

The death of the Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, in the defence of the Press, is well calculated to cast a deep gloom over the community. He has fallen a victim to the wicked spirit of slavery—a martyr to the cause of human rights, of freedom of speech and of the Press.

Some may be ready to condemn Mr. L. for his perseverance in attempting to outride the storm of persecution which has aimed its fury at his devoted head, but for such we have no sympathy. If the foul spirit of slavery has already become so potent a foe to the liberties of the nominally free, it is high time that some convincing proofs of it were offered to the American people, and the present we doubt not will serve to open the eyes of thousands to behold their danger, if possible, before it is too late for any retrieve from a fatal whirlpool into which we are swiftly being plunged, by the curse of slavery. The blood of Mr. Lovejoy crieth from the ground, if not for vengeance, for unremitting efforts on the part of every friend of the slave and the slaveholder—the bond and the free, to arise in their might and seal the doom of slavery to a speedy extinction, and thus escape the impending wrath of a just God, who will not forever withhold his righteous judgments from this guilty nation.

We shall make no apology for devoting so much of our paper to-day to the relation of the Awful Tragedy at Alton, to the exclusion of other matter on hand. Never has anything transpired in this 'land of freedom' more ominous of fearful consequences, since the days of the Revolution. We have arrived at a dreadful crisis. The question is not only whether the Abolitionists are right or wrong; but do we possess the rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution of our country? or does liberty exist only in name? We know too well the spirit which has actuated the ill-fated LOVEJOY to doubt that other lives will be sacrificed on the altar of freedom, of humanity and religion, if need be, before the attempt will be abandoned of securing the liberty of the Press. Already has an able minister of the gospel declared to us his willingness to offer himself a successor to the murdered LOVEJOY.

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