

DOUGLASS' MONTHLY.

"OPEN THY MOUTH FOR THE DUMB, IN THE CAUSE OF ALL SUCH AS ARE APPOINTED TO DESTRUCTION; OPEN THY MOUTH, JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY, AND PLEAD THE CAUSE OF THE POOR AND NEEDY."—1st Eccl. xxi. 8, 9.

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CAPT. JOHN BROWN NOT INSANE.

One of the most painful incidents connected with the name of this old hero, is the attempt to prove him insane. Many journals have contributed to this effort from a friendly desire to shield the prisoner from Virginia's cowardly vengeance. This is a mistaken friendship, which seeks to rob him of his true character and dim the glory of his deeds, in order to save his life. Was there the faintest hope of securing his release by this means, we would choke down our indignation and be silent. But a Virginia court would hang a crazy man without a moment's hesitation, if his insanity took the form of hatred of oppression; and this plea only blasts the reputation of this glorious martyr of liberty, without the faintest hope of improving his chance of escape.

It is an appalling fact in the history of the American people, that they have so far forgotten their own heroic age, as readily to accept the charge of insanity against a man who has imitated the heroes of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill.

It is an effeminate and cowardly age, which calls a man a lunatic because he rises to such self-forgetful heroism, as to count his own life as worth nothing in comparison with the freedom of millions of his fellows. Such an age would have sent GIDEON to a mad-house, and put LEONIDAS in a strait-jacket. Such a people would have treated the defenders of Thermopylae as demented, and shut up CAIUS MARCUS in bedlam. Such a marrowless population as ours has become under the debaucheries of Slavery, would have struck the patriot's crown from the brow of WALLACE, and recommended blisters and bleeding to the

heroic TELL. WALLACE was often and again as desperately forgetful of his own life in defense of Scotland's freedom, as was BROWN in striking for the American slave; and TELL's defiance of the Austrian tyrant, was as far above the appreciation of cowardly selfishness, as was BROWN's defiance of the Virginia pirates. Was ARNOLD WINKELRIED insane when he rushed to his death upon an army of spears, crying 'make way for Liberty!' Are heroism and insanity synonyms in our American dictionary? Heaven help us! when our loftiest types of patriotism, our sublimest historic ideals of philanthropy, come to be treated as evidence of moon-struck madness. Posterity will owe everlasting thanks to JOHN BROWN for lifting up once more to the gaze of a nation grown fat and flabby on the garbage of lust and oppression, a true standard of heroic philanthropy, and each coming generation will pay its installment of the debt. No wonder that the aiders and abettors of the huge, overshadowing and many-armed tyranny, which he grappled with in its own infernal den, should call him a mad man; but for those who profess a regard for him, and for human freedom, to join in the cruel slander, 'is the unkindest cut of all.'

Nor is it necessary to attribute BROWN's deeds to the spirit of vengeance, invoked by the murder of his brave boys. That the barbarous cruelty from which he has suffered had its effect in intensifying his hatred of slavery, is doubtless true. But his own statement, that he had been contemplating a bold strike for the freedom of the slaves for ten years, proves that he had resolved upon his present course long before he, or his sons, ever set foot in Kansas. His entire procedure in this matter disproves the charge that he was prompted by an impulse of mad revenge, and shows that he was moved by the highest principles of philanthropy. His carefulness of the lives of unarmed persons—his humane and courteous treatment of his prisoners—his cool self-possession all through his trial—and especially his calm, dignified speech on receiving his sentence, all conspire to show that he was neither insane or actuated by vengeful passion; and we hope that the country has heard the last of JOHN BROWN's madness. The explanation of his conduct is perfectly natural and simple on its face. He believes the Declaration of Independence to be true, and the Bible to be a guide to human conduct, and acting upon the doctrines of both, he threw himself against the serried ranks of American oppression, and translated into heroic deeds the love of liberty and hatred of tyrants, with which he was inspired from both these forces acting upon his philanthropic and heroic soul. This age is too gross and sensual to appreciate his deeds, and so calls him mad; but the future will write his epitaph upon the hearts of a people freed from slavery, because he struck the first effectual blow.

Not only is it true that BROWN's whole movement proves him perfectly sane and free

from merely vengeful passion, but he has struck the bottom line of the philosophy which underlies the abolition movement. He has attacked slavery with the weapons precisely adapted to bring it to the death. Moral considerations have long since been exhausted upon slaveholders. It is in vain to reason with them. One might as well hunt bears with ethics and political economy for weapons, as to seek to 'pluck the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor' by the mere force of moral law. Slavery is a system of brute force. It shields itself behind *might*, rather than right. It must be met with its own weapons. Capt. BROWN has initiated a new mode of carrying on the crusade of freedom, and his blow has sent dread and terror throughout the entire ranks of the piratical army of slavery. His daring deeds may cost him his life, but priceless as is the value of that life, the blow he has struck, will, in the end, prove to be worth its mighty cost. Like SAMSON, he has laid his hands upon the pillars of this great national temple of cruelty and blood, and when he falls, that temple will speedily crumble to its final doom, burying its denizens in its ruins.

DR. GEORGE B. CHEEVER IN ROCHESTER.—The Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society deserve our thanks for inviting Dr. CHEEVER to Rochester. His four sermons delivered in Corinthian Hall during the week, were a glorious protest against human oppression, made in the name of the great God of human nature and the gospel of Jesus Christ. His Bible argument against slavery was a tower of strength, armed with the thunders and lightning of God's word, wielded by one of the best minds of the age, inspired with profound reverence for truth, and glowing with deep and tender love for man. Such men as Dr. CHEEVER restore our respect for the gospel minister and his vocation, and refresh and re-assure our confidence of soul in the religion of the Bible.

We thank Dr. CHEEVER, in the name of the poor oppressed slaves of this thrice-guilty nation, for his brave words and iron-linked arguments in their cause, and for giving us a new revelation of the self-forgetful faithfulness and heroism of the true minister of the gospel in this age of clerical plush and velvet.

REQUISITION FOR GERRIT SMITH.—The report that Gov. Wise had made a requisition upon Gov. Morgan for the surrender of Gerrit Smith, has been contradicted by a dispatch from Richmond, Nov. 9.

—The N. Y. Herald says that 'the next Congress will be the most important body that has assembled in the United States for the past fifty years. Its members will be called upon to discuss the present condition of our national affairs, which have lately assumed a very grave, not to say alarming and dangerous phase. The debates of the next Congress may go far to demonstrate whether or not our governmental experiment is a failure, and they will be watched with the most intense interest by the whole civilized world.'