THE EXECUTION OF JOHN BROWN.

HE MAKES NO SPEECH.

HE DIES EASY.

THE BODY HANGS HALF AN HOUR.

Brown Firm and Dignified to the Last.

THE BODY IS GIVEN TO HIS WIFE.

Ridiculous Military Display before Mrs. Brown.

HER INTERVIEW WITH HER HUSBAND.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., Wednesday, Nov. 30, 1859.

THE GALLOWS.

This instrument of death has been constructed, but will not be erected on the place of execution until Friday morning. For the present, it stands in the inclosure of the new Baptist Church. It is made according to the ordinary pattern, with uprights, a cross-beam and trap. It is continually visited by large crowds, and every person seems anxious to procure at least a splinter of the wood for remembrance. The loose chips were long ago exhausted, and I saw this morning all sorts of knives used to separate fragments.

THE DEATH GROUND.

This will not be so distant as was at first intended. A spot has been fixed upon, some four or five hundred yards to the rear of the jail. The land lies so that many thousands of spectators can witness the proceeding. It is settled that none but the military, and as few as possible of them, will be permitted to approach within hearing of what Brown may say. The authorities distrust his assertion that he means to offer no dying speech. But why this jealous caution? Can it be that it is feared this old man's sturdy truths and simple eloquence will stir a fever in the blood of all who listen, that shall break down the barriers of prejudice, and shatter their feeble principles like glass?

BROWN'S LETTER OF EXPLANATION.

To-day Brown has not been disturbed by visitors. He has written without ceasing, and means to continue doing so, through the greater part of the night. It is evident that he means to give all his energies to the letter which he hopes will be published after his death. It is intimated, however, but I hope not correctly, that this last declaration will never be permitted to go before the world.

EXPULSION OF STRANGERS.

Three or four visitors, who were looked upon as dangerous to the peace of the community, were this morning expelled from Charlestown. The order of proceedings in one case will show how all were conducted. A gentleman of unfamiliar aspect, and with a name which nobody recognized—and nobody remembers now—arrived in the train from Harper's Ferry. He was immediately arrested, and put through a course of interrogation by Gen. Taliaferro. As soon as it was ascertained that he came from Iowa, he was given in charge of an armed escort, and straightway sent off. He was not even allowed time to dine.

EXCESSIVE ZEAL.

You know that I believe all the zeal here is excessive, but occasionally a display is made the extravagance of which has been admitted, even by the citizens. The other night, Gov. Wise was kept standing in the rain long enough to catch a severe cold, because he could not give the sentry the countersign. Yesterday morning, Mr. Edwin Ruffin, President of the State Agricultural Society, and one of the most ultra Pro-Slavery men in the country, started off a little distance out of town for a walk. Everybody knows Mr. Ruffin, whose advanced age and patriarchal mien make him an object of much public attention. The virulence of his hatred for Brown also adds to his popularity. He professes to be willing to perform the hangman's duty, if he could be permitted. But during his absence, a new guardsman was put on the patrol line, who did not choose to recognize the old gentleman on his return. He arrested him, and marched him down the main street, to the guard-house, where, of course, he was at once released. This morning, Col. Taliaferro, brother of the commander in-chief, was surprised coming into town without uniform, was set upon, captured, and reduced to much subjection, before he could make good his identity.

GRAVE-YARD SPORTS.

I was at the Episcopal church, this morning, where the Wheeling battalion is quartered. The soldiers occupy the pews for beds, sleeping on the cushions. In the grave-yard attached, some of the soldiers were washing clothes, some cooking, some preparing fuel. On a large tomb-stone, a party played games at cards.

MILITARY ORDERS.

The revelries of the soldiers have called forth an order that they shall not leave their quarters by night. It has also been decreed that the troops hereafter sleep on their arms.

OTHER ITEMS.

Cook still endeavors to spread the belief that he was deluded by Brown. His brother-in-law, Gov. Willard of Indiana, is moving heaven and earth to secure a commutation of sentence for his condemned relation. No one here supposes that it will be availing.

The man whom Cook declared to be Coppie's brother has been removed to Winchester, partly because the jail is overcrowded, and partly because there were fears he would be lynched, if suffered to remain.

It is said that Gov. Wise does not intend to be present at the execution.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

BALTIMORE, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

The excitement here this morning was very great. All were eager for the news from Charlestown. As soon as the telegraph announced Brown's death, the newspaper offices were besieged by crowds. Thousands of extras were rapidly thrown off, and for hours no topic was heard of but the absorbing event. The demands of Virginia upon the gunshops of this city have been excessive. Within the last month $10,000 worth of pistols have been sent hence to the Old Dominion.

To the Associated Press

CHARLESTOWN, Va., Thursday, Dec. 1, 1859.

The agent of the Associated Press here has been refused Gov. Wise's permission to attend the execution. No facilities will be extended to reporters.

