Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

THE DAILY DISPATCH is served to subscribers at SIX AND A QUARTER CENTS PER WEEK, payable to the Carrier weekly. Price for mailing, $4 a year, or $2.50 for six months, in advance.

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# DAILY DISPATCH.

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MONDAY MORNING.....DEC. 5, 1859.

## EXECUTION OF JOHN BROWN.

### INTERVIEW WITH HIS WIFE.

### INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

### SCENES AT THE SCAFFOLD.

### DISPOSITION OF THE BODY.

### FANATIC FURY OF THE NORTH.

**Bells Tolled in Northern Cities—Meetings of Sympathizers—Brown's Interview with his Fellow-Prisoners—Cook Upbraided for his Falsehood—The Departure from the Jail—Conduct of the Prisoner on the way—Disposition of the Body, &c., &c.**

The execution of John Brown, for murder, treason and inciting slaves to insurrection, took place at Charlestown, Va., on Friday last. The body, which was delivered to his wife, passed through Baltimore Saturday morning, en route for North Elba, N. Y., where she resides. From our own reports, and other sources, we make up an account of the execution.

ARRIVAL OF MRS. BROWN.

At 3 o'clock a dress parade of the entire military here assembled, and eight companies, were directed to form in front of the jail, from whence they were ordered to clear an open space of about three hundred yards on each side, forming a hollow square with all the pomp of a grand military reception. The four brass howitzers were stationed in the centre of the square, and there seemed to be an evident intention to appal the poor woman with the military majesty of the Commonwealth of Virginia. All the citizens were compelled to fall back, and there was even some disposition to prevent them from standing in their own doors to witness the spectacle.

At half-past 3 o'clock, the cavalcade from the Ferry, surrounding the carriage containing Mrs. Brown, and Captain Moore, of the Black Hawk Rangers, who had been delegated to accompany her, arrived in front of the Court-House, when the military escort reported to General Taliaferro the accomplishment of their mission. After a delay of about ten minutes, during which time a throng of curious people crowded around to get a sight of the wife of the prisoner, an opening was made by the military and the cavalcade passed on to the front of the jail. During this scene, Mrs. Brown seemed calm and collected, but bore on her features the evidence of an internal anguish that was unmistakable. She was met at the steps of the jail by Sheriff Campbell, who took her arm and escorted her within the walls to take her last interview with her husband.

A few minutes after the doors were closed the companies formed in line again, and proceeded to the parade ground, where the display was undoubtedly very fine, and attracted the whole population to witness it. Although there are some "awkward squads" here, taken as a whole the military display and excellence of drill is equal to any I have ever witnessed in the larger cities. Most of the companies are also well uniformed, and make a fine military appearance.

I learn that it is the intention to allow Mrs. Brown to remain with her husband until 9 o'clock this morning, when she will take her final leave of him, and proceed under an armed escort to Harper's Ferry, to await the arrival of his remains in the evening. After the execution his body will be placed in a coffin and conducted under an armed cavalry escort to await the arrival of the midnight train for Baltimore, and from thence to Philadelphia, New York, and, it is thought, to Boston. The people here are rather averse to giving up his body to be canonized at the North, but all admit that the appeal of his wife could not be disregarded by the Governor. She has undoubtedly been received with every courtesy and respect, and her mission gives general satisfaction to the community.

THE SEPARATION OF MRS. BROWN.

The interview between Capt. Brown and his wife lasted from four o'clock in the afternoon until near eight o'clock in the evening, when Gen. Taliaferro informed them that the period allowed them had elapsed, and that she must prepare for her departure to the Ferry. The carriage was again brought up to the door, the military took possession of the square, and with an escort of twenty mounted men, the cortege moved off, Captain Moore, of the Montgomery Guards, accompanying her.

The interview was, we learn, not a very affecting one, but 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 he was as firm as a rock, and she soon recovered her composure. There was an impression that the prisoner might possibly be furnished with strychnine, by his wife, and before the interview her person was searched by the wife of the jailor, and a strict watch kept over them during the time they were together. At the time of their 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.

Mrs. Brown, however, I learn from Capt. Moore, in conversation with him on the way over from Harper's Ferry, rather repelled all attempt 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 by the ignominious character of the punishment that was about to be inflicted upon him. She regarded him as a martyr in a righteous cause, and was proud to be the wife of such a man—that the gallows had no terrors to her or to him. 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 always felt a deep interest in the cause in which he was engaged. The character of the interview between them may be judged to some extent from this conversation with Capt. Moore previous to the interview.

