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Patton, W.W. Rev.

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NEW JOHN BROWN SONG.



“HIS SOUL IS MARCHING ON!”

[REV. W. W. PATTON, D. D., late President of Howard University, while riding on the cars, by way of whiling away the time, scribbled off on the back of an envelope a “New John Brown Song,” in which he sought to express the moral issues of the war in relation to slavery—using the first line and chorus of the original version, which was just then becoming popular. Four of the new stanzas ran as follows:]

Old John Brown's body lies a-moldering in the grave,
While weep the sons of bondage, whom he ventured all to save,
But though he lost his life in struggling for the slave,
His soul is marching on! O Glory! Hallelujah!

John Brown he was a hero, undaunted, true and brave,
And Kansas knew his valor, where he fought, her rights to save,
And now, though the grass grows green above his grave,
His soul is marching on! O Glory! Hallelujah!

He captured Harper's Ferry with his nineteen men, so few,
And he frightened “Old Virginnny” till she trembled through and
through;
They hung him for a traitor, themselves a traitor crew,
But his soul is marching on! O Glory! Hallelujah!

John Brown was John the Baptist of the Christ we are to see—
Christ who of the bondman shall the Liberator be,
And soon throughout the Sunny South the slaves shall all be free,
For his soul is marching on! O Glory! Hallelujah!