no political party responsible for this secret order; but trust that all parties will disavow it as a secret political engine. In its secrecy, in its police espionage and its avowed southern confederacy disunionism, we see nothing but mischief. We trust its strength and the character of those who compose it are not fairly represented by its advocates. Secrecy in political movements, is not to be tolerated among a people who rely upon an enlightened public opinion.

Gen. Bickley said, that he could not speak for Austin, he could for Texas. We call upon every Texas editor and Texas speaker and candidate to speak for themselves. Judge Paschal has spoken the sentiments of this community, with a few uninfluential exceptions. He stands by the

constitution and the laws against all mobs, higher lawism and secret espionage. And our citizens should be proud, that they had a man bold enough to speak in the right time, the right tone and temper towards men, who, however pure their motives might be, are certainly upon a most dangerous road. Let us have no political secret conclaves—no reign of terror—but let all political subjects be openly and boldly discussed.

We are glad to learn that the expose of the mysterious K. G. C., was not pleasing to some of the more moderate followers of the bolters, (the extremists had hoped to make a good thing of it.) Yesterday morning a large showbill was posted, giving notice that M. R. Reagan, Esq., would address the unterrified at the same place last night. It was whispered around, that Morris would "show up" the new secret political order, and prove it to be "a Bell and Everett trick." The editor attended, and found Gen. Bickley there, with his aids Col. Groiner and Maj. Bickley. Our friend Morris spoke to the great satisfaction of the organizers, and really got off some patriotic sentiments, such as a willingness to die for the country, and the declaration that "to spot a man in this country is to hang him to the first black oak." But there was so much of the warp and woof of "the fire the southern heart, and precipitate the Cotton States into a revolution—campaign orators, that Gen. Bickley mistook him for "one of 'em," and gave the sign, and after the speech, claimed him, and commenced reading the degrees. It was a rich meeting, and we heard a wag say, that if the Breckinridge orator came there to "show up" the K. G. C.'s he did it after the fashion of Archie [illegible] a story of the Belle who went to the Kentucky quarter-race, to see Bob Easley's new importation of the animal of the tribe which the queer cursing old Balaam road. The secrecy is too good a thing for the Yanceyites to shake off with such delicate jerks. They must put on the power which old Doddy Biggs employed upon the opossum, which would not let go when every foothold was broken. The K. G. C. will stick to them by the tail unless there is a hard shake.

HARRISON FLAG [MARSHALL, TX], November 10, 1860, p. 2, c. 1

General Buckley [sic], whose position as President of the American Legion, or Knights of the Golden Circle has rendered him a celebrity of the first magnitude, arrived in Marshall on Wednesday evening last by the western stage. He goes hence to Jefferson where he will address the people as to the objects of the mystic order over which he presides. We must defer remarks as to his address here, till our next issue.

[DES ARC, ARK.] THE CONSTITUTIONAL UNION, November 16, 1860, p. 3, c. 4

Knights of the Golden Circle.—Gen. Bickley, who signs himself "President American Legion," writes as follows to The Galveston News of the causes of his delay to cross the Mexican Rubicon:

"The recent failure of Gen. Walker in his expedition to Honduras, and the silence of our Government in reference to the intervention of the British, has caused many to fear that our take would be more difficult than had been previously supposed. The difficulty of transporting large quantities of material and troops across the country, and the approaching Presidential contest, have all shown how necessary to success is the element of time. Arms that ought to have been at our rendezvous have not arrived, and agents have to be sent in search of them. Corn must be shipped from the Ohio river, and the force in this State simultaneously assembled. All this is the work of time. To throw ourselves in a body of 400 or 500 men only across the river would insure disaster. This will not do—if I cross it must be with every element of success in my hands, viz: men, arms, and materials. We shall cross at the earliest possible moment."

HARRISON FLAG [MARSHALL, TX], November 17, 1860, p. 2, c. 3

Note: Article entitled Knights of the Golden Circle—illegible

NAVARRO EXPRESS [CORNICANA, TX], January 16, 1861, p. 2, c. 1

We are informed that a K. G. C. society was formed in this place sometime during the past week.

