Harper’s Weekly, December 17, 1859

The South imagines that the Northern people sympathize with John Brown, and regard him as a martyr. Among others, Governor Wise, of Virginia, and Governor Gist, of South Carolina, entertain, and endeavor to disseminate this opinion. Yet it is a notorious fallacy. The bulk of the Northern people have no sympathy whatever with John Brown. They regard him as a man who broke his country's laws willfully, who caused the death of innocent men, and who has been justly punished for his crimes. This is the view taken by the great conservative body of the Northern people, including most of the merchants, farmers, mechanics, and citizens generally. Members of the Republican party – while owning to some tenderness for Brown on account of his sincerity and manliness still admit that he was rightly punished. Of those who deem him a martyr, and censure Virginia for having executed the law, there is a mere handful -- Cheever, Emarson, Phillips, and a select party of radical abolitionists, who have never had any following worth mention.

http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/1Introduction/IntroLevelOne.htm

Valley Spirit, October 26, 1859  (Franklin, PA)

In the present issue of our paper will be found full and accurate details of the recent Abolition insurrection at Harper's Ferry. This attempt to subvert the Government of the United States by a handful of crazy fanatics may seem ridiculous, and hardly worthy of serious attention for a moment. But there is another light in which the matter is to be viewed and one that presents a more alarming aspect. This outbreak is only the beginning--the foreshadowing of more serious troubles. That an extensive organization exists, in various States, to overthrow the Government by means of a general and servile insurrection there can no longer be a doubt. The frustration of this rash beginning has not by any means broken up the organization. It will only have the effect to make the conspirators more cautious in their working, and more desperate and determined in their next attempt. It is only necessary to trace the visible footprints of the insurgents to be convinced that the conspiracy has a more wide-spread existence than people are generally disposed to believe. We find the marauders of Kansas the active men in the plot--the same men, the same means, and the same arms, used in that war, have been brought into requisition in this outbreak. It is only a renewal of the Kansas trouble in the heart of our country--brought home to our own doors. All the treasonable machinery of that war have been put in operation to shock the moral sense and excite the fear of our community with horrid tales of rapine and murder at our own firesides.--Where the awful responsibility for this state of things rest the people can no longer be so blinded by their political prejudices, as not to see--With the evidence now before them they must be
considered willfully blind, hereafter, if they do not repudiate the party whose seditious principles have sown the seed of this insurrection broad-cast over the land.