The day has passed quietly.

Mrs. Brown was escorted over from the Ferry at 3 o'clock, when the entire military were brought out to make a demonstration. She was received with full military honors, but her companions were not allowed to accompany her from the Ferry. After remaining four hours with her husband, she was escorted back to the Ferry at 9 o'clock, there to await the reception of her husband's body.

No one will be allowed within ear of the execution.

BALTIMORE, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

A special dispatch from Charlestown says that John Brown was hung at 11¼ o'clock this forenoon, and that there was no unusual excitement.

CHARLESTOWN, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

Brown was taken to the scaffold in a furniture-wagon about 11 o'clock.

He spoke freely to the soldiers around him.

The body hung about thirty-five minutes.

He died apparently very easy.

The body will be sent to Harper's Ferry at 4 o'clock.

SECOND DISPATCH.

The old man was swung off at 11:15, precisely, he having remained firm and dignified to the last.

The military assembled at 9 o'clock, and were posted on the field leading to the scaffold, and also at various other points, in conformity with the general orders.

Everything was conducted under the strictest military discipline, as if the town were in a state of siege, mounted guards being stationed in the woods, to the left of the scaffold, and picket guards toward the Shenandoah Mountains, in the rear. That part of the military which kept the field was joined into two hollow squares, one within the other.

In the center of these stood the scaffold. Between the inner and outer lines of troops spectators were freely admitted, but none were allowed to remain outside the outer line.

The prisoner was accompanied from the jail to the scaffold by the Sheriff and his assistants, and Capt. Avis, the jailer, the procession being escorted by a body of military consisting of six companies of infantry, one rifle corps, and a company of horse. There was no clergyman present, Brown having declined all religious ceremonies, either in the jail or on the scaffold. Brown was taken to the scaffold in a small cart, in which was placed also his coffin, a plain affair made of white pine.

On arriving at the scaffold, the prisoner looked around calmly upon the assembled multitude for a moment, and then mounted the scaffold with a firm step. His arms were now pinioned by the Sheriff, when the prisoner stood silent for a moment. He then uttered a few words of farewell to Captain Avis and Sheriff Campbell, when, at 11¼ o'clock, the trap of the scaffold was pulled away, and with a few slight struggles, John Brown yielded up his spirit.

MRS. BROWN'S INTERVIEW WITH HER HUSBAND.

CHARLESTOWN, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

The interview between Brown and his wife lasted from 4 o'clock in the afternoon until near 8 o'clock in the evening, when Gen. Taliaferro informed them that the period allowed had elapsed, and that she must prepare for departure to the Ferry. A carriage was again brought to the door, the military took possession of the square, and with an escort of twenty mounted men, the cortege moved off, Capt. Moore of the Montgomery Guards accompanying her. The interview was, I learn, not a very affecting one—rather of a practical character, with regard to the future of herself and children, and the arrangement and settlement of business affairs. They seemed considerably affected when they first met, and Mrs. Brown was, for a few moments, quite overcome; but Brown was as firm as a rock, and she soon recovered her composure. There was an impression that the prisoner might possibly be furnished with a weapon or with strychnine, by his wife, and before the interview her person was searched by the wife of the jailer, and a strict watch kept upon them during the time they were together. At the time of separation they both seemed to be fully self-possessed, and the parting, especially on his part, exhibited a composure, either feigned or real, that was truly surprising. I learn from Captain Moore that she rather repelled all attempts on his part to express sympathy with her under her afflictions.

She resented the idea that Capt. Brown had done anything to deserve death, or to attaint his name with dishonor, and declared that the ignominious character of the punishment that was about to be inflicted upon him was as cruel as it was unjust. She regarded him as a martyr in a righteous cause, and was proud to be the wife of such a man. The gallows, she said, had no terrors for her or for him.

The character of the interview may be judged to some extent from this conversation with Capt. Moore, which took place previous to it.

She stated that she had not seen him since last June, about six months ago, and that they had been separated with the exception of a few days for nearly two years. They had, however, corresponded, and she had always felt a deep interest in the cause in which he was engaged.

I learn from Capt. Avis, the jailer, that the interview between the prisoner and his wife was characteristic of the man, and the direction given for the management and distribution of his property embraced all the minor details of his last will and testament.

Gen. Taliaferro was also present, and Capt. Brown urged that his wife be allowed to remain with him all night. To this the General refused to assent, allowing them but four hours.

On first meeting, they kissed, and affectionately embraced, and Mrs. Brown shed a few tears, but immediately checked her feelings. They stood embraced, and she sobbing, for nearly five minutes, and he was apparently unable to speak. The prisoner only gave way for a few moments, and was soon calm and collected, and remained firm throughout the interview. At the close, they shook hands, but did not embrace, and as they parted, he said, "God bless you and the children." Mrs. Brown replied, "God have mercy on you," and continued calm until she left the room, when she remained in tears a few moments, and then prepared to depart. The interview took place in the parlor of Captain Avis, and the prisoner was free from manacles of any kind.

