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Canada's Relation to the John Brown Raid

John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, Va., in October, 1859, made a profound impression in Canada. Although the Chatham convention in May, 1858, had been surrounded by much secrecy there were some Canadians who knew that Brown was meditating a bold stroke. Dr. Alexander Milton Ross was one of these. The Harper's Ferry raid was reported in detail in the Canadian newspapers and commented upon day after day. In an article extending over more than one column of its issue of Nov. 4, 1859, The Globe, of Toronto, points out that Brown's execution will but serve to make him remembered "as a brave man who perilled property, family, life itself, for an alien race." His death, The Globe declared, would make the raid valueless as political capital for the slaveholders and the South might expect other Browns. References in this article to the Chatham convention indicate that George Brown knew what had transpired at Chatham and knew the relation of the Chatham gathering to Harper's Ferry. Elsewhere, in the same issue, the appeal of the Journal of Commerce that Brown be not martyred was declared to be "natural from a pro-slavery journal." Three weeks later The Globe, with fine discernment, declared that if the tension between north and south continued civil war would be inevitable and "no force that the south can raise can hold the slaves if the north wills that they be free." On the day of Brown's execution The Globe said that "his death will aid in awakening the north to that earnest spirit which can alone bring the south to understand its true position" and that it was "a rare sight to witness the ascent of this fine spirit out of the money-hunting, cotton-worshipping American world." Once again, with insight into American affairs it predicted that "if a Republican president is elected next year nothing short of a dissolution of the union will satisfy them." (the cotton states.)

The special interest taken by The Globe in American affairs and the sane comment on developments in the slavery struggle were the result

of George Brown's own special understanding of questions across the border attained during his residence there before coming to Canada. That he was reflecting the feeling of the people of Toronto on the death of John Brown was shown by the memorial service held in St. Lawrence Hall on December 11, 1859, at which the chief speaker was a Rev. Mr. Kinnaid, who had himself attended the Chatham convention. In his sermon he referred to a talk he had had with Brown in which the latter said that he intended to do something definite for the liberation of the slaves or perish in the attempt. The collection that was taken at this meeting was forwarded to Mrs. Brown. At Montreal a great mass meeting was held in Bonaventure Hall, attended by over one thousand people at which resolutions of sympathy to John Brown were passed. Among those on the platform at this meeting were L. H. Holton, afterwards a member of the Brown-Dorion and Macdonald-Dorion administrations, and John Dougall, the founder of the Montreal Witness.

The slaveholders were by no means blind to the fact that the abolition movement had friends and supporters in Canada, that there was, in fact, an abolition group actively at work for their undoing. It is possible that they knew of Brown's famous convention in Chatham. In his message to the Virginia legislature after the Harper's Ferry raid Governor Wise referred to Canada as a seat of abolitionist activity. "One most irritating feature of this predatory war," he said, "is that it has its seat in the British provinces which furnish asylums for our fugitives and send them and their hired outlaws upon us from depots and rendezvous in the bordering states."

Speaking again on December 22nd, 1859, to a gathering of medical students who had left Philadelphia, the governor said: "With God's help we will drive all the disunionists together back into Canada. Let the compact of fanaticism and intolerance be confined to British soil."

The New York Herald quoted Wise

FREDERICK STANTON BACK AT HOWARD

G. Frederick Stanton, who recently inaugurated in St. Louis the first collection service operated by Negroes was called to Washington, D.C., this week to accept a position in the office of Howard University.

Last year while a student at "The Capstone of Negro Education," Mr. Stanton was employed part time in the University Office and his efficient service resulted in his recent appointment.

Prior to leaving St. Louis for study last September, he was prominent in the Church, civic and business life of this city, having been Assistant Manager of the People's Finance Corporation.

Mrs. Stanton will join her husband in Washington by the first of the year.

You forget in observing people engaged in amusing themselves that a great deal of amusement is just distraction from desperation.

as calling upon the president to notify the British Government that Canada should no longer be allowed, by affording an asylum to fugitive slaves to foster disunion and discension in the United States. The Virginia governor seems even to have had the idea that the president might be bullied into provoking trouble with Great Britain. "The war shall be carried into Canada," he said in one of his outbursts.

The pro-slavery viewpoint was reflected by a portion of the Tory press of Upper Canada, The Leader declaring that Brown's attack on Harper's Ferry was an "insane raid" and predicting that the south would sacrifice the union rather than submit to spoliation. The viewpoint of the Leader may be further illustrated by its declaration that the election campaign of 1860 was dominated by a "small section of ultra-abolitionists who make anti-slavery the beginning, the middle and end of their creed. As for Lincoln, he was characterized as "a mediocre man—a fourth rate lawyer."

(To be continued).

LEAGUE HOLDS EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

COL. W. J. BROWN ADDRESSES
MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATION.

The local branch of the Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People held their eighth anniversary service last night in the auditorium of the B.M.E. Church, with Col. Walter James Brown, executive secretary of the University of Western Ontario as the principal speaker.

Col. Brown told of his first association with the League through the editor of The Dawn of Tomorrow, the late James F. Jenkins, during his studies at the university. He also told of his visit with a delegation to Tuskegee University, Alabama, where he saw classes of 700 negro girls and 900 negro boys all under the supervision of colored professors and teachers. He sketched the life of Booker T. Washington, founder of this school for his race.

The meeting was under the chairmanship of the president, Douglas M. Berry, and the executive secretary W. Myers, gave an inspiring account of the work of the league, how it came into existence through the efforts of the late Mr. Jenkins, eight years ago, and its aims to inspire the colored people to a higher standard of living. Rev. T. H. Jackson, in his message, encouraged the race to unite in the support of the league.

The report of the year ending November, 1932, was presented by the secretary, Mrs. J. F. Jenkins, showing a great deal of work accomplished by a band of 50 members and officers in assisting the sick and needy families of the race, supplying food, clothing and shoes.

Mrs. Boggis and Mrs. Paul Lewis were the soloists of the evening, and Mrs. Frank Budd recited a request number, "Don't tear the Old Church Down."

The anniversary will be continued with a chicken supper at the home of Mrs. M. Drake, 208 Simcoe Street tonight, the proceeds to go to the Christmas cheer fund.