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], February 4, 1861, p. 3, c. 1

Summary: Almost illegible article about the K. G. C. turning out and raising a "dark blue [?] flag with a lone white star bordered with red in the center"

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], February 4, 1861, p. 3, c. 1

In response to an invitation extended to the Alamo Rifles by the San Antonio City Guards (K. G. C.), the [illegible] company was called together at 11 o'clock [illegible] and after some argument passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, [illegible] we acknowledge the [illegible] in the City Guards or any other company, to hoist the flag of the State at any time they deem proper, we would very respectfully decline its invitation extended [illegible] of participating in such a ceremony.

Resolved, We bow with all deference to the sovereignty of the State, and will [illegible] as much as any men in defence [sic] of her honor, her rights, and her cause—but we will never participate in a rejoicing of the fall of the stars and stripes, and [illegible] the State has seceded through her proper channel—the people—we acknowledge no other thing.

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], February 6, 1861, p. 2, c. 3

Letter to Gen. Twiggs

In the "Ledger and Texan" of Tuesday we notice a letter from a committee of the K. G. C.'s, published by the consent of Gen. Twiggs, and as it is public property, we suppose we have the right to review it. It starts out by saying "the committee represent one hundred and twenty responsible citizens of San Antonio, K. G. C." The question naturally arises, what is it that constitutes a man a "responsible citizen." We take it that he must be a man of family, having "little responsibilities" to care for and protect—he must have property or business that makes it to his interest to act for the welfare of the whole, and not for mere self, or he must be a man elected by consent of the people to represent them. It certainly can't mean merely "belonging to the K. G. C." With all due respect, and meaning nothing hard or unkind to many young friends and acquaintances, we can't see that a great portion of the one hundred and twenty, so far as we know them, have any but the latter questionable qualification for "responsibility"—being without families, fortunes, or steady business avocations, and holding no representative office from the people. [section illegible on film]

NAVARRO EXPRESS [CORNICANA, TX], February 13, 1861, p. 2, c. 1

K. G. C.—We are happy to announce that this organization has now a castle at this place under command of Capt. J. B. Jones. Any one wishing to connect himself with a truly Southern institution, the only object and every energy of which is devoted to the advancement of Southern interest, will find in the K. G. C. an organization to suit him. At this time especially, when concert of action is essential to the maintenance of Southern liberty, does such an institution

become profitable and valuable. Many may object on account of its secrecy [sic], but the K. G. C. has no secrets that can call a blush to the face of any honest man.

NAVARRO EXPRESS [CORSIANA, TX], February 13, 1861, p. 2, c. 1

K. G. C.—We are happy to announce that this organization has now a castle at this place under command of Capt. J. B. Jones. Any one wishing to connect himself with a truly Southern institution, the only object and every energy of which is devoted to the advancement of Southern interest, will find in the K. G. C. an organization to suit him. At this time especially, when concert of action is essential to the maintenance of Southern liberty, does such an institution become profitable and valuable. Many may object on account of its secrecy [sic], but the K. G. C. has no secrets that can call a blush to the face of any honest man.

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], February 13, 1861, p. 3, c. 1

Major Clark Addresses

The Alamo Rifles.

On Tuesday night last after the drill and business of the Alamo Rifle company was over, the Captain announced that Major Clark desired to address the company, and therefore ordered the men to "fall in" outside of the armory. Major Clark stepped to the front of the company, came to a "front face," and commenced his speech in a very courteous manner, the burden of which was in substance as follows: I love the Alamo Rifles—I love every man in San Antonio—I come before you merely as a disinterested individual, without any authority for so doing, but merely to tell you what your duty is in these stirring times. The K. G. C. love you, they are sworn to protect you and the rest of the city—they are for the South and Texas—they have been misrepresented—they love you and expect you to stand by them when they kick up a muss—the people of Texas [10,000 voters] have declared themselves out of the Union—you must ratify their action at the ballot-box—you will be expected to back some unknown, and till now unheard of commissioners if they demand the government property—we must submit to our rulers—I, for one, "come weal or come woe," will die by the people of Texas, "from whom I have received nothing but kindness." Mr. Rifles, I again assure you, you are a ghlorious [sic] set of fellows and I love you. Adieu! [Applause]

We are an ardent admirer of Major Clark, and for him feel a kindness and respect, and am sorry that we cannot give him the benefit of a more extended report of his speech, and of our inability to present it in language that would sound more oratorical. We pretend merely to give the substance as it appeared to us. Some of our bull headed fellows could neither make head nor tail out of his remarks. They are and will remain in the dark until further developments as to who *our rulers* are and who those *commissioners* are.