They sat side by side on a sofa, and, after discussing family matters, proceeded to business. He stated that he desired his property to pass entirely into her possession, and appeared to place full confidence in her ability to manage it properly for the benefit of his younger children. He requested her to remain at North Elba, N. Y., on her farm, where she now resides, and which belongs to her. He desired that his younger children should be educated, and if she could not obtain facilities for their education at home, to have them sent to a boarding-school. He then gave directions and dictated to Sheriff Campbell a will, which directed that all his property should go to his wife, with the exception of a few presents and bequests which he made. To one of his sons he gave a double spyglass and to another a watch, while a third was directed to take a tomb, or monument, that marks the grave of his father at North Elba, and have his name, age, and the manner of his death, together with the cause for which he had suffered, inscribed thereon. He directs that it shall remain at North Elba as long as his family continues to reside there. To each of his children he bequeathed the sum of $50, and to each of his daughters a Bible, to cost $5, to be purchased out of money coming to him from his father's estate. Also, he directs that a Bible, to cost $3, shall be presented to each of his grandchildren, and that $50 each be paid to three individuals, whom he named, if they can be found, and if not, to their legal representatives.

During the course of conversation, Mrs. Brown asked him if he had heard that Gerrit Smith had become insane, and had been sent to the Asylum at Utica. He replied that he had read of it in the papers, and was sorry to hear it, but immediately changed the subject.

The subject of the death of his two sons was spoken of, and Mrs. Brown remarked that she had made some efforts while at Harper's Ferry for the recovery of their bodies, to which end, she said, Col. Barbour had kindly consented to give his assistance. Capt. Brown remarked that he would also like the remains of the two Thompsons removed if they could be found, but suggested that it would be best to take his body with the bodies of his four sons, and get a pile of pine logs and burn them all together; that it would be much better and less expensive to thus gather up all their ashes together, and take them to their final resting-place. Sheriff Campbell told him that this would not be permitted within the State, and Mrs. Brown objected to the proposition altogether.

The prisoner said that he contemplated his death with composure and calmness. It would undoubtedly be pleasant to live longer, but as it was the will of God he should close his career, he was content. It was doubtless best that he should be thus legally murdered for the good of the cause, and he was prepared to submit to his fate without a murmur. Mrs. Brown becoming depressed at these remarks, he bade her cheer up, telling her that his spirit would soon be with her again, and that they would be reunited in Heaven.

With regard to his execution, he said that he desired no religious ceremonies, either in the jail or on the scaffold, from ministers who consent or approve of the enslavement of their fellow-creatures; that he would prefer rather to be accompanied to the scaffold by a dozen slave children and a good old slave mother, with their appeal to God for blessings on his soul, than all the eloquence of the whole clergy of the Commonwealth combined.

During the past week several letters containing checks and drafts had been forwarded to him by his friends in different sections of the country. These he indorsed, and made payable to his wife Mary A. Brown (one of them was for $100 and one for $50) and handed them to her.

TO-DAY'S REPORT.

The prisoner was brought out of jail at eleven. Before leaving he bade adieu to all his fellow-prisoners, and was very affectionate to all except Cooke. He charged Cooke with having deceived and misled him in relation to the support he was to receive from the slaves; he was led to believe that they were ripe for insurrection, and had found that his representations were false. Cooke denied the charge, but made little reply.

The prisoner then told the Sheriff he was ready. His arms were pinioned, and with a black slouch hat on, and the same clothes he wore during the trial, he proceeded to the door, apparently calm and cheerful.

As he came out, the six companies of infantry and one troop of horse, with Gen. Taliaferro and his entire staff, were deploying in front of the jail, while an open wagon with a pine box, in which was a fine oak coffin, was waiting for him.

He looked around and spoke to several persons he recognized, and walking down the steps he took a seat on the coffin-box, along with the Jailer, Avis. He looked with interest on the fine military display, but made no remark. The wagon moved off, flanked by two files of riflemen, in close order. On reaching the field, the military had already full possession. Pickets were stationed, and the citizens kept back at the point of the bayonet from taking any position but that assigned them.

Through the determined persistence of Dr. Rawlings, of *Frank Leslie's*, the order excluding the press was partially rescinded, and they were assigned a position near the Major-General's staff. The prisoner walked up the steps firmly, and was the first man on the gallows. Avis and Sheriff Campbell stood by his side, and after shaking hands and bidding an affectionate adieu, he thanked them for their kindness, when the cap was put over his face and the rope around his neck. Avis asked him to step forward on the trap. He replied, "You must lead me; I cannot see." The rope was adjusted, and the military order given, "Not ready yet." The soldiers marched, countermarched, and took position as if an enemy were in sight, and were thus occupied for nearly ten minutes. The prisoner, standing all the time, Avis inquired if he was not tired. Brown said, "No, not tired; but don't keep me waiting longer than is necessary." He was swung off at fifteen minutes past 11. A slight grasping of the hands and stretching of the muscles were seen, and then all was quiet.

