

HOWARD DAY IS DEAD.

He Was a Well Known Orator of the Colored People.

Every colored man, woman and child, as well as many white people, in Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley will deeply regret to learn of the death of Rev. William Howard Day, of Harrisburg, who died Monday morning at his home in Harrisburg at the advanced age of 73 years. Mr. Day was a master of arts and a doctor of divinity, and was one of the foremost colored men of his generation, ranking in point of intelligence and as an orator with the late Frederick Douglass. Rev. Day's life was a constant struggle. Denied admission to a New York college in 1813 he went to Oberlin college Ohio where he graduated in 1817. After years of usefulness as an educator and helper of his race he was ordained in 1826 and has since been prominent in church affairs. He travelled all over Europe in the interest of the colored race and was received by royalty and the nobility. He resided in Harrisburg for thirty years, was for many years a member of the School Board and its president and was president of the Dauphin County Teachers' association. It is a matter of record that his is the only colored man's name which appears on a marble slab in a public school building in the United States, for he was president of the School Board at Harrisburg when that body erected a new building a few years ago. On a marble slab in that structure appears the name of Rev. William Howard Day.

Aside from his popularity as a minister and orator, Mr. Day was considerable of an historical character, in that he was associated with John Brown. While in this city several years ago Rev. Day told a TIMES reporter, in confidence that he (Day) when in Canada, set the type (for he was a printer) from which the famous 'Brown Constitution' was printed, that he not only set the type but printed the constitution and after this work was finished the pamphlets were sewed, sealed up in a barrel of flour and shipped from Canada to Kansas City where they were secretly distributed among the sympathizers of Brown.

In giving this information seven years ago Rev. Day exacted a promise from the reporter that it should never be printed until after his (Day's) death.

During one of his numerous visits to Wilkes-Barre Mr. Day, in an interview with the TIMES reporter, told the following story of the Brown incident, the subject finally resolving itself into 'The Development of Civil and Religious Liberty.'

The first point made is that there is implanted in universal man the instincts of liberty, second, that the reason of man is in accord with these instincts, and therefore the active conflict of this age in favor of freedom. The third, that the guiding hand of Almighty God is in these conflicts everywhere to be seen."

In giving in thrilling words, this brief outline of these conflicts, and the personal relations of the leaders of liberty, Dr. Day sketched briefly the life of John Brown of Ossawatimie and the so-called 'insurrection' at Harper's Ferry. He said:

'My connection with John Brown was most intimate, so much so that for three weeks before the Harper's Ferry incident, we ate, drank and slept together. I understood, as thoroughly as anyone, the old man's purposes, so far as he chose to indicate them. I understood Brown's original plan to have been, not to invite the attack of the United States government by capturing United States property, and that as originally planned, no direct opposition to the government was intended. The plan, as originally laid out, was a great underground railroad scheme, so, that slaves desiring liberty could be safely conveyed across Maryland and Virginia into Pennsylvania and thence to safety from oppression. In accord with this idea a reconnaissance of the whole frontier had been made, and the sentiment of every household on 'the border line' had been ascertained. Foes had been marked, and friends had been credited. Brown, however, did not dream of a successful issue without some conflict. He expected that with the usual perversity of the slave-power, it would oppose even a peaceful movement to free the slaves. For this reason, reinforcements were provided for, months previous, especially among the colored citizens of New York and Pennsylvania. Successful efforts had also been made in Maryland and the District of Columbia to secure recruits. A military officer for more than a year had been traveling the country over, and calling to arms and a large proportion of these men were well drilled in military tactics, so that the few men in John Brown's company at Harper's Ferry did not measure the strength which he had a right to expect would be near at hand, and soon, to sustain him. Perhaps it may be proper to state that at the very moment of the tragedy at Harper's Ferry prominent men were as near as Chambersburg, Pa., on their way southward. Hearing the news, they again turned their faces northward.

"If John Brown's plan was not to attack the United States government, what was it? I answer, a self-sacrificing and sympathetic movement to free the slave and protect the half-free. It had in it far more humanity than hostility, either to the government or to the slaveholder. To make such a move effective, with the elements likely to be gathered, Brown knew that there must be some forms of law, some government, some restraints upon all concerned, by which the rights of all, male and female, should be protected. Besides, he knew that there was no guaranty anywhere, under the United States government, for such protection. He often instanced the case of the Indian, wronged and outraged by a professedly paternal government, and the case of the colored citizen, who, according to Judge Taney, had been treated as if they had no rights which white men were bound to respect. Brown deemed it right that both these classes should be protected, and that they should combine for mutual benefit. With no government to do them justice, he determined to form a government. Hence, he drew up a constitution, which protected the rights of all classes, male and female, colored and white, slaveholders and their families if they came in for protection, and their former slaves. This document, printed, was found in quantity in John Brown's valise when he was captured. This constitution was set up by a printer in a seven-by-nine room in Canada, placed in a flour barrel and forwarded across the lines to the United States where it was received by the proper parties. Only one man now in the United States saw the type set for the constitution (This was Dr. Day himself, for he set the type.)

This government so established, with John Brown president and commander-in-chief was to be established on the mountains in Virginia. Bear in mind it was to be a voluntary aggregation of citizens for protection. It was to attack nothing but the institution of slavery, which Brown and others regarded as an outlaw. It made no threats, it challenged no conflicts, but if attacked, as attacked it was likely to be, it would defend itself by every justifiable means. If troops were sent to attack, they could not fight on the mountains by platoons, but as single soldiers, and history had demonstrated that then even United States soldiers would fall."