

"Barbarism," St. Albans (VT) Weekly Messenger, November 17, 1859
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BARBARISM.—A correspondent of the Richmond Whig, whose name is not given, though he says that he has left it with the Editor of the Whig, offers to be one of a hundred persons to give a reward of \$10,000 for the safe delivery of Hon. Joshua R. Giddings in Richmond, Va., or a reward of \$1000 for the delivery of his head. *Semi-Barbarian* is the mildest epithet that can be applied to the person who makes such an infamous proposition. The fact is that Slavery is a barbarian practice, and it is not to be wondered at that its prevalence tends to make barbarians of those who live in the midst of it.

Scarcely 3 weeks remain to the day fixed for the execution of John Brown in Virginia. The law of that state does not allow the governor to pardon a person convicted of treason, and there is but one way in which Gov. Wise can now interpose to avert his fate. He can reprieve him until time and opportunity are granted for an investigation as to his alleged insanity. The legislature which assembles on the 9th of January, alone has the power to pardon or commute his sentence. Whether Gov. Wise will be sufficiently magnanimous or politic to reprieve Brown for a brief period and afford him one or both of these small chances for life, there is as yet no indication.

After Brown's conviction in Virginia of the constructive crimes of treason, conspiracy and murder, Eliwin Coppie of Salem, Ohio, was summarily tried and convicted by the same court on the same indictment. Copeland and Shields Green, negroes of the party, have also been convicted of all except the treason, a negro not being in a legal position to commit that crime. In the cases of Cook, Lynch and Hazlett, who were not in the Harper's Ferry fight, but concerned in the general conspiracy, and arrested in Pennsylvania there have been no preliminary examinations, and Cook has waived that point, and the court proceeded to his trial and conviction, the same as the others, notwithstanding the efforts of his Indiana friends in his defence. And all have been, alike sentenced to be hung. The cases of Lynch and Hazlett will necessarily go over to another term, as the term of the court closed peremptorily on Thursday.

Cook plead guilty to all the counts of the indictments except treason, but the demurrer entered by his counsel against that count was overruled and he was tried for that with the rest. A long confession, written by himself, was read by one of his counsel, going into the history of his connection with Brown in the Kansas war and in running off slaves from Missouri, of John Brown's convention in Canada, and of his own exploration of Jefferson county, Va., under Brown's directions, to prepare for the general stampede of slaves. He implicates Dr S. G. Howe of Boston, Fred Douglass and Gerrit Smith in furnishing money and arms to Brown, but not in the knowledge of any scheme besides that of running off slaves. The Virginians insist that Cook has withheld the most important part of what he knows, but so far as it goes his confession agrees with all the other disclosures. There is a strong feeling against Cook in Virginia as one of the worst of Brown's party, but the political influence of his brother-in-law, Gov. Willard of Indiana, will be pretty likely to avail for his salvation in some way.

For some as yet unexplained reason, Gov. Wise and the Virginia courts have given up Stephens, the badly wounded associate of Brown, to the United States court for trial, preferring him to Cook for this distinction and this has been done with the consent of both Cook and Stephens. There can be no great advantage to the prisoner in this transference, as he will be tried by a petit jury in the same county, and there will be no power of appeal to the supreme court of the United States. Should bills of indictments be found by a Virginia grand jury in the U. S. circuit court against any of the alleged northern accomplices of Brown, they too would be arrested by authority of the United States and tried by a Virginia jury. There is therefore an opportunity for Virginia to do a large business in the way of treason trials, if one tenth of the romancing revelations of northern complicity in the Harper's Ferry affair had any foundation in fact. If they want to keep the "irrepressible conflict" lively and interesting they had better go into this business.