The body was several times examined and the pulse did not cease until thirty-five minutes had passed. The body was then cut down, placed in a coffin and conveyed under military escort to the depot, when it was put in a car to be carried to the Ferry by a special train at 4 o'clock.

All the arrangements were carried out with a precision and military strictness that was most annoying.

The general conviction everywhere entertained was that the excitement rescue was an egregious hoax.

This morning Brown executed an instrument empowering Sheriff Campbell, to administer on all property of his in the State, with directions to pay over the proceeds of the weapons, if recovered, to his widow and children.

BROWN'S INTERVIEW WITH HIS FELLOW-PRISONERS.

Sheriff Campbell bid the prisoner farewell in his cell, the latter returning thanks for the Sheriff's kindness, and speaking of Capt. Pate as a brave man.

The prisoner was then taken to the cell of Copeland and Green; he told them to stand up like men, and not betray their friends; he then handed them a quarter each, saying he had no more use for money, and bade them adieu. He then visited Cook and Coppie, who were chained together, and remarked to Cook: "You have made false statements." Cook asked: "What do you mean?" Brown answered: "Why, by stating that I sent you to Harper's Ferry."

Cook replied, "Did you not tell me in Pittsburg to come to Harper's Ferry and see if Forbes had made any disclosures?"

Brown—"No, sir; you knew I protested against your coming."

Cook replied, "Capt. Brown, we remember differently," at the same time dropping his head.

Brown then turned to Coppie and said, "Coppie, you also made false statements, but I am glad to hear you have contradicted them. Stand up like a man." He also handed him a quarter. He shook both by the hand, and they parted.

The prisoner was then taken to Stevens's cell, and they kindly interchanged greetings. Stevens—"Good bye, Captain; I know you are going to a better land." Brown replied, "I know I am." Brown told him to bear up, and not betray his friends, giving him a quarter.

He did not visit Hazlett, as he has always persisted in denying any knowledge of him. On his way to the scaffold, Mr. Sadler, an undertaker, who was in the wagon with him, remarked, "Capt. Brown, you are a game man." He answered, "Yes, I was so trained up; it was one of the lessons of my mother; but it is hard to part from friends, though newly made." He then remarked, "This is a beautiful country; I never had the pleasure of seeing it before."

On reaching the field where the gallows was erected, the prisoner said, "Why are none but military allowed in the enclosure? I am sorry citizens have been kept out." On reaching the gallows, he observed Mr. Hunter and Mayor Green standing near, to whom he said, "Gentlemen, good-by," his voice not faltering.

While on the scaffold, Sheriff Campbell asked him if he would take a handkerchief in his hand to drop as a signal when he was ready. He replied "No, I do not want it; but do not detain me any longer than is absolutely necessary."

Shortly after the execution, and while the body was being taken to the depot, great excitement was raised by the arrival of a horseman, announcing that Wheatland, the late residence of George W. Turner, who was shot at Harper's Ferry, was on fire, and that the fire was extending to the farm and buildings of Mr. Wm. F. Turner.

The latter, who was in town, said that he had left home at 10 o'clock in the morning. He said that several of his horses had died very suddenly, and also some of his sheep. He intended to have their stomachs analyzed, as he believed them to have been poisoned.

The stock of Mr. Castleman and Mr. Myers in the same neighborhood had also died very mysteriously. The excitement caused by this was very great.

Col. Davis had the Faquier Cavalry in readiness to go out and inquire into the truth of the report about the fire. The body of Brown arrived by the special train, and will be taken on by Mrs. Brown and friends, by express, direct to Albany.

It is desired to avoid all public demonstration, and it is determined that the body shall not be visible anywhere on the route to North Elba, where it will be deposited in the family burying ground.

Mrs. Brown speaks in the highest terms of the great kindness shown her by the citizens and authorities of the State. She is, of course, in great distress. She has most favorably impressed all who have met her, as a woman of fine feeling, and of great affection for her husband.

PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

The sympathizers with John Brown held a large meeting here to-day. Ex-Mayor Barstow presided, and made a lengthy speech. Speeches were also made by the Hon. Thomas Davis, the Rev. Mr. Woodbury, a Unitarian clergyman, and the Rev. Mr. Day, a Free-Will Baptist.

The feeling of the larger part of the community was strongly against the meeting. All the prominent men engaged in it are among those entertaining extreme views upon the Slavery question.

BOSTON, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

Tremont Temple was crowded this evening, to commemorate the death of John Brown.

