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Letter From St. Joseph.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Jan 19th, 1859.

To the Editor of the Missouri Democrat:

I observe in your paper of the 14th inst., in speaking of a free soil paper recently established in Kansas City, that you hold the following language:

"Kansas City is more thoroughly awake to her own interest than any other town on our border, and we hazard little in saying that the *Western Port* will do as much to encourage a vigorous immigration there, as any other, or all other of its natural advantages combined."

In saying this for Kansas City, you have done an injustice to St. Joseph, the second city in the State, (uninentionally, no doubt) which I desire to correct.—"Kansas City" may be "thoroughly awake to her own interests," which I hope is true, but that she "is more thoroughly awake to her own interest than any other on our border," I stoutly deny. St. Joseph claims to be more thoroughly awake to her own interest than other city on the border, and is advancing faster to the free labor condition, than any portion of Missouri. We have a free labor paper (the *Deutsche Zeitung*,) published in the German language, established in this city. It was established long before a free labor paper was dreamed of at Kansas City, and it has now a large and growing circulation, and is conducted with unusual ability, the editor being one of the best writers in the State. Not only this; arrangements are now made to establish a free labor journal in St. Joseph, *published in the English language*, early in the Spring, and the proprietor is now absent with a view of purchasing the type, press, &c., which will be here on the opening of navigation.

St. Joseph, you know, is situated in what is known as the "Platte purchase." Six fine counties, the best in the State, are embraced in what is known as the "Platte purchase," and they lay in a narrow strip, and bounded by Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. It is not more than a day's ride from any point in these six counties to either Kansas, Nebraska, or Iowa, and its locality will compel the few slaves now in them to be taken off to the interior of the State, or to the South, during the next year. In 1856 the number of slaves in the six counties referred to was about 5800. The number is now estimated to be as follows:

Platte county - - -	2,500
Buchanan - - - -	1,500
Andrew - - - - -	600
Holt - - - - -	300
Atchison - - - - -	80
Nodaway - - - - -	140
Estimated total - - -	5,120

St. Louis county alone had in 1856, 4223 slaves. So you will percieve that, at the present time, the six Platte counties by a fair estimate have only 897 more slaves than St. Louis county in 1856. It is a fact not denied, but admitted generally, that the slave population of this part of the State is *rapidly decreasing*, and that the "Platte purchase" will attain the free State condition in a very short time. In this city the eye beholds the free laborer in all the departments of labor, and slave labor is so scarce that it is considered the most nominal interest we have. St. Joseph is now entitled to be enrolled in the list of the free cities of the West.

Yours, etc. X.

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