THE INTERVIEW.

I learn from Capt. Avis, the jailor, that the interview between the prisoner and his wife was characteristic of the man, and the directions given for the management and distribution of his property embraced all the minor details of a last will and testament. General Taliaferro was also present, and Captain 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 moment 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 then sat side by side on the 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, in New York, on the farm where she now resides, which belongs to her.—He was desirous that his younger children should be educated, and if she could not obtain facilities for their education at home, to have them sent to boarding school. He then gave directions and dictated to Sheriff Campbell his 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 spy-glass; to another one a watch; to another he gave directions that he should take a tomb or monument that marks the grave of his father, at North Elba, and have engraved on it his name, age, and the manner of his death—together with the cause for which he had suffered death—which he directs shall remain at North Elba as long as his family resides there; to each of his children she bequeathed the sum of $50, and to each of his daughters a Bible, to cost $5 each, to be purchased out of money coming to him from his father's estate; also, a Bible, to cost $3, to 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, directing the best manner by which their present localities can be ascertained.

During the course of the conversation, Mrs. Brown asked him if he had heard that Gerrit Smith had become insane, and had been sent to an 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 effort whilst at Harper's Ferry for the recovery of their bodies, to which object she said Col. Barbour had kindly consented to give his assistance. Captain 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 will without a murmur. Mrs. Brown becoming depressed at these remarks, he bid her cheer up, and told her that his body would soon be with her, and that they would be united again in Heaven.

With regard to his execution, he said he desired no religious ceremonies either in the jail or on the scaffold, from ministers who consent to or approve of the enslavement of their fellow-creatures—that he would prefer to be accompanied on 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 all endorsed, and ordered payable to his wife, Mary A. Brown, one of them for $100, and another for $50, and handed them to her.

Another account says:

Prior to introducing Mrs. Brown to the cell of her husband, her person was searched by the wife of Jailor Avis, to see that no poison or weapon was concealed about her to be conveyed to Brown, to enable him to commit suicide. Nothing, however, was found. During this scene Mrs. Brown seemed calm and collected, but bore on her features the evidence of internal anguish. She was met at the steps of the jail by Sheriff Campbell, who took her arm and escorted her within the walls to take her last interview with her husband.

Gen. Taliaferro inquired of Brown how long he would like the interview to last. Brown answered—"Three or four hours."

Gen. T. intimated that the interview must be short. "Oh," said Brown, coolly, "I don't ask any favors of the State of Virginia. You must execute your duty."

As Mrs. Brown entered, Brown arose and extended both his hands, but she flew to him, and throwing her arms around his neck, exclaimed "My husband!" Brown was perfectly calm and collected, but Mrs. B. appeared to be deeply but quietly affected. The sheriff was the only other person present at the interview. Mrs. B. is about 50 years of age. She returned about 7 P. M. to Harper's Ferry, under the escort of Capt. Moore, to await the arrival of the body of her husband.

THE ORDER OF THE EXECUTION.

On Thursday evening General Taliaferro issued the following orders to be observed at the execution:

1st. That the ground on which the execution takes place be occupied by a military force at 9 A. M., under the following details:

Infantry detachment of the corps of Cadets in front of gallows, and flanked by a detachment of Cadet Howitzers.

2d. That the right wing of the Cadet battalion be occupied by company A, 1st regiment of Virginia volunteers.

3d. That the left wing of the Cadet battalion be occupied by company F, 1st regiment of Virginia volunteers.

4th. That the Alexandria Riflemen and Captain Gibbon's company from Rockingham be detailed as special guard to preserve order in the crowd.

5th. That Captain Ashby's company of cavalry be detailed to co-operate with the special guard in preventing the admission of any person within the area except at the main gate.

6th. That Hunter's Guard be stationed at the gate, supported by a piece of artillery under the command of Lieut. Green, of the United States Marines, to separate the citizen crowd who may desire to enter, directing those who are recognized to occupy the side of the square on the right of the Cadet battalion, and those who are not, to be placed on the side of the square on the left of the Cadet battalion.