If the Major wished to tell the Rifles their duty, we are rather inclined to think he has missed his "cue." Like true soldiers they know their duty to their country. We would further remark that politics is scrupulously avoided in the company, and but for it being forced upon the company, no political jarring would ever disturb the fellowship and kind feeling existing among its members. After breaking ranks, one of the company stepped up to Major Clark, and desired to ask him a question; the Major said "certainly." He then asked him, "Will you abide the decision of the people of Texas at the ballot-box?" "Certainly," replied the Major. Then continued the questioner, "If they decided to remain in the Union?" This puzzled the Major, and well it might, after declaring that he would die for Texas, but replied that he would, or "leave the State."

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], February 25, 1861, p. 2, c. 1
Election in San Antonio.

The election passed off in our city quietly and orderly, and resulted in favor of Union and "against secession," in spite of all the combinations, societies, court-house cliques &c., and in the face of threats, bullying, menaces, and brow beating. Of course the majority is small, but sufficient to redeem our city from the many misrepresentations sent abroad in regard to it.

Now let us review the field and see against what odds this victory was gained: There has been two secession newspapers thundering away for the last three months—the court house clique, from the Hon. District Judge to the precinct magistrates, embracing all the State and County and some of the city officials;—the K. G. C. order, embracing many Americans, several foreign born citizens and several prominent Mexicans, (and if we take the word of our neighbor the Herald this order embraces the principal men of wealth in our city,) with a State Convention in session; were the strong combinations arrayed against the Union party. The secessionists were well organized and worked hard, the Union party was unorganized and did but little challenging, while the disunionists by their close and insulting challenging kept many from the polls—making native Americans and men who had been citizens of the Republic of Texas and who have voted in our city for the last fifteen years swear to their votes, and compelled many foreigners to show their papers.—The Mexicans, with a few honorable exceptions, were corraled for Disunion.—Upon the whole we think it a glorious victory. San Antonio was persistently claimed by the secessionists.

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], February 25, 1861, p. 3, c. 3
[From the S. A. Herald.]

George Bickley.

Castle K. G. C., Feb. 21st, '61.

Whereas, the Alamo Express, a paper published in San Antonio, has used its columns for the purpose of injuring the K. G. C., an order devoted to the protection of southern interests and preservation of southern institutions.

Resolved, That we commend that paper to the contempt and execration of all true southern men, and that we have this resolution published in the San Antonio Herald.

Copy of the minutes.

E. A. Briggs, secretary.

Medina River.

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], February 27, 1861, p. 3, c. 1
Col. Waite and the Commissioners

Dame Rumor gives us the following account of the late excitement kicked up by the Commissioners: The building occupied by the U. S. disbursing officers was taken possession of on Tuesday morning a detachment of K. G. C. under command of the "Commissioners." They (the Com.) demanded of Col. Waite to order the disbursing officers to deliver over the money in their hands. Col. Waite refused—said he did not recognize them as having authority to make such a demand. Commissioner Luckett, told Col. Waite he would arrest him, if he did not give the order; Col. Waite told Luckett he would be the last man he would arrest.—Col. Waite was then ordered to vacate his quarters. he [sic] replied, he would not do so until ordered by his Government. Commissioners got tired bullying the old soldier and proceeded to take possession

of the different disbursing offices ordering the clerks to leave or be considered under arrest. Col. Waite is still "at large"—and the Commissioners only made a raise of fifteen Dollars, which, Major McClure says, belongs to him. This is what Madame Rumor says, and this is the only authority we have at this point.