All the colored population of Boston and its vicinity were present, together with many ladies, a large number of whom attended out of mere curiosity. On the platform were seated many of the most prominent Abolitionists of New-England, and erected upon it was the standard of Virginia, with its coat-of-arms draped in black. In front the rostrum was decorated with a large black cross, underneath which was a photograph likeness of John Brown, which was draped in mourning.

Mr. Sewall made the opening speech, stating the object of the meeting was one of sympathy, and to commemorate the death of John Brown, who, he designated as a "Martyr to Freedom." He concluded by characterising Governor Wise as the modern Pontius Pilate.

Wm. Lloyd Garrison then read the various letters and documents which have emanated from John Brown. They have heretofore been published.

J. S. Martin, a negro of Philadelphia, followed. He lauded the acts of John Brown, at the same time slightly rapping the Republican party for its lukewarmness in not doing likewise. A remark made by him that Virginia, in her act to-day was the most guilty of all the guilty mothers of the American Government was received with mingled hisses and applause.

J. Q. A. Griffin of Malden, a Member of the House, next addressed the meeting. He claimed that the heinous offenses of Pontius Pilate, in crucifying our Savior, whitened into virtue when compared with those of Gov. Wise of Virginia in his course toward John Brown. He also stated that it was the opinion of no less a Democrat than the Hon. Caleb Cushing, as a lawyer, that the proceedings of the Governor and Court of Virginia, in trying and convicting John Brown, were without the sanction of the Constitution and laws of the United States.

A letter was received from the Rev. H. M. Dexter, of the Pine-street church, regretting his inability to be present, and stating that while he did not justify the act of John Brown, he thought it would not be glorified by its future good results to the cause of freedom.

The Rev. Mr. Pierpont made a few remarks in accordance with the tone of the previous speaker.

He was followed by the Hon. R. H. Davis of Fall River, a member of the Massachusetts Senate, who indorsed the action of John Brown on the ground that its ultimate result would be good.

William Lloyd Garrison then made a characteristic speech, glorifying Brown and his associates, and thanked God that the time had been brought about by the acts of to-day's martyr, when the sympathies of men of rank were identified with his, which would thus enable him to leave the arena, after battling for thirty years for American freedom.

A collection was taken up, announced to be for the benefit of the family of John Brown. The meeting then dispersed at an early hour.

John Brown's execution to-day attracted considerable crowds about the newspaper offices as the evening editions were issued, and several individuals promenaded the streets with crape attached to their persons. Religious services were held in several of the colored churches the most part of the day. Otherwise there were no manifestations unusual to every-day life in this city.

At the meeting of the Senate to-day, after prayer by the Chaplain, Mr. Luce of the Nantucket District moved that the Senate adjourn on account of the execution of John Brown. Mr. Rich of Suffolk opposed the motion, and the Yeas and Nays stood 8 for adjournment and 11 against.

In the House, Mr. Ray of Nantucket moved an adjournment, offering at the same time a resolution of sympathy for Brown. A spicy debate followed, when the motion to adjourn was defeated—Yeas, 6; Nays, 141.

At Concord, N. H., the bells were tolled for Brown. The Rev. Mr. Grimes, colored, held late prayer-meetings at his church last night for John Brown, and is continuing them to-day.

The bells in Plymouth and New-Bedford were tolled at noon to-day in memory of John Brown.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

There was a brisk excitement here this afternoon, caused by an attempt to toll the obsequies of "Old Brown" from the City Hall bell. It had struck four or five times, when Mayor Harrington appeared among the sympathizers in the belfry, and ordered them to desist. One of them refused, when the Mayor dropped him through the scuttle, being the most convenient mode, and the bell did not ring any more.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

A meeting assembled in the National Hall this morning, where there was an overflowing attendance, to offer prayers for John Brown. The Rev. Mr. Furness read a number of letters from Brown. Addresses were delivered by Lucretia Mott, Mary Grew, and others.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

The City Hall was densely packed with citizens this evening, who listened for over three hours to stirring and eloquent speeches, expressing sympathy for John Brown and his family.

Strong resolutions were adopted, and a Committee on Funds appointed. A large amount of money was contributed for the relief of Brown's family.

The City Hall bell was tolled sixty-three times, the strokes corresponding with Brown's age.

The sympathy for Brown and his family is very strong here.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

BIRMINGHAM, CONN., Friday Dec. 2, 1859.

The bells here are tolling in honor of John Brown.

WORCESTER, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

The church bells were tolled here to-day for the execution of John Brown, from 10 o'clock to 12. This evening a great meeting was held in Mechanics' Hall, which was addressed by prominent gentlemen of the city, clergymen and others. It was the largest meeting that has been held in a long time. Three thousand persons were in the Hall, and a great many came who could not get in. At the close a collection was taken up for Brown's family, which was very successful.

ALBANY, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

One hundred minute-guns were fired to-day, commencing at 10½ o'clock, in commemoration of the execution of John Brown for murder and insurrection at Harper's Ferry.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

ALBANY, Dec. 2, 1859.