7th. The escort of the prisoner is to be composed of Capt. Scott's company of cavalry; one company of Major Loring's battalion, (Defencibles;) Capt. Williams' Montpelier Guard; Capt. Scott's Petersburg Grays; Company D, Captain Miller, of the Virginia Volunteers; Young Guard, Capt. Rady. The whole under the command of Col. T. P. August, assisted by Maj. Loring.

8th. Major Duffy's command, in charge of the jail; Mount Vernon Guards, in rear of the jail; Jefferson Guards, in front of the jail.

9th. Capt. Dean's Portsmouth Grays, in front of the Court-house yard.

10th. Captain Nichols, of the Petersburg Artillery, to occupy the square near the jail.

11th. The Woodis Rifles scouting the woods in the rear of the field of execution.

12th. The other companies of Infantry and Rifles on duty as outer picket guards, with the remaining cavalry co-operating.

13th. On Thursday night, Dec. 1, the special corps detailed for the field of execution, to lie upon their arms, prepared for duty, and to be relieved from guard duty for that night.

14th. That the main and picket guard for that night be doubled; and that, as far as may be practicable, the details of said guard to be made by companies.

15th. That an officer be detailed to carry orders into effect. WM. B. TALIAFERRO,

Commander-in-Chief.

Col. Francis H. Smith, Col. of Engineers and Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, was assigned the part named in article 15 of the order. His staff is Maj. J. T. S. Preston, Maj. R. E. Colston, Acting Adjt. J. S. Gibbs, Dr. E. S. Graham and Col. F. B. Jones.

[From our own Reporter.]

THE EXECUTION,

CHARLESTOWN, VA., Dec. 2d, 1859.

One month and a half has gone since the foray at Harper's Ferry. It took the State by surprise, and men, on recovering therefrom, could scarce believe the most stubborn facts.—Had ten thousand men been engaged in the attempted insurrection, it would have caused astonishment, of course; but that twenty-two men, more or less, should enter the heart of the country and attempt to seize, much less hold, one of the largest United States Arsenals, and carry war into one of the most popular states of the original thirteen States; in short, that such a band should meditate and commit the crime of treason against the Federal Government, and treason against the State Government, together with insurrection and murder, could scarce be believed when proved. Yet, we had to believe it, because it was true. The prompt action of the volunteers and of our energetic and sagacious Governor—of whom we of the Valley are all proud—saved the State from disgrace; for, when we consider the state of things as they occurred at the Ferry on the memorable 16th and 17th of October, we think no blame can be cast on those who reside at Harper's Ferry, or who went to the assistance of the citizens of said place.—*From the first fire upon the insurgents, they retreated.* Not an advance movement was made from the time that opposition commenced. That so small a band should take a place like Harper's Ferry, when everybody was wrapped in slumber, was by no means strange. Five men, instead of twenty-two, would suffice to take any place in the United States or the world, where even a night police was not needed to protect the peaceful citizens, and where, hence, no one was on guard. So soon as ever those peaceful inhabitants were aroused, and seized their arms, so soon did the bandit chief retire. And that the citizens and volunteers should hesitate to attack when they supposed that the result would be death to the respected, aye, tenderly loved, men held as hostages, is not at all strange. We can confidently assert, that had not Washington and Alstadd, and the other prisoners, been in durance, and in imminent danger in case of an attack on the engine-house, an hour would not have elapsed after the retreat thereto without its demolition and the slaughter of the desperadoes. When we, then, consider the peculiar circumstances above hinted at, together with the fact that the life of such a man as Alstadd was worth more than a regiment of men like Brown and his coadjutors, together with the other fact that United States property and United States authority were invaded and set at nought, Virginians may feel glad that the disciplined troops of the General Government arrived in time to storm the retreat, and by their well regulated courage, succeeded in taking it without sacrificing any of our own friends who were within as prisoners.

