

From: Daniel Ricketson, *The Autumn Sheaf: A Collection of Miscellaneous Poems* (New Bedford, MA: Published by the author, 1869) 184.

THE PETITION—JOHN BROWN.

To H.A.W.

Still the warm current flows along his veins.—
His noble heart still beats to freedom true,
And finds a deep repose where virtue reigns,—
His soul sublime, and calm as heaven's own blue.

O thou who hold'st his life-blood in thy hands, [5]
List to the voice of God that speaks within;
His life or death depends on thy commands,—
O, nobly spare him, and escape the sin:

For surely as he dies, upon thy soul
His blood will leave an everlasting stain. [10]
Spare but thy hand to do a deed so foul,
For God to thee hath made thy duty plain.
O, spare the brave old man, and thousands here
Will bless thy name, thy future days will cheer.

Nov., 1859