

# THE HANGING OF JOHN BROWN.

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## INTERVIEW BETWEEN JOHN BROWN AND HIS WIFE.

### OUR CHARLESTOWN CORRESPONDENCE.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., Dec. 1, 1859.

*Another Account of the Arrival of Mrs. Brown—Her Trip from Harper's Ferry—How She Contemplates the Fate of Her Husband—The Interview Between Herself and Husband, &c., &c.*

Capt. P. T. Moore, of the Montgomery Guard, now stationed at Harper's Ferry, arrived here this evening in a carriage, in company with Mrs. Brown. The carriage was under an escort of nine mounted riflemen. Mrs. Brown was accompanied as far as Harper's Ferry by a lady and two gentlemen, but by order of Gen. Taliaferro the latter were compelled to return to Baltimore by the next train bound east. Capt. Moore was on his way from Richmond yesterday, where he had been on a brief furlough, and while on his passage from Baltimore to Harper's Ferry ascertained from Col. Shutt, of the former place, who travelled with him, that Mrs. Brown was on board the train. Before reaching Harper's Ferry the Captain introduced himself to Mrs. B. and the lady and two gentlemen who accompanied her, and informed them that he should take them in charge upon their arrival at Harper's Ferry. Soon after the arrival of the train, the Captain telegraphed to Gen. Taliaferro, informing him of the presence at that place of Mrs. Brown and her companions. The General telegraphed back, ordering all the parties to be detained to await further orders. Early this morning, a detachment of nine mounted riflemen were despatched to Harper's Ferry, with instructions to Captain Moore to have Mrs. Brown given to them in charge, to be escorted to Charlestown. He was also instructed to order the lady and two gentlemen who accompanied her to return by the next train for the east. When Mrs. Brown was informed that her companions would not be permitted to accompany her any further, she exhibited some degree of uneasiness. Captain Moore, seeing this, immediately tendered her his services as an escort, which she cheerfully accepted. They then stepped into a carriage, which was in readiness to convey Mrs. Brown to Charlestown, and immediately set out for their destination, under the escort of the Mounted Riflemen. The Captain referred frequently, as they came along, to the unfortunate situation of her husband. She exhibited no sorrow or regret, so far as he could observe, nor did she manifest any particular anxiety to see him, notwithstanding that five months have now elapsed since she had last seen him. Seeing that she was not moved by this reference to her husband's condition, the Captain turned the conversation upon another subject. He remarked what a misfortune it was to her and her family that her husband had involved himself in his present difficulties. Her reply was that she would bear the affliction as well as she could. She did not show as much feeling "as"—to use the Captain's own words—"I would if the least wrong were inflicted on one of my children."

As they passed along, the Captain brought Mrs. Brown's attention to a number of negro children whom they met on the route, and remarked to her how happy and contented they seemed to be. "You can perceive," said he, "from their appearance how well they are cared for. They are well fed, well clothed and kindly treated in every respect—as much so, in fact, as the white children." She seemed pleased at hearing this. The Captain assured her that such was the course of treatment pursued in reference to the negroes throughout the South, and explained to her how it was the interest of slaveholders to treat their slaves kindly. She stated that she never before dreamed that their condition was so good, or that they felt so happy as they appeared to her from her present opportunity of observing them.

On entering the town, the Captain let down the curtain of the carriage to prevent her being gazed upon by the crowd in passing to the jail. She observed that she felt no inconvenience from the sun, and that it was entirely unnecessary to take any pains to exclude it. The Captain informed her that such was not his object in letting the curtain down, but to save her the pain of being made the object of general observation by the crowd on the street, who, no doubt, felt considerable anxiety to see her.

On arriving at the jail the Captain conducted her from the carriage to the jailor's quarters, where she was given in charge of Mrs. Avis, the jailor's wife, to be searched before permitting her to see her husband. Meanwhile the Captain went into Brown's cell, in company with General Taliaferro, Mr. Andrew Hunter, Mr. Campbell, the Sheriff of the county, and Mr. Wm. H. Lyons, a member of the General's staff. The Captain observed to Brown that Mrs. B. had arrived, and was accompanied by him from Harper's Ferry to this place, and apprised him further that he would have to accompany her back to that town to-night. He expressed his willingness to do anything for him that would be consistent with his duty. Mr. Brown returned thanks. The Captain then asked him to endorse a check for fifty dollars, drawn in his favor by a Mr. Cavender, of Philadelphia, and given to him by one of the gentlemen who accompanied Mrs. Brown to Harper's Ferry, to procure his (Brown's) endorsement to it. Mr. B. endorsed the check; of which the following is a copy:

Philadelphia, 11th Mo., 30th, 1859.  
To  
THE CONSOLIDATION BANK.  
Pay to John Brown (now of Virginia) or order FIFTY  
DOLLARS.  
\$50. JOHN H. CAVENDER.

The endorsement is as follows:—"Pay to the order of Mary A. Brown. JOHN BROWN."

At this stage of the interview, General Taliaferro said:—"Mr. Brown, your wife, Mrs. Brown, will be here in a few minutes, and I am sorry I cannot afford you an opportunity for a long interview with her. How long an interview would you want?" Brown answered, "About two or three hours." "That," said Gen. Taliaferro, "is too long." "Well, sir," said Brown, "I want nothing from the State of Virginia, and I beg nothing, sir; you enforce your orders." "Most certainly I will do that," replied Gen. T. About this time Mrs. Brown entered the cell and met her husband. They embraced and kissed, but there was not the slightest painful emotion visible on the part of either. It was peculiarly "a stage kiss and embrace," to use the words of a gentleman who witnessed the meeting. From all that Capt. Moore could observe during his conversation with Mrs. Brown on the route from Harper's Ferry to this town, she would not, if she had full opportunity, furnish her husband any means to commit suicide, as was apprehended. She believes him to be a martyr, and she would offer no obstacle to the consummation of what she believes to be his great destiny. And the conviction is equally strong with those most familiar with John Brown's own sentiments, that he would do nothing to divert his tragic fate of the character of martyrdom, even though he had the means of self-destruction at hand.

Mrs. Brown is a woman of good appearance, large and well proportioned, and about forty years of age. I understand she expressed some anxiety to recover the body of her youngest son, who was shot at Harper's Ferry. She returned about eight o'clock to-night to Harper's Ferry in company with Capt. Moore and an escort of mounted riflemen. She will await there the body of her husband, which will be forwarded to-morrow immediately after the execution.

The military surveillance here is so strict as to render it unsafe for any civilian to go fifty yards from the hotel at night. During to-day no one was allowed to go out or come into the city without giving the countersign. This state of things will continue until after the execution; and rumor has it, that no person will be permitted to leave here before Sunday or Monday next. This, however, is too improbable to be entitled to credit; for, what object could the authorities have in detaining persons here beyond the day of execution, which, it is to be hoped, will form the finale to the exciting ordeal through which the citizens of this whole region are now passing. The spectacle is a painful one, and the sooner an end is put to it the better for the interests of the State and the peace of her citizens. The restraints are excessive, and altogether inconsistent with social order and the pursuits of industry.