Just after the capture of Brown and his companions, men were eager for their speedy execution. It was generally thought that "drum-head justice" should have been administered then and there; thereby the State would have been saved great expense, and our community the great excitement resulting from their trial and execution. Had the voice of these parts then been uttered, it would have condemned the Governor for his moderate course; but soon the sagacity, the far-sightedness of Henry A. Wise was apparent. And while we have found that great and annoying excitement has been kept up even to the present moment, yet we feel that all has been for the best. The eyes of the State, of the Union, of the world, were turned upon us; our every movement was to go down to posterity, who, free from passion, would judge impartially, but strictly, concerning each step taken. The great State of Virginia, then, could well afford to act with dignity. She may well be proud of the scene she has presented to mankind. Her soil invaded—her citizens taken by force from their couches at night—her sons murdered—civil, aye, worse than civil, servile war incited, the criminals might have been given to summary punishment at the nearest tree, or to the justice of a volunteer court-martial, and no one could have objected. By all good men it would have been judged one of those occasions when society, rising, moves more rapidly and terribly in the punishment of those who threaten her existence, than does that law which has emanated from herself. But Virginia forbore. Her chief magistrate pledged the faith of the State for a fair trial. It was given, as John Brown himself was forced to admit, even after his ungrateful rejection of his earnest and faithful Virginia counsel, Messrs. Green and Botts. Facilities were afforded to the defence of every proper kind. Eminent counsel for defence were welcomed by the prosecution, and the taunts of inefficient and presumptuous lawyers were calmly borne; and then, after the finding of the jury, a long period elapsed previous to their execution. All this is now seen to be for the best. The North can say not one word against Virginia. The South has had an example of true greatness and commanding moderation exhibited for her imitation. The honors already ours have been increased, and the sons of the Old Dominion may shout aloud anew for their loved State.

The last act in the drama of which "Old John Brown" bore the chief part, came off to-day, in this place, viz: The execution. The day opened beautifully. The heavy clouds that hung along the eastern sky reflected most splendidly the rays of the rising sun. Very early the roll of the drum was heard in every part of our town, and are long columns and squares of troops were seen moving through the streets. You could see the sentinels moving in their quiet watch in almost every direction. The gallows was erected soon after the rising of the sun, so that long previous to the time appointed for the hanging, everything connected therewith was in readiness. On the southeastern skirts of the village, distant about three-eights of a mile, lay a field of about fifty acres, making part of some elevated land in that quarter. On the swell of a small hill toward the southern part of said field, was placed the scaffold. A place more appropriate could not have been chosen. West and north lay Charlestown in full view. On the east and south loomed up the Blue Ridge, from whose recesses Brown had come down like the bird of prey, pouncing on its victims, carrying carnage and death before him. Toward the south and west stretched away one of the most beautiful districts of the far-famed Valley of Virginia, while away out on the extreme west loomed the lofty North mountain.

I visited the place of execution during the erection of the scaffold, and was well paid for my trouble. Many things conspired to render the scene intensely interesting. In the woods, not far off, and the fields adjoining, might be seen the scouts, on foot or mounted. At intervals, around and within the large field, the sentinels were slowly moving to and fro, carbines and bayonets gleaming in the light of the morning sun. The workmen were busy completing the arrangement of the gallows.—All around small white flags were flying near the ground, designating the positions of the various bodies of troops, and of the citizen spectators. Several prominent officers, richly equipped, were riding to and fro on restless chargers. Soon the troops began to enter.

"Not a drum was heard, nor a funeral note," but slowly and silently they proceeded to their various posts.

About 9 o'clock, Col. Smith, of the Military Institute, appeared on the field of execution, mounted, and took charge of the military arrangements. The guards, even at that early hour, were rounding the posts in the field, having in their charge a number of civilians who had been led by curiosity to approach without the countersign. Soon the elegant corps from Harrisonburg, Captain Gibbon's and the Alexandria Rifles, Capt. Marye, entered, and stations were assigned them as special guard, to preserve order among the anticipated crowd. They appeared as long lines of sentinels parallel with the fencing. In a few moments the Cadet Battalion, under Majors Gilliam and Jackson, marched slowly in and took position in front of the scaffold at the distance of about 40 yards. The Infantry was flanked on either wing by a Howitzer detachment. This body of troops appeared to fine advantage, marching with astonishing precision, when keeping time to music. They exhibit, in addition, a power of endurance that makes the heaviest military duties light to them. They were uniformed on this occasion in grey pants and red shirts, and made a beautiful display. The right and left wings of the corps of Cadets were occupied, respectively, by company A, of the First Regiment Virginia Volunteers, under Capt. Elliott, and company F, under Capt. Cary. Capt. Ashby, of the Fauquier Horse, mounted on his splendid white charger, acted as special patrol, to see that the arrangements separating citizens and strangers were carried out. His troops, scattered here and there around the field, presented with their scarlet uniform, a very picturesque appearance.

