

KICKAPOO AND SACRAMENTO.

HISTORY OF TWO NOTED PIECES OF ARTILLERY.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Aug. 8.

A special in yesterday's *Globe-Democrat* from Leavenworth, Kan., announced that special efforts were being made by the Kansas Historical Society to recover a brass cannon captured by the Freesoilers of that State from the Missouri pro-slavery forces during the border troubles preceding the war. The piece, which was ^{only} valuable for its historical associations, was known as the "Kickapoo," and was captured by Gen. Doniphan's forces in California during the Mexican war, the "Sacramento," another noted piece, being captured at the same time. It was in the custody of the Leavenworth Turners, and having exploded not long ago it was considered worthless as a piece of artillery, and was sold, it is said, for old brass. A visit was made to the Southern Historical Society, and some interesting information obtained concerning the Sacramento, the reputed mate of the missing piece. The Sacramento, according to a paper read before the society, was captured, with several other pieces of artillery, by the Missouri troops at the battle of Sacramento. It was a nine-pounder, rather longer than the ordinary piece, and was supposed to have been made of brass. Like other trophies captured from the Mexicans by Doniphan's forces, it was brought to Missouri and turned over to the State. It remained for several years at the State Capitol, but, by some means not stated, it reached the interior of the State, and would have probably dropped into oblivion had not the civil war occurred. When Gov. Claib Jackson called for troops in 1861, the Sacramento, minus a carriage and the ordinary artillery accoutrements, was sent to Jefferson City, where a cumbersome carriage was made for it in the penitentiary. When completed the piece was brought out for inspection, and two United States army officers condemned the carriage and said it would not last 10 days. The piece, including the condemned portion, was taken charge of Capt. Weightman, who took part in its capture at Sacramento, and, with three other pieces, constituted Weightman's Battery in the Missouri State Guard. The battery took part in the battles of Carthage and Wilson's Creek, Capt. Weightman being killed at the latter place. Capt. Hiram Bledsoe then took charge of the battery and commanded it to the close of the war. Bledsoe's Battery and the old Sacramento obtained considerable historical renown. The battery having been assigned east of the Mississippi after the battle of Pea Ridge, it took part in all the prominent battles in Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama. Just before the Atlanta campaign the old piece, having worn out, was ordered recast, but what eventually became of it was not ascertained. Bledsoe's Battery continued in service until the surrender, and was the only Confederate battery that came out of Hood's disastrous campaign intact.

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