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], March 4, 1861, p. 3, c. 1

Ominous.—On Saturday, the 2nd of March, the day of Texas Independence, just at 12 A.M., the time the secession ordinance was to take effect, the Lone Star Flag over Carolan's Auction room, the Head Quarters of Travis, fell to the ground, the K. G. C. Flag floating over Braden's Grocery appeared minus the Star, and the flag raised over the Alamo in attempting to get it down, caught half mast and there staid some time in spite of the efforts to haul it down.

[LAGRANGE, TX] STATE RIGHTS DEMOCRAT, March 7, 1861, p. 3, c. 2

Texas K. G. C. State Convention.—We reached home from the Convention of the K. G. C. held in San Antonio on the 22nd ult., too late to furnish our readers with a full report of its doings. Geo. W. Chilton, of Tyler, was elected Marshal of Texas Division; Jas. Vance, of San Antonio, State Treasurer; the editor of this paper State Printer; Elkanah Greer, of Marshal, General of Eastern Brigade; John S. Ford, of Austin, General of Middle Brigade, and John A. Wilcox, of San Antonio, General of the Western Brigade. So it will be seen that measures were taken to effect a thorough organization throughout the State. The Convention tendered the services of the Order to the authorities of Texas. The Order is in a flourishing condition in this Division, and numbers about eight thousand of the best and bravest of Southern soldiers. We shall publish the full proceedings of the convention in our next issue.

NAVARRO EXPRESS [CORNICANA, TX], March 20, 1861, p. 2, c. 1

K. G. C.—We learn that Capt. W. T. Patton is authorized to organize Castles of the Knights of the Golden Circle, in the counties of Navarro, Freestone, Henderson, Limestone, Leon, and Grimes. His address is Fairfield, Texas. This order has for some time been attracting the attention of the public, and what is a most favorable sign, it seems to grow in popularity as it becomes more known and its objects are understood. We think that it is adapting itself to meet the dangers and difficulties which now threaten the country and in so doing must commend itself to the most favorable consideration of all Southerners.

TRI-WEEKLY ALAMO EXPRESS [San Antonio, TX], March 22, 1861, p. 3, c. 1

War Declared.

We take the following startling news from the published proceedings of K. G. C. Convention which was held in our city on the 22 of Febr last:

The committee further report the following resolution from the Seguin Castle, and recommend their adoption:

Resolved: By Seguin Castle, Guadalupe County, Texas, that if any non-slaveholding government, power or people, attempt to establish a protectorate over the Republic of Mexico, such action shall be, and the same is hereby declared to be hostile to the rights and interests of the South and the K. G. C.

Resolved further, That any such action on the party of any such non-slaveholding government, power or people, be, and the same is hereby declared to be, *just cause of war* on the part of the South and the K. G. C.

Resolved further, That it is the deliberate judgment and sincere desire of the Castle, that immediate action "*vi et armis*" should be taken by the South and the K. G. C., to repel any such attempt, should it be made.

According to the same proceedings the number of K. G. C. soldiers in the amount of 929 horse, and 139 foot. As there is a likelihood of both England and France having a word to say about Mexico we think it unkind in the K. G. C. to thus declare war against the Emperor and Queen before due notice was given in order to allow them sufficient time to abdicate rather than carry on so unequal a conflict.

MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL [MEMPHIS, TN], May 7, 1861, p. 2, c. 4

Knights of the Golden Circle.

Headquarters, Army of K. G. C.,
Louisville, Ky., May 1, 1861.}

1. Commandants of K. G. C. castles throughout the various States of the South, excepting Texas, are hereby ordered to forward, without delay, to general headquarters, at Louisville, Ky., complete muster rolls of military companies. If the military organization of a castle is not completed, the commandant will take immediate steps to have it done. Each company, when organized, shall consist of one captain, one first lieutenant, two second lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, two musicians and ninety privates.

2. Castles belonging to the Texas division will report to Gen. Geo. W. Chilton, marshal of di[illegible]on, at Tyler, Smith county, Texas, or to Col. Charles A. Russell, acting adjutant general, at Helena, Karnes county, Texas. The president begs the order to respond fully and promptly to the call of Generals Chilton, Ford, Wilcox and Green, and stand on the defensive until our national troubles are ended.

3. All general, field and staff officers of the American legion will report immediately by letter or otherwise, to the president at Louisville, Ky.

