

48
What was it that brought things to a head? The action of John Brown, a few miles south of Pottawatomie, where five men who led a small party to the banks of the Pottawatomie,

were killed in cold blood. It was an atrocious murder, but those who try to hallow the memory of those killed are trying to make heroes out of a bad lot. I knew personally August Bondi; and Noble L. Prentiss, whom I also knew, quotes Bondi as saying: "The men killed had been our neighbors and I was sufficiently acquainted with their characters to know that they were of the stock from which came the James brothers and the Youngers, who never shrank from perpetrating crime, if it was done in the interest of the proslavery cause."

Of the many books that I have read regarding John Brown there are two which are favorable to him. James Redpath, doubtless, is the one who made a national hero of him, and the late William F. Connelley in his book, "John Brown", published in 1900, treats him in a fair and kindly manner.

Of the many traducers of John Brown there are at least two who may have found it profitable to defame him. For some years I have had the book published in 1902 by George W. Brown, M. D., entitled: "Reminiscences of Gov. R. J. Walker; with the True Story of The Rescue of Kansas from Slavery." This book was dedicated to Mrs. Sara T. D. Robinson, widow of Governor Charles Robinson.

~~In this book~~ ^{in this book} No one could be more bitter, nor use more scathing language, than Dr. Brown, in vilifying John Brown. Having read this book, written by the man Dr. Robinson brought to Lawrence to edit "The Herald of Freedom", what was my astonishment a few years ago when reading a copy of "The Herald of Freedom", of February 7, 1857, published just eight months after the slaughter at Dutch Henry's Crossing, on the ^{this same} Pottawatomie; to find the following signed article by Dr. G. W. Brown. ~~Read attached copy.~~