

Capt. John Brown's Monomania.

The *Chicago Press* is noticing the Virginia insurrectionary attempt, thus speaks of Ossawatimie Brown :

Since the death of his son Frederick who was shot down at his own door in Kansas, by a Missouri mo' tenfold more revengeful and bloody than that which now fills Virginia with terror, and since the old man witnessed, on the same occasion, the destruction of the property that he had been a life time in accumulating, he has been a monomaniac. He has supposed himself divinely appointed to free all American slaves by some violent and decisive movement, the nature of which we do not know that he ever revealed. Often, we are told, during the Kansas disturbances, he would retire to a secluded place at a distance from his camp, and there, to use his own words, wrestle with the Almighty for hours, to wring from Him the aid which he demanded in the accomplishment of the work to which he thought himself appointed by heavenly favor. His talk for years to his friends and intimates has been of his commission sealed with the blood of the Savior, by which he was directed in the path that he was about to follow. He has entertained no doubt that his life was to be prolonged until he could see the shackles stricken off from every slave in the land; nor has he had a doubt that by his agency, as the instrument of God, specially entrusted with the work, every bondman was to be freed. This delusion has been regarded as harmless, and since he passed out of public view, it has, we suppose, been forgotten even by his friends.—That he has acted upon the murderous impulse which the violation of his own household roused within him—that his mania has overpowered his reason, and forced him into the commission of a great crime—the history of this Harper's Ferry movement is sufficient proof. We do not wonder, knowing him, from the accounts given by others, as well as we do, that he engaged in an enterprise of such criminality and folly. We are only surprised that he could have found any white man out of Slavery weak enough to have yielded to his crazy suggestions and aided him in his hair-brained attempt. He will doubtless be called upon to lay down his life in atonement for his folly; and though our conviction that he is demented, is strengthened by this recent event, we can but say that death cannot claim him too soon.