4. The president begs to state for the information of the order that since the first of February last he has been laboring in Kentucky--principally in the city of Louisville--and has added to the order 1,483 members, 534 of whom have been sent to the army of the Confederate States. Two regiments are now being formed in the State to be held subject to the orders of the Governor. The order has now 17,643 men in the field, and the president has no hesitation in saying that the number can be duplicated if necessity requires.

George Bickley, K. G. C.,
President of American Legion.

[LITTLE ROCK] ARKANSAS TRUE DEMOCRAT, May 9, 1861, p. 3, c. 3

"Knights of the Golden Circle."—We clip the following from the *Louisville Courier*, of the 24th inst., to which we invite the attention of members of the order in this city. We are informed by a gentleman, formerly a chief commander in West Tennessee, that the order numbers about six hundred in this city. Why do they not rally and give some public expression of their sympathy for their gallant brothers of Baltimore, who first met and repulsed the enemies of our common interests, so soon as they placed their feet upon southern soil. History will place them side by side with the heroes of Lexington and Bunker Hill. We would be glad to hear from some of the members here.

Attention, K. G. C.

Montgomery, Ala., April 17, 1861.

In view of the threatened invasion of Texas by Lincoln's abolition horde, and in further view of the fact that the Confederate States of America has so many points exposed to attack from the enemy, that its army as at present organized, may be inadequate to ample protection; I therefore order the Captains of each Castle of K's G. C's. within the State of Texas, to meet me at the city of Galveston, on the 1st day of May, A. D. 1861, with a complete muster roll of companies. Each Castle will hold itself in readiness for immediate orders. It is desired that as many of the field officers as can do so, will also be in Galveston at the time appointed.

Geo. W. Chilton.

Marshal of Texas Division K's G. C.

The K's G. C's in Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida, will pay attention. Maryland has her hands full. Let no member of the Order now flinch.

Geo. Bickley, K.G. C.
President Am. Legion.

All Companies of the K's G. C's in the State of Arkansas will hold themselves in readiness for further orders.

By order of

Major Augustus Larrantree,
Commanding Ark. Battalion.

Arkansas papers please copy.

[LAGRANGE, TX] STATE RIGHTS DEMOCRAT, May 16, 1861, p. 1, c. 4-5

An Address to the
Knights of the Golden
Circle in Texas.
By C. A. Russel.

(For the Democrat.)

Brother Knights: Believing that a word of advice and admonition is called for and may be beneficial to many of our brethren in the present hour of doubt as to the future, I thus address you through the public press.

Since the commencement of our organization in Texas, events have rapidly transpired which prove the truth of our principles and a necessity of our existence.

The political troubles which are gathering thickly around us, were to each of you clearly foretold, and you have been forewarned to prepare for the emergency. If you have not done so, it is not because you were not aware of the necessity for preparation, (for that has held a prominent place in our teachings); but because you were disposed to hope against reason and put far away the evil day. But the time has come to shake off the idle day dreams of peace, and prepare for battle. No vain hope can now hover over us. There is no room for hope. No idle words are now needed, but strong arms and willing hearts. War is upon us; our homes and firesides are threatened with invasion. I need not exhort you to arm and prepare for the conflict, for it there is one among us who is not ready and willing to do to the extent of his ability, he is not a true Knight, and to such this is not addressed. I know of none such nor do I believe that such have entered within the pale of knighthood. But while I am satisfied of your patriotism and your bravery, I am fearful that many may forget amid the absorbing events of the day, the obligation which they owe to the Order of Knighthood in which we claim to be brethren. I believe that

