

LECTURE ON SLAVERY,—On Monday evening, John Brown, a man of colour, who stated that he had escaped from slavery in the United States, addressed a large audience at the Town-hall, Truro, to whom he gave a description of the treatment to which he was subjected whilst under the power of the slaveholder. The chair was occupied by Mr. Barlow, who said he had seen documents which satisfied him that John Brown was in reality what he represented himself, an American by birth but an African by blood, who had been a slave, and when in bondage, had been subjected to all the cruelties which a despotic and tyrannical taskmaster could inflict. Mr. Barlow also read a paper signed by four persons living at Redruth, Joseph Vivian, Richard Pascoe, Thomas Williams, and Thomas Champion, who stated that they had worked with John Brown in Lake Superior mine, in North America. They stated that Brown was a slave in the State of Georgia; that he had been four times sold, and came to Lake Superior in 1847, where he was employed by the mining company there for a year and a half, and was found to be a quiet, honest, and industrious man. His object in coming to England was to see Captain Joseph Teague, of Redruth, who had promised him support; but Captain Teague had unfortunately died in America, which John Brown did not know until he arrived in Redruth. He was now without support; and they, (the persons signing the paper) had helped him all in their power, and would do more for him if they could.—After reading this paper, Mr. Barlow introduced the lecturer, who proceeded to give a narrative of his having been sold to a Georgian slave dealer when eight years old, the trader having weighed him and bought him by the pound; and that he was afterwards

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sold to Thomas Stevens, in Georgia, who used to brand his slaves with a hot iron, with the letters T. S. He next described the treatment to which he and the other slaves were subjected, the constant whippings and other barbarous punishments which they had to undergo, and in consequence of which he ran away on three or four occasions,—was once retaken, and at other times after suffering greatly in wandering about the country, returned to his master, from whom he received worse treatment than before, being made to wear the “bell and horns,”—a head-piece of iron and bells placed on runaway slaves,—until at last he got clear off and fell into the hands of some Quakers in Indiana, who treated him kindly, and he subsequently went to the Lake Superior mines and obtained employment. His object now was—finding Captain Teague dead—to get some funds to enable him to return to Canada, where there were a great many other people of colour employed, who had been like himself, slaves in the southern States of the American Union.—His address was unconnected, and sometimes almost unintelligible—a circumstance which the Chairman afterwards accounted for from the fact that American slaves are kept entirely without education, there being a heavy penalty imposed on any person who would teach a man of colour to read; but though their coloured friend had not delivered himself as a man of education would, yet he had given statements which he (the Chairman) thought must have touched the hearts of his audience —The meeting was then concluded, and a collection made towards the relief of the lecturer.

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