

Notice ... Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, claimants of interest in the Half Breed lands, are not cooperating with Messrs. Aiken and Little, in sales of the half breed lands, or any portion of them ... [Des Moines, Iowa] Sept. 4, 1837.

NOTICE.

We have just received a hand bill, in words and figures following to wit:

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned, claimants of interest in the Half Breed Lands, are not co-operating with Messrs. AIKEN & LITTLE, in sales of the half breed lands, or any portion of them.

That we do not recognize their right to sell, and shall contest any title which they shall pretend to convey, and that whoever purchases from them, can in no event hold a greater right than those gentlemen possess, which we believe to be much smaller than they pretend to claim. There has yet been no judicial ascertainment of the rights of the claimants, and we, with others, are endeavoring to have an investigation take place, and a final determination made as to the claims of all, before any sale, in order that justice may be done to every one. The course pursued by Messrs. Aiken and Little has a tendency to throw every thing into confusion, and create endless trouble and litigation. We therefore warn all persons against purchasing from them.

Mary L. Johnson,

Eliza O. Gildersleve,

E. M. Gleim,

Jno. O'Rourke,

Michael Tesson,

Edward Walsh,

Otis Reynolds,

F. Dorthey,

By J. Walsh & A. Gamble their attorneys.

Henry C. Cob,

Wm. Laughton,

Elizabeth Hunt,

Sheldon Norton,

Phillip G. Hambaugh, attorney in fact for twenty eight additional claimants.

St. Louis, July 26th, 1837.

Jas. R. DcDonald,

P. Walsh,

Geo. Patch,

Greene Erskine,

Josiah Spalding,

Henry McKee,

Hugh Turnelty,

It is not our wish to make lengthy and argumentative replies to papers bearing the character of the above; and shall content ourselves with a simple statement of some of the facts and circumstances as they have occurred, and leave the public to judge whether they are not a sufficient comment. We have always believed 'consistency a jewel.' Heretofore the gentlemen by their agents have held out to the world, and to us that they had united, and were acting in concert with us, and even went so far as to make sales of lands in the Half Breed tract, and give deeds of conveyance signed by Archibald Gamble as attorney in fact for most of the above named claimants. Will gentlemen call to mind the course pointed out and pursued by them, and also the purport of a lengthy speech made by Archibald Gamble, agent, at the sale at Keokuk on the 14th June last? Will the gentlemen remember the arrangement agreed to at that time for the meeting on the 15th of August, and then say where

is the consistency in having hand bills printed on the 26th of July, placed aside till after the 15th of August, proceeding to the place appointed for the meeting, drawing petition to the Legislature, and departing without explanation, or giving time for reflection upon the new course, or pointing out the source from whence had issued the new light which had so estranged them? The gentlemen say 'whoever purchases from them' (Aiken and Little) 'can in no event hold a greater right than those gentlemen possess, which we believe to be much smaller than they pretend to claim.' Are not these gentlemen aware that, previous to the 14th of June last, they, by Archibald Gamble their attorney, investigated and passed opinion upon the claims represented by Aiken and Little; that Messrs. Aiken and Little did not pretend to claim any thing under those titles pronounced spurious; that they did not propose to sell a greater interest than they really had, which was set forth by Archibald Gamble in his speech at Keokuk; and have Aiken and Little at any time pretended to claim more than Archibald Gamble then admitted to be theirs? Do they now offer or expect to sell the interest of other claimants? No. Then are they not pursuing the course approved by Archibald Gamble himself? We only propose to sell our own property and such other interest as we see fit to guarantee, and therefore do not ask those gentlemen to recognize 'our right to sell,' neither do we fear the remark that they 'shall contest any title' we 'shall pretend to convey.' We think ourselves able to defend the rights conveyed by us. Can the gentlemen say the same for the rights they have sold? We hope so, inasmuch as they have co-operated with us in making sales. They now say they 'are not co-operating with Messrs. Aiken and Little.' There is a cause for all things. The gentlemen joined with us in giving orders for the survey of the towns of Keokuk and Montrose, and have withdrawn leaving unpaid the bills for surveying, and to an amount above one thousand dollars. And now, who are those gentlemen who as agents have signed the above hand bill! Agents to publish bulletins, slandering the titles of other claimants? They possess no such powers, but were appointed agents to co-operate with Messrs. Aiken and Little in making sales of the Half Breed lands, as will appear by reference to the powers of attorney on record at Madison, in Lee County, W. T.

We wish gentlemen also to understand that we are anxious to have a judicial 'ascertainment' of the rights of the claimants, and have petitioned the Legislature to pass a law to meet the case. If trouble and litigation follow our course, it falls upon us, and none else. We still propose to sell as before, and offer the lands in the Half Breed tract at low prices, giving warrantee deeds to the portions of interest we represent, and also a further covenant by which we bind ourselves that should a purchaser under us ever be ejected or dispossessed from any part, we will make up an equivalent in value from other lands of the company in the Half Breed tract.

We find no difficulty in making sales to individuals acquainted with all the facts relative to our titles, and we feel confident that we can satisfy all persons wishing to purchase that we will make them a title which they will approve.

Dated, at the office of the Des Moines Land Company, Sept. 4. 1837.

JOSHUA AIKEN.

ROBERT E. LITTLE, Agents,

Aiken L Little circular for the Sale of Half Breed Lands

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