wherever, we may be scattered as individuals we shall be true to the principles upon which our Order is founded, but am fearful we shall not be sufficiently mindful of that part of our obligation which relates to the machinery by which we expect to spread and perpetuate those principles. Upon that point I admonish every member of the Order to be attentive and vigilant. Use every opportunity that may offer to establish the working machinery of the Order until our Castles shall arise like monuments all over the land. You will find, as did the Knights of old, in your Castles a sure defence [sic] against the assault of your enemies. Slander and misrepresentation in their attempts to poison all that is good among men, have not entirely overlooked us. I have been told that such an organization as ours, would become an evil in that hour when our country needed the services of her sons in battle. That petty jealousies and a spirit of party monopoly would prevent us from taking part in active warfare, unless we could be called into service as a body with our own officers and organization. Whether this opinion of us is well founded I leave for you, brother Knights, by your actions to say. I am satisfied that the result will disprove the assertion. We have taught no such practice. I admonish you to go forth wherever your country may call singly or in companies, as circumstances may require. But do not let the stirring events of war cause you to forget the principles that have been taught you, and do not forget that those with whom your lot may be cast, may become, by your teachings and through your instrumentality, linked together by the iron hand of a common brotherhood as Knights of the true faith. Wherever you may go you may sow the seed that shall bring forth fruits of blessing to our country and glory to our Order. Carry out our principles, and slander shall become dumb before the chivalrous acts of our brethren. Do this, and the world will soon understand that there is one brotherhood of men founded upon patriotism, whose only object is to build up an Order that shall be ever ready to advance the institutions of our country and defend them at the point of the sword. Do not however allow party pride to enter our Castles or in any manner influence your actions. Remember that the principles which we teach, and desire to propagate, existed before our order was founded, and would continue to exist were it to be dissolved and vanish into thin air. Remember that we claim nothing by our organization but a desire to serve our country by teaching those principles and uniting together all good men for their maintenance and defence [sic]. And remember that we can only accomplish this fully by paying due attention to the machinery of castle organization, which constitutes the working tools of the Order. If duty calls you from home, build up monuments of our Order in your pathway, and if you are permitted to remain and enjoy the comforts of home, there you will find our work to perform. Arouse the military spirit of your neighbors, organize them into companies and teach them military tactics and science. Carry out the recommendations of our Governor in his late proclamation, until every able-bodied Texan shall be enrolled as a citizen soldier for the defence [sic] of our State; impress upon this citizen soldiery the importance of military drill as a means by which men can be commanded and made to move in concert and harmony at the command of their officers, as the necessities of the moment may require. All this is in accordance with the spirit of our Organization and therefore in the direct line of our duty as K. G. C.

Brother Knights, carry out our principles according to these suggestions and we shall be able to meet the troublous times as become FREEMEN, and when the pending storm shall have passed, should other work demand our attention, the K. G. C. will be prepared for action.

FRANKFORT [KY] COMMONWEALTH, June 4, 1861, p. 3, c. 1

The Treasonable Plot Confessed.

The people have long been warned that there existed in Kentucky, and throughout the South, a treasonable organization known as the Knights of the Golden Circle, the primary object of which is the dissolution of the American Union, and the establishment of a Southern Confederacy. The existence of such an organization, with such purposes, has all along been stoutly denied by the secession organs, and the people have been told by them that the Knights of the Golden Circle were engaged in no movement inimical to the public liberty. The whole secret is now at last fully developed, and the people of Kentucky are advised from the highest source that they stand in the presence of a secret, oath-bound organization, whose aim is to sever their connection with the Federal Union.

It will be remembered that in the Legislature, whose session has just closed, resolutions were offered looking to an exposure of the secret designs of the "Knights of the Golden Circle." The Legislature adjourned before the exposure was effected, but the Louisville Courier, of the 29th inst., contains a letter from Gen. Geo. Bickley, President of the Knights of the Golden Circle, addressed to the Kentucky Legislature.

Now what is the grand aim and end of the Knights of the Golden Circle? Let General Bickley answer. In the letter aforesaid he says:

"There are now nearly eight thousand (K. G. C.'s) in the State, distributed through every county, and the organization is growing daily in favor and importance, and the work will be pushed with the *utmost vigor* UNTIL THE TRI-COLORED FLAG OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES FLOATS IN TRIUMPH FROM THE DOME OF THE CAPITOL AT FRANKFORT."