A meeting of the friends of Freedom was held in the forenoon, at which the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, In the language of Henry Clay, That while we "would not force liberty upon other nations," we "maintain "that an oppressed people are authorized, whenever they can, "to rise and break their fetters." (See speech of March 24, 1818.)

Resolved, That, so long as Pulaski, Kosciusko, Steuben, De Kalb, and Lafayette are justly honored for their devotion to the freedom of a people not their own, the equally heroic and disinterested efforts of John Brown to give liberty to race alien to his own must receive the sympathy and honor of all lovers of Liberty and Human Rights.

Resolved, In view of the recent arrest of Dr. Breed in the City of Washington for "an expression of opinion," we adopt the language of *The Evening Journal* of this city, "the questions of "Compromise, of the admission of new States, and of the regulation of Territorial affairs which have convulsed the Union, are "all insignificant compared with the RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH."

Resolved, That it is more and more our duty, as citizens of a Free State, to absolve ourselves from all complicity with Slavery, that one of the most important and feasible measures in this direction is the enactment of a stringent and effective Personal Liberty Law; and that we will not cease to petition for such a law until it is duly incorporated among our statutes.

At noon minute guns commenced firing, and their solemn booming lasted for several hours.

At 3 o'clock a meeting was held at the Hamilton-street Baptist Church, at which several addresses were made, and a collection taken up for the benefit of John Brown's family.

In the evening, W. J. Watkins and others addressed a large audience in the Wesleyan Church.

The day was observed by many families as one for fasting and special prayer.

CARD FROM THE OHIO MERCHANTS ARRESTED AT HARPER'S FERRY.

BALTIMORE, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

The following letter is furnished by the Ohio merchants who were arrested at Harper's Ferry:

BALTIMORE, Dec. 2, 1859.

TO THE PUBLIC.

We, the undersigned, having been arrested by the military authorities of the State of Virginia, on the morning of Wednesday last, while proceeding over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as passengers for the East, were disposed to overlook the detention and annoyance to which we were subjected, in the belief that the officers were imposed upon, and acted entirely from erroneous information. Observing, however, that we are accused of having expressed ourselves antagonistically to the State, regarding its prisoners at Charlestown, and that this is offered as a reason for our arrest, we deem it due to ourselves thus publicly to declare the statement entirely without foundation; that we are not public agitators of any sort, but order-loving business-men quietly pursuing our own affairs. We would, at the same time, in view of the numerous exciting reports that are being published, take occasion to declare that we were treated with every proper consideration by the military and citizens of Martinsburg, where our arrest took place, and that as soon as our case was made known to the Railroad Company, the President and other officers promptly telegraphed to the Commanding-General, and procured our release, and, moreover, as further evidence of our exoneration of the Baltimore and Ohio Company from all blame for this unusual proceeding, and an entire confidence that no further annoyance to passengers will occur, we propose to return to our homes in the West, by that route to-morrow.

(Signed), J. W. VANSANT, Fairfield Co., Ohio.
J. B. GLASSFORD, Morgan Co., Ohio.
J. L. COLLINS, Logan, Hocking Co., Ohio.

THE EXECUTION OF JOHN BROWN.

MEETING AT DR. CHEEVER'S CHURCH.

In accordance with previous announcement, a largely-attended prayer meeting was held in the Church of the Puritans (Dr. Cheever's), yesterday morning, for the purpose of supplicating God in behalf of John Brown, that he might be sustained and strengthened by Him up till the last moment of his life.

The Rev. Dr. CHEEVER conducted the exercises. After prayer by Mr. HARPER, and singing a hymn, LEWIS TAPPAN, esq., offered prayer, alluding to John Brown in the following manner:

"Oh God, grant that the spectacle taking place today in this land which is called civilized, but over which angels weep, may wring the hearts of the people, and that this tragical event may be sanctified to the people of the land for the good of those who trample on the rights of their fellow-men, and may it work for the good of the oppressed and down-trodden. We pray Thee be nigh to thy servant, surrounded as he is by infuriated enemies, with no wife nor child to comfort him. Be gracious unto him, and let him feel Thine arm round him. Lift him up above the multitude which are thirsting for his blood, and let him say as Thou didst, 'Father, forgive them, for they know 'not what they do.' We feel happy that he has been permitted to lay down his life for his fellow-men in imitation of Thee, although he took wrong means to accomplish his work, yet he was actuated by a love for the blessed Redeemer, and for the honor of Jesus Christ and the good of his country. Let him be immovable on this trying occasion, and not dishonor the cause of Jesus Christ and the cause of Freedom. And may he so conduct himself by Thy Grace that the multitude around him may feel that he is a Christian—a Christian martyr standing on the verge of eternity, and about to deliver himself into the arms of the blessed Savior. Have mercy on the poor slaves; encourage, give them patience and resignation to let them know that in good time Thou wilt perform thy promise."