At about 9½ A. M., Capt. Harry Hunter took charge of the large gate at the northwest corner of the field. His command consisted of about 22 men, armed with the most elegant Minnie guns, with sword bayonets. Being citizens of Charlestown, the duty of separating those recognized as citizens from strangers was assigned them. The citizens were stationed on the eastern side of the field, the strangers on the west. The brave Lieut. Green, of the United States Marine corps, commanded the latter position with a detachment of the Alexandria Artillery. This officer led the charge at Harper's Ferry on the engine-house, entered at the head of the storming party, and gave Brown the terrible blow over the head that prostrated him. He had on that morning, I am told, only a light dress sword, that was shattered by the blow. According to his reported statement, if he had struck the blow with his own sword, he would have severed Brown's head from his body. He has been here ever since the arrival of the Richmond troops, claiming the honor of leading the fight against the abolitionists, should they come.—Hence the honorable position assigned him this morning.

Gen. Taliaferro, and a numerous staff, mounted, proceeded to the place of execution at about 15 minutes of 11 o'clock. At exactly 11 A. M. the prisoner was brought out, attended by Capt. Avis, the jailor, and Mr. Campbell, sheriff, and placed in a light-colored spring wagon, drawn by two bay horses. He was seated on his coffin and then driven slowly to the gallows, under the military escort mentioned in the General Order, No. 7, as above. The battalion was commanded by Col. August, who was mounted on a jet-black charger, splendidly caparisoned. The procession arrived at the scaffold at about 8 minutes before 11 o'clock. Capt. Brown appeared in fine spirits. He came from the jail with arms pinioned behind his body. Immediately on appearing in view of the escort he commenced to smile and bow to those around with whom he was acquainted. He was offered his choice, either to walk to the scaffold or ride. On the road he conversed freely with those riding in company with him, expressing great admiration of the surrounding country, saying that it was the first opportunity he had had of viewing it. He said that he had not any fear of death, but that to part from friends—some of them recently made—was hard. Mr. Geo. W. Saddler, undertaker, remarked to him, "Capt. Brown, you are a game man." In answer, Brown said, "I never knew fear—have been educated by thirty years' experience not to fear death."

His surprise on seeing so few citizens present on the field of execution was considerable, his admiration at the magnificent military display manifest. Accompanied by Capt. Avis, and Mr. Campbell, and Ed. A. Gallaher, Esq., he ascended the scaffold with a firm tread.—Immediately the cap was drawn over his eyes, and without giving evidence of the slightest emotion, he stood erect, while his feet were drawn together by a cord, and the fatal noose adjusted around his neck. Sheriff Campbell asked him if he had anything to say. He answered, "Nothing; do not keep me standing unnecessarily long." Mr. Campbell then asked him if he would give the signal with a handkerchief, and his answer was, "No; I am ready, and wait your convenience." He then shook hands with the three or four persons on the scaffold. At 15 minutes past 11 o'clock the drop fell, when, with scarce a struggle, the spirit of the prisoner passed from earth.—The body remained suspended thirty-seven minutes.

Everything passed off in the most quiet manner. So complete were the arrangements, that not the firing of a pistol or the bursting of a cap occurred to excite alarm.

The body was conveyed to Harper's Ferry in a special train at 6½ P. M., to be delivered to the widow.

Permission was extended to Brown previous to starting to the gallows, to bid adieu to his fellow-prisoners. He exhorted them to be firm and die like men. He took occasion to condemn Cook for the course he had taken since his capture; stated that he had deceived him, and that his statements were not to be relied on; charged him with having made a false statement in saying that he (Brown,) gave him orders to come to Harper's Ferry. Cook asked him if he did not give him orders to come when in Pittsburg in company with him last time. Brown said he did not. Cook replied that his own memory was different from that of Brown.

Col. F. J. Thompson, of San Jose, Mo., arrived a day or two since, bringing 60 feet of rope, made of hemp grown on the borders of Kansas. It was sent by a lady whose husband was murdered by Brown's forces, and whose slaves were afterward run off by Brown. On an experimental trial, however, it was found to be not sufficiently strong for the purpose for which it was sent. It broke three times under the weight of three "fifty-sixers," suspended therefrom, and suddenly snapped.—Another rope was sent from Alexandria. This, however, was not used. The rope sent from Richmond, I believe, was that employed.

