

Anonymous to Clerk of Court, Kanawha County, 23 October 1859

Copy  
"Clerk of the Court  
Charleston W. Va

Sir: You had better caution your authorities to be  
careful when you - with "Ossawatimie Brown" So sure as you hunt  
One hair of his head - mark my word the following day you will see  
every City - Town and Village South of Mason & Dixon line in

Flames

We are determined to put down Slavery at any  
odds

Swiftly if it must Slowly if it can

Believe me when I tell you the end is not yet -  
by a long odds

All of us at the North sympathize with the

Martyr of Harpers Ferry

On the Envelope

"Clerk of the Court

Charleston

Kanawha Co. Va

Virginia"

Postmarked "New York  
Oct  
23  
1859."

Governor's Office, Letters Received, Henry A. Wise, Record Group 3, Library of Virginia.

**Anonymous to Clerk of Court, Kanawha County, 23 October 1859**

Transcription

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Postmarked "New York

Oct 23 1859"

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Gov H A Wise

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1859

Sir

Your chimney has received a pretty good concussion. The noble John Brown has given you a blow from his brave arm that you never can surmount; he preceded you in the taking of Harpers Ferry and the arsenal as you proposed, and the little handsfull gave your great dominion the decision tremors and she will never get over it.

He is a hero and will be regarded as such and a marker in future American history, and by your own State to

Chimney indeed! You are but the miserable offspring of ostentations and piratical fires; they have handed down their piratical gain to your barbarians of the present day and you are clinging to it and their habits with all the tenacity of death to his victim.

But you cant hold on much longer, your grasp is growing weaker daily and ere long your houses will fall perolizers at your sides.

The noble John has done a great work, he has struck the blow and America will honour and praise him for it. And now he and his little company are your prisoners you can hang them, we expect you to do it, but they will hardly have grown cold ere vengeance will be visited upon

your heads; when you put the rope around his neck you put a dagger in your own heart and in those of your State, I tell you the truth, I am not deceiving you, you will find it at variance, its no play, your days are numbered, your slaves will cost you dear and your gratification of vengeance dearer still, we are on your track, we will watch every movement and certain ones among you may count your selves as dead men we swear upon the hear of John Brown and you will find it varified. Your barbarians are howling for their prey it will be a luxurious morsel and a precious moment to them when like the Turks of the French army they can put their mouths to the throats of their victims and drink their blood but it will be a woful dear drink to them.

In all this matter, you as the Executive have no wisdom, discretion, policy or forbearance, you are like your people howling, reaking, yelling for vengeance, but it will come upon your own heads and that right early.

The saying is verified, one shall chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight, and again, the wicked flee when no man pursues, A war Mr Wise has commenced that you can not stop, a fire has broke out that you cannot quench you may prepare for death, I write for Legion, for were many

**Anonymous to Governor Henry A. Wise, 22 November 1859**

Transcription

Nov 22nd 1859

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*Governor's Office, Letters Received, Henry A. Wise, Record Group 3, Library of Virginia.*



Mr. Wise. Sir. By a Virginia jury John Brown  
has been convicted as a criminal. And for what?  
For daring to obey that divine Command—"Ye  
would that men should do too you. Do ye even  
so too them." If Mr Brown committed an error—  
it was an error of the head—not of the heart.  
But Sir, the err is human. to forgive divine.  
You have it in your power to prove you can  
be magnanimous to a noble foe. do it—and  
the blessings of millions shall be yours—  
Fail to do it—and you shall have touched  
a chord that shall not cease to vibrate  
till "The bonds of the oppressor shall be broken  
and the oppressed go free" Yea, though  
this Union of ours should be dissolved  
in blood.

"Give me Liberty. Or give me death."

**Anonymous to Governor Henry A. Wise, n.d. [ca. November 1859]**

Transcription

Mr Wise Sir,

By a Virginia jury John Brown has been convicted as a criminal. And for what? For daring to obey that divine Command "If ye would that men should do too you do ye even so too them," If Mr. Brown committed an error it was an error of the head— not of the heart. But Sir, "Too err is human. to forgive divine." You have it in your power to prove you can be magnanimous to a noble foe. do it— and the blessings of millions shall be yours— Fail to do it— and you shall have touched a chord that shall not cease to vibrate till "The bonds of the oppressor shall be broken and the oppressed go free" Yea, though this Union of ours should be dissolved in blood.

"Give me Liberty, Or give me death"

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"Brutus" to Governor Henry A. Wise, n.d. [ca. November 1859]

Sir

You are very Eloquent in denouncing old Brown as a vile traitor  
Because he wished to free the Poor Black Slaves;  
But how different you are in speaking of George Washington; the  
Chief of the White Rebel; "Consistency then are a Jew";  
Oh how gloriously, and God-like to oppose British Slavery,  
To shoot, Murder, hang, Confiscate, or anything to gain  
Freedom; Boston then was the cradle of Liberty, now the nursery  
of Treason;

"How very strange that wrong and right;

"Should all depend on Black and White,"

If it was right for the Whites, Pray inform us how it is wrong for the  
Blacks; Wages for the poor, ought to be same for the generous;

George Washington could hang Major Andre, and help to Rob  
England of her Property; and be Elevated to the Presidency  
But, old Brown must be Elevated to a gibbet,

"Honest Sage,"

Now Sir we wish to inform you, that this is not the last attempt  
that will be made to aid the Poor Slaves; you may tremble  
for fear, for come it will like a Thunderbolt; Though one  
Two, or ten may fail and suffer, others will arise. until  
The Black Star is Grand from America's flag

Yours until

Death

Brutus

There as many a traitor, than a witness

**"Brutus" to Governor Henry A. Wise, n.d. [ca. November 1859]**

Transcription

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The "Black star is erased from america's flag

Yours until

Death

Brutus

There as many a wise been a wiseacre

*Governor's Office, Letters Received, Henry A. Wise, Record Group 3, Library of Virginia.*