After reading the 73d psalm, the Rev. Dr. CHEEVER said: They were all much impressed with Mr. Brown's last letter, in which he thanked God, who had given him strength to declare his righteousness and his works before men. The act for which this man was now put to death, was simply and solely the extremity of a protest against wicked laws, and against a crime, which God himself had declared, should be punished with death. John Brown had studied his Bible and he knew this. He abode under the shadow of the Almighty in this thing. Justice and righteousness occupied his mind, and unquestionably the character of his piety was of that lofty and stern character, which showed an admiration of those attributes of God, which he felt he was expressly called on to vindicate. Ah! what multitudes there were whose sympathies were thus carried forward, who admired the manner in which Christ died, but never took the attributes of God to their hearts, and felt that glorious jealousy for them. How many felt that the religion of sympathy was great. He in his heart of hearts admired that man for his sympathy and sensibility in behalf of the oppressed. He could admire and reverence so manifest an exhibition of religious character, which was God's work, not man's. It came right down in lineal descent from the Mayflower. But Brown was led right to the scaffold, right to death. He was God's first martyr in this land. The Doctor cited the case of St. Stephen, and said he believed that Brown would pray for his murderers as did St. Stephen for his; for Brown's murderers were of the same character.

The Rev. Mr. HALE of the Laight-street Baptist Church, offered prayer, in the course of which he prayed for God's dear servant, their brother in bonds, who in a little while would deliver up his life a sacrifice to truth, principle, and right. He thanked God that in our sin-cursed land there was one who would do right, when all did wrong, and who reduced to practice the principles of our holy religion. He thanked God that He had united Brown's spirit with that of Jesus. He prayed that that spirit might fill the heart of John Brown to-day. And as he stood up for the principles of primitive religion, let him feel the presence of his Lord and Master, while surrounded by those who "gnashed on him with their teeth," while they thirsted for the warm blood of his kind, honest, and benevolent heart. He trusted that his deportment to-day would carry conviction to this guilty land. The executioners, the Judges, and the lawyers who pleaded against him, and the Virginian authorities. Oh! might God trouble them to-day, and let them feel that they had raised their puny arm against Heaven. They asked not judgment but mercy—mercy on these men; and he prayed that he who compassionated the thief on the cross would compassionate them. He prayed for compassion also on this guilty land, and its more guilty churches. They were ashamed to own it before God that so many who stood at God's altar were dumb for the truth of God, and did not raise their voices in behalf of the oppressed.

The Rev. Mr. FRENCH, of the M. E. Church, offered a prayer which was very impressive. He made special reference to John Brown in the following manner: Remember thy servant, brother John Brown. Thou hast been with him heretofore, and we do not believe Thou wilt desert him in his last trying hour. His friends are far from him—between Him and them are bristling bayonets. Be with him as with Thy servant Stephen; and as Thou didst open the Heaven unto Stephen when his wicked enemies stoned him to death, so let the Heaven be opened unto John Brown; and may the soldiers and all who assist in his execution, be convinced that Thou hast left them nothing but his body for them to torture, that his spirit is with Thee. Thou hast often made Thyself manifest when martyrs have been offered up, and we pray that by this martyrdom a greater work may be effected for the poor slave than was ever effected before. Let it be for him an hour of triumph.

Several other prayers were offered and hymns sung. Although the whole congregation appeared to unite in the singing, yet there seemed to be a hesitancy in the sound as if arising from grief. There were few present who did not shed tears or otherwise manifest their emotion.

A collection was taken up for the benefit of Brown's family, amounting to $18.

The Rev. Mr. HALL pronounced the benediction, and the large assemblage dispersed.

THE EVENING SERVICES.

The Church of the Puritans was again well filled last evening with men and women profoundly exercised with the Virginia tragedy. Dr. Cheever officiated in the pulpit, and opened the exercise by reading the "Martyrs Glorified Hymn," which was sung by the choir and congregation. Prayer followed by an individual in the audience, in which the wife, children and grandchildren of John Brown were commended with especial earnestness to the throne of grace. Another hymn was then sung, commencing with

"How happy are the souls above,
From sin and sorrow free!"

A portion of Scripture was then read by Dr. CHEEVER, during which the reverend gentleman commented with especial earnestness upon the passage, Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs; God, to whom vengeance belongeth, show thyself." Passages from John Brown's letters were cited, where he said, "Joyfully I go in behalf of millions who have no rights;" another, in which he said, "I am worth more to hang than for any other purpose;" also, where he said, "I feel a thousand times more for my friends than for myself;" and finally the aged hero's courteous but firm rejection of the ministerial services of the Rev. Mr. Waugh, as worshiping a God with whom he (John Brown) had no sympathy. The citation of this fact met with an electrical response from the audience. One woman could not restrain herself, and distinctly exclaimed, "So do I," meaning to express that the shaveholder's God was utterly incompatible with hers. The meeting throughout was one of intense, all-absorbing, pervading excitement. Prayer and exhortation occupied the time of the meeting till near half-past 10 o'clock, and the longer the exercises continued the more solemn was the shadow which John Brown's departed spirit seemed to cast over the grave, excited congregation. At the close a collection of $50 was taken up for the family of the deceased.