The disposition of the troops until after the remaining executions has not yet been learned here. J.

[From our own Correspondent.]

CHARLESTOWN, VA., Dec. 2.

The military designated to occupy the ground of the field of execution in advance of the execution, were set in motion from their respective barracks at 8 A. M., and as they reached the field, were placed in position under the direction of Col. Smith, according to the published programme. Capt. Ashby's company of cavalry were stationed in single file within the enclosure, with orders to allow no one to enter except at the main gate.

Captain Hunter's company of Executive Guards was stationed at the gate. This company was composed of citizens of Jefferson county, and instructions were given to it to separate the crowd who might enter the gate, so that those who were identified might be placed on the eastern side of the square, while those who were not known were to be placed on the western side of the square, and next to the main road. The Alexandria Rifles, Capt. Marye, and the Valley Guards, Capt. Gibbons, were stationed as sentinels to keep the crowd within the appointed limits.

The gallows was placed 120 yards from the southern side of the square, and equi-distant from the eastern and western faces. The battalion of Cadets of the Virginia Military Institute, acting as infantry under the command of Major Gilham, occupied the side in front of the gallows, towards the south and fifty feet from it. The battalion was flanked by two 12 pounder Cadet Howitzers, under the command of Major T. J. Jack-on. This command was flanked by company A, (Richmond Grays,) commanded by Capt. Elliott, and company F, commanded by Capt. Cary, of the First Regiment Virginia Volunteers. The position of these two companies was so arranged as to give an oblique fire towards the scaffold. The Valley Guards and Alexandria Rifles were directed to rally on the flanks of these two companies if necessary, in oblique position with reference to those flanks.

At 11 o'clock, the escort of the prisoner moved from the jail. Capt. Scott's company of Cavalry, divided into two sections, moved one in front, and the other in rear of the procession. The Wheeling Rifles, Major Loring, the Montpelier Guard, Capt. Williams, in column of platoons, were in advance of the prisoner, and the Virginia Rifles, Captain Miller, the Young Guard, Capt. Rady, and the Winchester Continentals, in the same order in the rear. The Petersburg Grays, Captain Scott, were on the flanks of the prisoner's wagon. After reaching the scaffold, these companies were distributed to their respective stations. The escort was commanded by Col. August. The General commanding, Taliaferro, with his staff, occupied the ground in rear of the Cadet Battalion. The reporters of the newspapers were in the southwestern corner of the field, with the sheriff and his attendants, the Mayor of Charlestown and his Council, the Prosecuting Attorney, and the medical faculty, immediately surrounded the scaffold.—The arrangements being completed, and the prisoner having been led to the scaffold by the sheriff and jailor, and the white cap placed over his face, (he facing the south,) the signal was given to the sheriff by Col. Smith that the military arrangements were ready, whereupon the Sheriff descended from the scaffold, and with one blow of his hatchet severed the cord, and the drop fell, landing John Brown into eternity. So perish all those who attempt insurrection, or invade the sovereignty of the State of Virginia.

After the medical faculty had satisfied themselves that he was dead, the body was taken from the scaffold, and placed in a coffin and returned to the wagon, and, under the escort of the Petersburg Grays, and a section of Capt. Scott's cavalry, was taken back to the jail.—After this escort had passed the main gate, the military were put in motion, and repaired by companies to their quarters.

It is proper to say that the unfortunate criminal behaved with the utmost coolness, throughout the trying scene that terminated in his death upon the gallows. When it was announced to him that the hour had arrived, he said he was ready, and that he only desired to take leave of his fellow-prisoners. To each of them he presented a quarter of a dollar, desiring them to keep them as memorials of himself. To Cook he expressed himself in the language of calm and cutting reproof, saying that he had been guilty of a gross falsehood, in what he had said and published respecting his connexion with himself, and denying unequivocally that he had ever advised him to come to Harper's Ferry. The minor villain quailed beneath the eye of his sterner and more strong-minded associate. The spot on which the gallows was erected commands a view of one of the most fertile countries in Virginia, and at that time it was lit up by as glorious a sun as ever made the morning beautiful. The surpassing loveliness of the day and the landscape, attracted the attention of the prisoner, in spite of his terrible situation, and he called the attention of the sheriff and jailor to it. When he arrived at the gallows, he descended from the wagon with the agility of a boy, and walked up the steps with a firm and steady step. While the officers were adjusting the noose, he bowed to one or two of his acquaintances whom he saw around the scaffold, and when some delay was occasioned by the bad management of some part of the programme, he requested the officer to be as speedy as he possibly could. He shook hands with the sheriff and jailor, and expressed his gratitude for the kindness he had received at their hands. He made no speech. P.