If this does not open the eyes of the people nothing will. If this voluntary exposure of the infamous designs of the Knights of the Golden Circle does not array against them, in solid phalanx, every loyal Kentuckian, then we are much mistaken. Arouse, Kentuckians, and place your heels upon an organization which boldly and defiantly announces its purpose to take from the dome of the State Capitol the glorious star spangled banner, and place in its stead the "tri-colored flag of the Confederate States." We tell these valiant Knights that when they dare come to the capital for such a purpose, every Union man, woman and child in Franklin county will welcome them "with bloody hands to hospitable graves." Such an organization should not exist in this State, and deserves to be swept from the face of the earth. And yet the Secessionists of Kentucky are defending and sustaining it. The "thugs" of Baltimore may now hide their diminished heads. Kentucky has within its borders a band of "thugs," who will not stop until they precipitate her people into revolution, civil war, and anarchy.

DAILY CONSTITUTIONALIST [AUGUSTA, GA], August 6, 1861, p. 3, c. 1

A Female Spy.—The correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, writing from Western Virginia, says a female spy has been discovered in the First Kentucky Regiment. She is from Georgia, and enlisted at Cincinnati. She was detected by writing information in regard to the movements of our troops to the enemy. She is a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle, says she knows the punishment of a spy is death, and is ready for her fate. She is to be sent to Columbus.

MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL [MEMPHIS, TN], August 7, 1861, p. 2, c. 2

A Female Spy.—The correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, writing from Western Virginia, says that a female spy has been discovered in the First Kentucky regiment. She is from Georgia and enlisted at Cincinnati. She was detected by writing information in regard to the movements of our troops to the enemy. She is a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle,

says she knows the punishment of a spy is death, and is ready for her fate. She is to be sent to Columbus.

[LITTLE ROCK] ARKANSAS TRUE DEMOCRAT, September 12, 1861, p. 1, c. 7

A Female Spy.—The correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, writing from Western Virginia, says a female spy has been discovered in the first Kentucky regiment. She is from Georgia, and enlisted at Cincinnati. She was detected by writing information in regard to the movements of our troops to the enemy. She is a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle; says she knows the punishment of a spy is death, and is ready for the fate. She is to be sent to Columbus.

DAILY TIMES [LEAVENWORTH, KS], October 16, 1861, p. 2, c. 1

Knights of the G. C.—The Ohio State Journal, of the 8th instant, publishes an account of the descent of the U. S. Marshal upon a "Castle" of the Knights of the Golden Circle. The "Castle" was located in Marion, Ohio, where there is said to be a large number of the Knights. The Journal also states that Columbus is filled with them, and calls upon the citizens to arouse and crush them out.

The existence of the Marion Commandery was made known by one Samuel Cheney, who joined the order for the purpose of exposing it. The following is one of the obligations said to be administered to the initiated:

"And I further promise and swear in the presence of Almighty God, and the members of the Golden Circle, that *I will not rest or sleep until Abraham Lincoln, now President, shall be removed out of the Presidential chair, and I will wade in blood up to my knees, as soon as Jefferson Davis sees proper to march with his army to take the City of Washington and the White House, to do the same.* So help me God, and keep me steadfast to do the same."

DAILY TIMES [LEAVENWORTH, KS], April 2, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

The Order.

That secret society, known as the Knights of the Golden Circle, is the cause of all the mischief which has occurred in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. It is the means through which rebels at heart have resisted the good cause, and defied the law.

That it has some strength all over the West, and in the cities of the East, is known. That its purpose is to overthrow the Government, all admit. Yet, in ritual and form and outward declaration, it is Conservative. So artfully covered, too, is its Conservatism, that, at a glance, one not initiated would not understand its purpose or get at the heart of the Order.

This is its pledge:

"I solemnly pledge my word and honor to the members of this organization, that I will not reveal its existence to any one whose political principles I do not know to be unmistakably the same as our own, and whom I desire to initiate. That I will not reveal its pass words or signs, or any of its secrets, to any one not regularly initiated into its ranks. That I will stand shoulder to shoulder with this brother hood in a faithful and manly support of its purposes and principles, and that I will at all times promptly obey every order that shall be given me under its regulation, if in my power so to do. I pledge the honor of a freeman, and one who desires to continue so, that I will keep these promises faithfully.

