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John Brown Raid

(Continued from Page 1)

Help from these societies might also be looked for and John Brown is quoted as stating at the Chatham convention 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 he wanted as many of the Canadian refugees to accompany him as could do so. But this seems to be a misunderstanding of Brown's plans. Hinton, his biographer, is nearer the truth when he says that Brown never expected more aid from the Negroes than would give his plan its first impetus. It was not mere numbers that he wanted, but rather quality. A few men thoroughly loyal to his plan could do as much as a rabble of a thousand.

Had it been possible to strike the blow immediately after the Chatham meeting there might have been a different story to tell. Frank B. Sanborn, one of the New England friends, says he understood from Brown that he would strike about the middle of May, 1858. But a treacherous follower revealed the plans to Senator Henry Wilson, the eastern supporters were panic-stricken and the whole scheme had to be postponed. Brown was penniless and dependent upon his New England helpers and so had to submit. He went to Kansas that summer and it was more than a year before he could carry out his plan. With dramatic suddenness there came on Monday morning, October 17th, 1859, the startling news that a body of armed men, some of them Negroes, had seized the government arsenal at Harper's Ferry, taken possession of the town, cut telegraph wires, stopped trains, killed several people and was holding others as hostages. Wild reports spread through the south and east that a slave insurrection had broken out and that the country round about Harper's Ferry was menaced. Later in the day it became known that it was old Ossawatimie Brown, of Kansas fame, who was at the head of the outbreak. He was reported to be holding out, with a few of his followers, in an old fire-engine house which was surrounded by militia and United States troops under command of Col. Robert E. Lee. Finally came word that the outbreak had been suppressed, that Brown was wounded and a prisoner and that most of his followers were dead or captured. The south began to breathe easier.

(To be continued)

STRATFORD NOTES

Miss Emma Brightwell is away on her vacation.

Mr. C. A. Johnson had charge of the services last Sunday. Not many were in attendance we are sorry to report.

Mrs. Louis Groat and son, Mrs. J. D. Hall and Mr. W. Lyness motored to London last Sunday to visit Mr. Louis Groat who is ill at Victoria Hospital, while in London they were the guests of Mrs. Eliza Groat.

Mr. Charles Wesley of Detroit spent three weeks with his parents of this city.

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"Deacon White" said Parson Jackson softly, "will you lead us in prayer?"

There was no answer.

"Deacon White" this time a little louder, "will you lead?"

Still no response. Evidently the deacon was slumbering. Parson Jackson made a third appeal and raised his voice to a high pitch that succeeded in arousing the drowsy man. "Deacon White, will you lead?"

The deacon in bewilderment rubbed his heavy eyes and blurted: "Lead yourself, I just dealt."