[From the agent of the Associated Press.]

At the door of the jail an open wagon with a pine box, in which was a fine oak coffin, was waiting for the prisoner. He looked around and spoke to several persons whom he recognized, and, walking down the steps, was assisted to enter the wagon, and took his seat on the box containing his coffin along with Jailor Avis. He looked with interest on the fine military display, but made no remark. The wagon moved off as soon as he had taken his seat, flanked with two files of riflemen in close order.

On reaching the field the military had already full possession, and pickets were stationed at various points. The citizens were kept back at the point of the bayonet from taking any position except that assigned them, nearly a quarter of a mile from the scaffold.—Through the determined persistence of Dr. Rawlings, of Frank Leslie's paper, the order excluding the press was partially rescinded, and the reporters were assigned a position near the General's Staff. The prisoner walked up the steps firmly and was the first man on the gallows. Jailor Avis and Sheriff Campbell stood by his side, and after shaking hands and bidding an affectionate adieu, he thanked them for their kindness. They then put the cap over his face and the rope around his neck. Mr. Avis asked him to step forward on the trap. He replied, "you must lead me, as I cannot see."

The rope now being adjusted, the military order was given. The soldiers marched and counter-marched, and took their position as if an enemy was in sight. Nearly ten minutes were thus occupied, the prisoner standing meanwhile. Mr. Avis inquired if he was not tired. Brown replied—"No, not tired; but don't keep me waiting longer than necessary." The arrangements of the military having been completed, at fifteen minutes past eleven the trap fell. A slight grasping of the hands and twitching of the muscles was visible, and then all was quiet. The body was several times examined, and his pulse did not cease beating for 35 minutes. The neck was not broken, and the medical examiners declined certifying to death having taken place until after a further examination, to be held at the jail at 3 P. M.—Dr. Mason held to the opinion that it was possible in such a case to restore life by galvanic action. It was supposed, however, that strangulation took place after less than four minutes' suspension. The rope left no mark of abrasion on the neck. The eyes of the corpse were open, but not staringly so. The mouth also was open, and would not close. The face was not unnaturally distorted, though the blood vessels were somewhat distended, as occurs in death by strangulation. It was then cut down and placed in the coffin, and conveyed under a military escort to the depot, and there put in a car to be conveyed to Harper's Ferry, by special train, at 4 o'clock.

The whole arrangements were carried out with a precision and military strictness that was most annoying. The general conviction is everywhere entertained that the rumors of the intended rescue were altogether an egregious hoax.

INCIDENTS PREVIOUS TO THE EXECUTION.

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

Sheriff Campbell bid Brown farewell in the cell. He returned him thanks for his kindness.

Brown was then taken to the cell of the negroes, Copeland and Green. He told them to stand up like men and not betray their friends, then handed to each a quarter of a dollar, saying that he had no more use for money, and bid them good bye. They made no remark except to return his salutation. He next visited the cell in which Cook and Copple were confined, chained together. To Cook he said, "you have made false statements."

Cook replied—"What do you mean?"

Brown—"Why, by stating that I sent you to Harper's Ferry."

Cook—"Did you not tell me in Pittsburg to come to Harper's Ferry and see if Forbes had table disclosures?"

Brown—"No, sir. You know that I protested against your coming."

Cook closed the conversation by replying—"Captain Brown, we remember differently," at the same time dropping his head.

Brown then turned to Copple and said:

"Coppie, you also have made false statements, but I am glad to hear you have contradicted them. Stand up like a man."

He then handed Copple a quarter, shook him and Cook by the hand and left the cell.

He then returned to Stevens' cell and spoke kindly to him.

Stevens said—"Good-bye, Captain; I know you are going to a better land."

Brown—"Yes, I know I am." He then consoled Stevens to firmness, warned him against betraying his friends, and closed by also presenting him with a quarter.