"The "charge" is seemingly fair, if partisan. It invokes law, and declares that the law must be sustained. It appeals to freemen to sustain freedom. But the liberty it asks is their own

liberty—not a principle, not a universal, fundamental law—but, a liberty limited by their theory, and to be established by their practice. Logically, it is a South Carolina Texas order in Illinois and Indiana, and intended to do, in the future, what "their brethren" are now seeking to accomplish in the rebel States.

We copy portions of the charge:

["] A single thread is easily broken, but combine many such threads into a cable, and it will resist a giant's strength. One man, however brave of heart and patriotic of purpose, can offer no effective resistance to the armed and leagued minions of abolition; but let all true men touch elbows, and stand firmly together in this perilous hour, for their mutual protection and the maintenance of the right; and their united voices will be heard, their united power respected, and the giant despotism which now threatens us be checked and mastered. This organization will very soon embrace all true, unbought, unpurchasable men, and particularly every Simon Pure Democrat, for these are the cherished principles of his heart.

This organization is made up of clubs (of ten) for greater secrecy and quickness of communication with all its members, and promptness of action, although the true men around you will be united in its folds and working with you in a common cause. You will know none except those in your own club, nor will any outside of your own club know you. If a club acts imprudently and exposes its members, it exposes only those who are in that club; they cannot expose you; they do not know you as members, and you do not know them. The Chief of your club reports back to the club in which he was initiated. Beyond these two clubs, he knows nothing of the individual members of this great brotherhood.

Be careful not to reveal anything that you hear or see in this club or from any member of it, to any one not a member. Be cautious in conversation with brother members, that you are not overhead. Study secrecy, caution, watchfulness, that you may aid in the best manner to overcome the enemies of your liberty, who are both secret and subtle.

Never propose any one for membership whom you do not know to be true to our cause in heart and action. A Judas in your club might endanger you, and throw discredit upon us, by communicating with our enemies.["]

The outbreak in Illinois will develop, probably, the strength of the Golden Circle, and if that outbreak shall be effectually crushed, as we trust it will be, there will be an end of the order in the Free States. Nor would we dally with it. A stern, decided blow would save life and ensure peace, even if many should fall or suffer when and where it is given. It is a case, in our judgment, where prompt, quick decision, that resolute energy of action which, under the law, seizes offenders and punishes them promptly and severely.

DAILY TIMES [LEAVENWORTH, KS], July 29, 1864, p. 3, c. 2

A Paw-Paw at the Confessional—The Paw-Paws
of Platte County Sound on the Southern Goose
--They all intend to Fight with Rebels, but not
Against Them.

[From the St. Joseph Herald, 27th.]

A prisoner taken in Platte county has made some revelations concerning the intention of the Pawpaws. Below we give his statement, which is on file at the military Headquarters in this city.

July 24, 1864.

My name is Andrew E. Smith. I am 22 years old and live in Platte county, about two miles west of Platte City. I was a member of Captain Johnston's company of Pawpaw militia, under Major Clark, and served about six months. When I joined the Pawpaws it was understood by myself and members generally that, after drawing our arms, equipments, &c., we were to join the Southern army, and that Col. James H. Moss was to go with us to the South. I joined Thrailkill last Sunday, the 17th day of July, and was with him at Kingston, Mirabile and Plattsburg. Capt. Taylor took the goods which we stole at Mirabile and Kingston. After the fight yesterday I left Thrailkill. We had only 180 men.

I am a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle. I joined them at Platte City, and was sworn in by David Jenkins of that place. All of the Pawpaw militia, so far as I know, belong to them. Andrew Demaster, Wm. Brown, Thomas Brown and O. Teucher I know are members. The sign of recognition is the open right hand across the breast. Out of our company of 30 men 25 joined Thrailkill. The people of Platte county are, two-thirds of them, of Southern sympathies, and they all approved our joining Thrailkill, but wanted we should go South. They fed us cheerfully. I am a Conservative Democrat, and have always voted the Democratic ticket. Thrailkill promised to take us South as soon as possible. Five men have deserted from him since I was with him. Richard Lancaster and Stump Breckinridge, of Platte county, and three brothers, whose names I do not remember, deserted. We turned back in Carroll county, but we could not get south of the Missouri river.

A. K. Smith.