PRAYER MEETING AT SHILOH CHURCH.—A Union Prayer Meeting was held in Shiloh Church at the same time with that of the Church of the Puritans. The Rev. H. H. Garnet conducted the exercises. Addresses were made, and prayers offered by Revs. Messrs. White, Henderson, Dunn, Johnson, Baulen, Crosby and Beman.

At 12 o'clock, Mr. Garnett said that if Virginia had kept her promise, John Brown had been launched into the presence of God to receive his Divine approbation.

A collection was taken, and the congregation, which was a large one, dismissed.

JOHN BROWN IN WILLIAMSBURGH.

The congregation and others assembled last evening at the Congregational Church, corner of South Third and Eleventh streets, to offer up prayers for the oppressed. The Rev. Mr. JOCELYN, pastor of the church, stated, after singing and reading from the Bible, that the object of the meeting was to offer up prayers for the oppressed, and for John Brown, who had that day died for the slave and for our country.

Mr. GOODELL prayed for the oppressed of every color, that they might remember them as if bound with them. They had prayed the night previous that John Brown might be delivered, but now they had the assurance that he had gone from this world forever.

Mr. HUNT read from THE TRIBUNE the last letter of John Brown to his wife, after which Mr. JOCELYN read from an evening paper the dispatches relative to his execution. This was received by the audience with sobbing and crying.

Mr. JOCELYN read from Isaiah xxiv, 19: "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead;" and from Micah, vii, 8: "Rejoice not, against me, and mine enemy; when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me."

Mr. GOODELL remarked that a great event had taken place; the greatest one of the century. A great man had fallen, and a whole nation had passed sentence upon his acts, and called them righteous. God had been calling the nation to repentance for many years, but it had turned a deaf ear to Him. He had spoken through the press, the minister, and the lecturer, but all to no effect. When from time to time the public had appeared to be stilling down to quiet, a startling event had taken place to rouse it up. This event, if they would put together the various circumstances constituting it, would resemble much those which had taken place in Egypt. It was their duty to break off the yoke of every slave. God had been waiting for them to make some sacrifice before he would lend his aid effectually. This they had now done, and He would stir up a revolution that should result in the freedom of all the oppressed.

Mr. HANCOCK and Mr. PETERSON made short prayer for the slave, for the widow of John Brown, and for the remaining prisoners who were to be hung.

Mr. SAMUEL L. HARRIS offered up an eloquent petition for the oppressed and down-trodden, for the slaveholders and their slaves, for the friends of Brown, Cooke, and the others, who had made martyrs of themselves for their country's good. For the wife of Brown he prayed especially in an earnest manner, that she might be comforted with the assurance that her husband had gone to the realms where Slavery was not known, and where she could eventually join with him in singing praises of love, without fear of death or suffering.

Another prayer was offered by Mr. WILLIAMS, after which the benediction was pronounced, and the audience separated.

AN ANTI-BROWN MEETING.

BOSTON, Friday, Dec. 2, 1859.

There is to be held a Union and Constitution meeting, to rebuke domestic treason, and avow new fealty to the public, at Faneuil Hall, next week. The preliminaries are arranged, and a call will be issued in *The Courier* to-morrow morning, signed by the Hon. Edward Everett, James W. Page, Franklin Haven, Franklin Skinner, George Lunt, Henry J. Gardiner, and others. It is understood the venerable ex-Governor Lincoln of Worcester will preside. Mr. Everett, Gen. Cushing, ex-President Pierce, Geo. S. Hillard, and other distinguished men will speak.

GIFT OF A BIBLE FROM OLD JOHN BROWN.—Old Brown yesterday sent for Mr. J. E. Blessing, a merchant here, a generous and noble-hearted man, who has been extremely kind to him, in dressing his wounds and paying other attentions, and requested him to accept as a token of regard his pocket-Bible. Mr. B. thanked him for this mark of regard, but suggested the propriety of keeping it a few days longer. The edition is the common Bible-class edition, bound in calf, and of the cheapest description. It bears upon the fly-leaf this dedication:

"TO JNO. E. BLESSING, of Charlestown, Va.—With the best wishes of the undersigned and his sincere thanks for many acts of kindness received. There is no commentary in this world so good in order to a right understanding of this blessed Book as an honest, childlike, and teachable spirit. JOHN BROWN.

"*Charlestown*, 28th Nov., 1859."

Upon the opposite page is the following inscription:

"JOHN BROWN. The leaves were turned down and marked by him while in prison