

"Execution of Capt. John Brown," 1859

Execution of Capt. John Brown

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Anti-Slavery Society, held in Boston, November 1st, the following Resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That it recommended to the friends of impartial freedom throughout the Free States, in case of the execution of Capt. John Brown, now on trial for his life in Virginia, to observe that tragical event, on the day of its occurrence, in such manner as by them may be deemed most appropriate in their various localities, - whether by public meetings and addresses, the adoption of resolutions, private conferences, or any other justifiable mode of action, - for the furtherance of the Anti-Slavery cause, and renewedly to consecrate themselves to the patriotic and Christian work of effecting the abolition of that most dangerous, unnatural, cruel, and impious system of Slavery, which is the fruitful source of all our sectional heartburnings and conflict, which powerfully and increasingly tends to promote servile insurrections and civil war, which cannot be more truly or more comprehensively described than as "The Sum of All Villanies," which is a burning disgrace and fearful curse to the whole country, and by the speedy extinction of which alone, can the land be saved from violence, blood, and utter demoralization.

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the American Anti-Slavery Society,

WM. Lloyd Garrison, President.

Wendell Phillips, Charles C. Burleigh - Secretaries

No suggestion more timely and important than this could be made; and now that Sentence of Death has been pronounced against the brave martyr to his principles, let the day of his execution – FRIDAY, December 2d, - be the occasion of such a public moral demonstration against the bloody and merciless Slave system as the land has never witnessed. Friends of Freedom everywhere! Begin at once to make the necessary arrangements. The appeal is made to you all, without regard to sect or party, or different shades of opinion. Let it be a memorable day in the history of the United States. In all the Cities and Towns of the North, let there be some suitable and expressive form of manifestation. Among other things, let there be a tolling of the bells for one hour.

As a postponement of the execution may take place, on account of the application by Mr. Brown's Counsel to the Virginia Court of Appeals, it may be necessary to hold the commemoration on another day. Friends! Be vigilant!

And it is further suggested that, at all these meetings, contributions should be taken up in behalf of the Widow and Family of Capt. John Brown.