

Special to the Republican

FROM MACON CITY.

MACON CITY, Mo., July 28.

Having noticed in the Republican of the 26th inst., an editorial headed "Great Outrage," purporting to be transcribed from the letter of a correspondent, relative to the killing of three rebels near Salt River Bridge, on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, viz: Lasley, Ridgeway and Price, I would beg leave to be heard through the columns of the Republican as to the facts of the case, as it is a bare falsehood and a slander on the troops stationed at said bridge. Captain George W. Beames, the officer in command at said bridge, is regarded by all who know him as a gentleman and man of truth and justice, and the public good generally demands that the facts in the case should be fairly set forth; and in order to do this, we copy his report to the commander of the regiment to which he belongs:

SALT RIVER BRIDGE, July 21.

To Colonel A. L. GILSTRAP: Frequently heard the report of firearms in the vicinity of my camp, at all hours of the night, and hearing them more frequently on Saturday night, the 19th instant, than on previous occasions, on the morning of the 20th I ordered Sergeant John Thomas to take eight or ten men and proceed to the country to ascertain, if possible, the cause of the firing, and report the same to me. In obedience to said command he started with nine men and proceeded to the house of one Mr. Ridgeway; he not being at home, the negroes informed them the woods was full of rebels. From thence they started southward, stopping at the house of one Mr. Lasley; he not being at home, but soon came in, bringing two other men with him. The command took the three

persons along with them, thinking it would deter any rebels from firing on them, as the three persons taken were known in the neighborhood as rebels. They had not proceeded far when they heard the discharge of firearms not far off; at that moment the prisoners, thinking to take advantage of the firing, started to run in the direction of the firing; the command then fired upon the running rebels killing them—they ran the distance of about fifty or seventy-five yards before the guard brought them down. At that time, looking around, they saw four men emerging from the brush on horseback, with guns; the command started in pursuit of them; they wheeled back into the woods, and were pursued a short distance by the command, who, through fear of being drawn into an ambush of the rebels, wheeled about and made their way back to camp.

Upon inquiry in reference to the character of the men shot, I learned that their names were as follows: one Lasley, one Price, and one Ridgeway. The two latter were retreating rebels from Price's army, and the former had drilled two rebel companies last spring one year ago, and at one time had fifteen men armed to attack a train of cars on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, at Hannewell, but the train having soldiers aboard, they concluded not to make the attack, and separated.

So far as I can learn, these are the facts of the case.

G. W. BEAMES.

Capt. M. S. M., 11th Reg. Cav.

You have now, Mr. Editor, what is believed by the authorities here to be a true statement of the facts in the aforesaid "Great Outrage." I make this statement merely to call the attention of the authorities to it, hoping you will see the necessity for the same.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

D. M. KINTER.