

Route 1, Box 33
Santa Fe, N. M.

2 December 1959

The Editor
The New Mexican
Santa Fe, N. M.

Dear Sir:

On December 2, 1859 Captain John Brown was hanged for his attack on Harper's Ferry. From the floor of the Armory he said to his captors: "I think, my friends, you are guilty of a great wrong against God and humanity, and it would be perfectly right for any one to interfere with you so far as to free those you willfully and wickedly hold in bondage."

Before his execution Thoreau wrote: "He has liberated many thousands of slaves, both North and South. They seem to have known nothing about living or dying for a principle. They called him crazy then; who calls him crazy now?"

Nor only are the bonds of the slaves he gave his life to free still not struck off, but we have since forged new bonds for ourselves. Is this not a fitting anniversary for us to rededicate ourselves to the cause of freedom, freedom from bigotry, freedom from prejudice, freedom from discrimination and freedom from fear to stand up and be heard; to say what we believe is right and what we believe is wrong?

Very truly yours,

Eliot Porter

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