

"The Slave Insurrection and Its Hero," Ottawa (Ontario, Canada) *Daily Citizen*,  
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### The Slave Insurrection and its Hero.

When a few weeks back we penned the observations which occurred to us as what was most appropriate to the case of the Harper's Ferry affair, we took it as did others at the first blush as a mere piece of mischievous madness, which it might have been well for humanity that it had been checked, not so much from any sin on the part of the insurgents—we did not deeply examine that question—but for the atrocities, which, if successful, it must have involved. Since then the whole occurrence has come into judicial examination. The principal actor in it has submitted with great patience and dignity to the most searching process, and, as far as we can see, kept back no part of the truth respecting either his conduct or its motives. The result is a settled conviction on the minds of the public, prevailing probably among even his immediate enemies, that in the present case the whole design was included in the "running off of slaves," and that no more violence or infraction of the law was intended than was necessary to secure their escape. This is, indeed, a very different movement from any hitherto made in behalf of the bondsmen of the South, and, followed out to the letter by the concocter and his immediate adherents, permits every well-regulated mind to enlist itself on the side of the oppressed. Brown will live in memory, as the high principled and even humane enthusiast of liberty, and, like the Strong Man of Scripture, will do more at his death towards the demolition of the Slave system, than he had ever done in his life—and that was much. The South caught a Tartar when they took him, and have blunderingly built up a feeling against their peculiar institution which will probably endure and enlarge its dimensions until either the States part company with each other, or that black blot and heavy weight be taken off the united nation.

The event has called up the recollections of former revolts of the colored population, which, with all allowance for the fact that it was

*the man who once pointed the lions,* called forth in every mind the deepest feelings of disgust and horror. Very different is the present attempt,—foolish and abortive, however, like the others. The difference is to be accounted for by that very enlightenment which it has been deemed the policy of the Slave power to deny to their bondsmen. The spirit of Christianity has ameliorated the strong sense of wrong which never can be eradicated from the breast of the slave, except as he is redeemed by straining the system itself. In the present movement, cognizant of John Brown's designs, but confident in his principles and his humanity, men of the highest character and purest feelings have been concerned. The whole affair appears to have been nothing more in its inception and little more in its execution than a plot for a "stampede" of the slaves—differing only in extent from attempts which are every day made and abetted by the most virtuous of American citizens. Some of these, to escape the rigor of Southern law, backed by the Imperial power of the United States, have now been compelled to seek refuge in Canada, and we are sure that the respect and condolence of our fellow-citizens will not be denied to them. They are not the hands of violence which they raise to us in appeal; they have transgressed a law which we in our conscience disallow, and if they have erred as to the means, as to the mode, or as to the time, we cannot forego the consideration that

"Even their failings lean to virtue's side."

They come among us as men who have prudentially signed, but who, in principle, have vindicated in the best way they know how, the first and the best principles of humanity.

Turning back from these confessors to him who is the ready and the cheerful martyr to the common cause, we cannot but place on record our admiration at his conduct subsequent to his arrest: a greatness not generated by the occasion; not born of ostentation, or inspired by the love of posthumous fame, but simply in keeping with previous acts of greatness, which one by one are coming out to illustrate his character. Spite of detraction he has raised the name of his countrymen to unmilitary renown, and is worthy to die conspicuously for principles sustained by a Washington, a Jefferson, and a Franklin.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands

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