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**CANADA'S RELATION  
TO THE JOHN BROWN  
RAID**

(Continued from last issue)

The question may naturally be asked; why was the aid given to John Brown by Canadian Negroes so meagre? That Brown himself had counted on considerable help in his enterprise from the men who joined with him in the Chatham convention is certain. John Edyin Cook, in his confession after Harper's Ferry raid, declared that "men and money had both been promised from Chatham and other parts of Canada." Yet, outside of Osborne P. Anderson, a negro, only one other Canadian seems to have had any share at all in the raid, even indirectly. The exception was Dr. Alexander Milton Ross, the famous Canadian abolitionist, who, by agreement with Brown, went to Richmond, Va., before the blow was struck and was there when word came of its unhappy ending. What Ross was to do at Richmond in the event of any success attending John Brown's plan is not clear, probably he was to keep watch on the official actions of the State.

The choice of Chatham as the place of meeting was not without special reference to the many Negroes in Canada. A majority of the Canadian Negroes were resident in the district now included in the counties of Kent and Essex of which Chatham was a center. Among these Negroes in this district were many men of intelligence, education and daring, some of them experienced in slave raids, and Brown was justified in looking for help among them. There is also evidence that among the Negroes there existed a sort of secret organization, known under various names, which had as its objects to assist fugitives and resist their masters. Help from this organization was also counted upon. Hinton says that Brown "never expected any more aid from them than that which would give a first impetus." John Brown himself is quoted by Realf, one of his associates, as stating at Chatham that he expected all the free Negroes in the northern states to flock to his standard, that he expected the slaves in the south to do the same and believed that as many of the free Negroes in Canada as could do so would accompany him. This would appear

to misstate Brown's plans. It was not numbers that he wanted but quality, a few men planted in the mountains of Virginia would have attained his objective perhaps better than a thousand.

The real reason why the Canadian Negroes failed to respond in the summer of 1859 when Brown's men were gathering in Virginia seems to be that too long delay ensued after the plans were laid at Chatham for aggressive action. The Chatham convention was held May 8-10, 1858, while the raid at Harper's Ferry did not take place until the night of October 16th, 1859, nearly a year and a half later. Warlike ardor had cooled off in the meantime, the magnetism of Brown had been withdrawn and new engagements had been entered into. Had Brown been able to move at once from Chatham to Harper's Ferry there is no doubt but that he would have received substantial assistance from the Canadian Negroes. Frank B. Sanborn understood from Brown in April that he wanted to strike his blow about May 15th, that is within a few days after the convention. The delay was caused by the exposure by Hugh Forbes to Senator Henry Wilson of Brown's plans and the panicky decision of Brown's white supporters in New England that those plans must be changed. Brown was full of regret and much discouraged by the assumed necessity of postponement, but being penniless, he had to submit and accordingly went to Kansas.

There was some effort made in the summer of 1858 to get the Canadian Negroes enlisted, the mission being in charge of John Brown, Jr., who also had some help from Rev. J. W. Leguen, the well-known Negro abolitionist. Together they visited Hamilton, St. Catharines, Chatham, London, Buxton and Windsor, helping also to organize branches of the League of Liberty among the Negroes. The letters of John Brown, Jr. show that the enthusiasm of May, 1858, had largely died out. There was a show of interest at Chatham but it did not go deep enough to bring men. "Canada, and the freed refugees therein, proved a broken reed," is the comment of one writer of the period, though against this should be placed some evidence which indicates that on account of the raid being carried out somewhat sooner than John Brown Jr. anticipated there were a few Canadians on the way south when the end came. The proof of this lies in the paper of John Brown, Jr., which were seized after the raid.

**NEGRO IS STIFLED TO  
DEATH**

Body of Tennessee Man found in  
Potato Freight Car

Haverhill, Mass.—The body of a man, identified as Jack Inman of Murphysboro, Tenn., was found in a freight car loaded with potatoes which had been shipped from Easton, Me. Death was caused by suffocation, according to the medical diagnosis.

An employee of the F. A. Carlton Co., to whom the carload of potatoes was consigned, discovered the body of Inman. The dead man was six feet three inches in height and appeared to be between 25 and 30 years of age. Newspapers of Murphysboro were found in his pockets.

Investigation disclosed that gas fumes from a smouldering heater in the tightly closed car were directly responsible for the death of the man. He had not been dead very long before the body was discovered, and it was apparent from the position of the body that the man had been smothered to death while he was asleep.

Haverhill police wired the police of Murphysboro, and they received word that no relatives of the dead man could be found. Interment was made by the city on Monday, Rev. J. Q. Jackson officiated.

**CELEBRATES 76TH  
BIRTHDAY**

Mrs. Eliza Groat of 662 Trafalgar St., mother of Mrs. J. F. Jenkins, celebrated her 76th birthday on Feb. 14th. Her sons, Lewis and William staged a pretty surprise on her when she was about to retire for the evening a host of friends and relatives came in upon her showering her with gifts and best wishes among the guests being Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith of Woodstock, daughter Mildred and son Fred and Mr. and Mrs. Topp. The evening was spent in games and singing and all wished mother Groat many, many happy returns of the day.

**88TH ANNIVERSARY  
TORONTO CHURCH**

Rev. F. Stewart, Windsor  
Was Guest Speaker

St. James B.M.E. Church (Chestnut St.) celebrated the 88th anniversary of the founding of the work in Toronto. Splendid services were conducted in the old Church on Sunday 12th; when the guest speaker was Rev. Fred O. Stewart of Windsor. The morning service was well attended, at which time Mr. Stewart brought a very timely message on the theme of "Constancy in Well-doing." At 3.00 p.m. a platform service was held when Mr. Chas. Sharp Sr., gave an enlightening talk on the Sunday School work of forty years ago. Mr. Wm. P. Hubbard, (Ex-Controller) spoke in a reminiscent mood of the early activities of the population. It is significant to know that Mr. Hubbard has just reached his 91st year, and is quite active and interested in City and State matters.

The services were brought to a fine climax, as Rev. Mr. Stewart spoke on the character of Caleb. Summing up his address the speaker said, as was in the case of Caleb, men must have that other Spirit, the need of our day is that the church must follow Christ and stand individually alone, and apart from the interests of the world. False reports from inside, he said is crippling the possible faith of the worldly, the solos rendered by Mrs. Mamie Jones, among them were the well known, The Voice in the Wilderness, Pringle Scott, and Down from His Glory by Booth-Clibborn. Another item of interest was a group of Negro Spirituals rendered by the Maple Leaf Singers; a quintet which promises its hearers good entertainment. The singers are Messrs. Hooper, Lee, Smith, Hooks and Holder, to whom we extend congratulations, and wishes for success.

The Anniversary Dinner was served in the school room on Tuesday 14th under the supervision of Mrs. Helen McGruder who with a very competent Committee, handled things in a pleasing way. After dinner a program, interesting in every detail was given and listened to by many friends.