

"Gen. Lane and his Solution of the Negro Question," New York (NY) *World*,
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GEN. LANE AND HIS SOLUTION OF THE NEGRO
QUESTION.

Of course Gen. Fremont, when called upon for the restoration of these slaves, promptly gave the order therefor. Gen. Hunter issued an order, it is said, forbidding this species of robbery, but the question is one so delicate and requiring so much investigation that his orders can have but little effect. For instance, it is difficult to believe that all these chattels have been constrained to leave their homes without being able to make their durance known. It is, on the contrary, reasonable to suppose that the darkeys have been as free to "run" as to be driven. The agency of the negro servants in the army is all the machinery necessary to cause a regular stampede. An asylum once guaranteed, the darkey will not need much coaxing.

Such an asylum they have in the camp of the Kansas Brigade. Smarting under the wrongs endured at the hands of Missourians five years since, Gen. Lane is now in a position to repay the debt.

As I understand it, Lane's policy on this question is one of simply "letting slavery take care of itself." He insists that "he shall not be converted either into slave catcher or slave dealer." In a speech made to the Indiana regiments last night in response to a serenade, he expressly said that "he will not fight in this war if it is to be turned to pro-slavery purposes." If slavery be ground to powder in this contest, he will regard it as one of the best results of the war.

His course is, when any person claims a runaway slave, to say, "Find your slave; if he is in my camp you can take him, if he is willing to go." Upon receiving an order from the commanding general for the delivery of a slave, he hands the order to an aid, with instructions to accompany the owner through the camp, and, if found, the slave is given up. It is needless to say that the search is seldom successful. The whole method of abduction is irresponsible, and is fast settling the question of slavery in Missouri. The rebels have taken many of their slaves south; the balance are being rapidly run of.

The consequences are a tremendous change in the sentiments of the people. Many of those who have hitherto ranked as Union men declare if this is to be made a war on slavery, they are going with the South. The patriotism of some of them is not deep rooted, but it is to be regretted that our army should labor under so grievous a charge. It is not fitting that soldiers should thus be made judge and executioner of the law confiscating the property and slaves of rebels.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands

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