He did not visit Hazlett's cell, having always persisted in denying any knowledge of him.

On his way to the scaffold, Mr. Sadler, the undertaker, who was in the wagon with him, remarked:

"Captain Brown, you are a game man."

Brown—"Yes, I was so trained up. It was one of the lessons of my mother. But it is hard to part from friends, even when newly made." Brown continued the conversation by remarking on the beauty of the country, which, he said, "he never had the pleasure of seeing before." On reaching the gallows field, he said—"Why are none but the military allowed within the enclosure? I am sorry the citizens have been kept out." Observing Mr. Hunter and Major Green standing by, he said to them—"Gentlemen, good bye," his voice not faltering in the least.

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

JOHN BROWN'S LAST LETTER.

The papers publish the "last letter" of John Brown. It does not possess the same interest with many of his other productions. It is chiefly a disquisition on religion and the Bible, and advice to his children to lead a moral life. It closes as follows:

"I beseech you all to live in habitual contentment with moderate circumstances and gains of worldly store and earnestly teach this to your children and children's children after you, by example as well as precept. Be determined to know by experience as soon as may be whether Bible instructions is of divine origin or not. Be sure to owe no man anything, but to love one another. John Rogers wrote to his children, 'Abhor that arrant whore of Rome.' John Brown writes to his children to abhor, with undying hatred also, that sum of all villanies: slavery. Remember, he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth in spirit than he that taketh a city. Remember, also, that they, being wise, shall shine, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

"And now, dearly beloved family, to God and the work of His Grace I commend you all.

"Your affectionate husband and father,

"JOHN BROWN."

THE "COMMEMORATIVE" MOVEMENTS AT THE NORTH.

The Northern papers come filled with accounts of meetings held either just at the hour of execution or after. In New York, the church of the Rev. Mr. Cheever was opened in the morning, for a Jno. Brown meeting, and the reverend pastor indulged in some moderate blasphemy. The same building was again open for the same purpose at night, when several members expressed an earnest desire that their end might be like John Brown's, a wish which will very likely be gratified sooner or later. A prayer, which was commenced, was interrupted three times, by members who rose to give their opinion of Virginia and her barbarism. The two meetings raised an aggregate of $100 for the family of Brown.

In Albany, New York, 100 guns were fired between 12 and 1 o'clock, in honor of Brown's memory. The cannon and cartridges came from the State arsenal, and the firing was done by the keeper of the arsenal and another State officer. The negroes in that city observed the day as one of fasting and howling. Some white fanatics posted placards through the streets, bearing the inscription, "Give us liberty, or give us death—the execution of John Brown." In some of the villages on the Mohawk river the bells were tolled.

In Syracuse, N. Y., Friday evening, the City Hall was densely packed with citizens, who listened for over three hours to speeches expressing sympathy for John Brown and his family. Strong resolutions were adopted, and a committee on funds was appointed. A large amount of money was contributed for the relief of Brown's family. The City Hall bell was rolled 63 times—the strokes corresponding with Brown's age.

A dispatch from Boston, dated Friday, says:

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.

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

Tremont Temple was crowded this evening to commemorate the death of John Brown. All the colored population of Boston and vicinity were present, together with many ladies, a large number of whom attended out of curiosity. On the platform were seated many of the most prominent abolitionists of New England, and erected upon which 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.

J. Q. A. Griffin, a member of the Massachusetts House of Delegates, was one of the speakers. He gave it as his opinion that the heinous offence of Pontius Pilate, in crucifying our Saviour, whitened into virtue when compared with that of Governor Wise, of Virginia, in his course towards John Brown.

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

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.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE ON BROWN.

BOSTON, Dec. 2.—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 ayes and nays stood eight for adjournment and eleven 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—ayes 6, nays 141.

CHURCH BELLS TOLLED AT WORCESTER.

WORCESTER, Dec. 2.—The church bells were tolled here to-day for the execution of John Brown, from ten o'clock to twelve. 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.

MEETING IN PROVIDENCE.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 2.—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 Hon. Thomas Davis, Rev. Mr. Woodbury, a Unitarian clergyman, and 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.

EXCITEMENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 2.—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 by the most convenient mode, and the bell didn't ring any more.

At Concord, N. H., the bells were tolled for Brown.

SYMPATHY MEET