

DEATH OF DR WILLIAM WELLS BROWN.—

Another of the fast leavening band of abolitionists has been taken away in the death at Chelsea of Dr William Wells Brown. His life was not only a record of noble philanthropy, but an inspiration to his race, and a striking example of the power of man to lift himself above the most depressing surroundings. He was born a slave in Kentucky 68 years ago, but when he was 23 escaped to the North, and worked as steward on a Lake Erie steamer. While there he sought both to educate himself and to work for his race, and he was the means of leading many fellow runaway slaves to liberty, smuggling 63 across the lake in a single year. He continued this work while living at Buffalo later, by organizing a secret vigilance committee for that purpose, and in 1843 he began to lecture for the anti-slavery society, and in 1849 represented the American peace society in the congress at Paris. His earnest and stirring oratory there and in Dublin and London attracted wide attention to himself and won for himself the warm friendship of Victor Hugo and Richard Cobden. He remained six years in Europe, advocating the cause of liberty, and meanwhile educating himself as a physician, and when he returned to the United States he was given public receptions at Philadelphia and Boston. He worked side by side with William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips to the end, with voice and pen (for he wrote various novels upon the race question) and when the mission of the abolitionist was ended he devoted his energies with equal zeal to the cause of education and temperance among his people. He used to call intemperance "the second slavery of the South," and helped to found the "national association for the spread of temperance and night schools among the freed people of the South." In this worthy work, and as an officer of the various temperance organizations he labored as long as he had strength for effort.