

Oliver Johnson, Anti-Slavery Leader, Boston,
Suffolk County, Mass. (also Vermont).

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Oliver Johnson (Dec. 27, 1809-Dec. 10, 1889), anti-slavery leader, editor, was born at Peacham, Caledonia County, Vt., the son of Ziba Johnson, a Peacham pioneer in 1795, and Sally Lincoln. . . . Oliver grew up on a farm and attended the common school until he became an apprentice in the printing office of the Vermont Watchman, Montpelier, Here he came under the influence of William Lloyd Garrison, whose paper, Journal of the Times (Bennington), he eagerly devoured. On Sept. 8, 1832, he married Mary Anne White, daughter of Rev. Broughton White of Putney, Vt. . . .

Going to Boston in 1831, he established the Christian Soldier, in opposition to the doctrine of Universalism. His office was in the same building with that of the Liberator and there soon sprang up between Johnson and Garrison an intimacy and an agreement on all phases of the slavery question which lasted throughout their lives. When in 1833 and 1840 Garrison went to England, he intrusted the editing of the Liberator in his absence to Johnson, and during the summer of 1837 and 1838 Garrison, because of ill health, turned his paper over to Johnson's care. In 1832 Johnson became one of the twelve founders of the New England Anti-Slavery Society and in 1836, its

traveling agent. From that time forward he continuously engaged in the work of the anti-slavery crusade, lecturing under the auspices of several of the numerous anti-slavery societies, writing, and editing. He was Boston correspondent of the New York Tribune, 1842-44, and assistant to Horace Greeley, 1844-48. In 1849 he became editor of the Anti-Slavery Bugle (Salem, Mass.), somewhat later of the Pennsylvania Freeman, from which in 1853 the National Anti-Slavery Society transferred him to the associate editorship of the National Anti-Slavery Standard at New York. This post he held until the end of the Civil War. He was also connected with the Republican (Philadelphia), a Free-Soil paper, and the Practical Christian (Milford, Mass. [He served in an editorial capacity with other journals after the Civil War.] His wife died in June 1872, and on Aug. 27, 1873, he married Jane Abbott, daughter of John S. C. Abbott, by whom he had one daughter. He died in Brooklyn, N. Y.

[He was the author of five books, including William Lloyd Garrison and His Times (1883), and The Abolitionists Vindicated in a Review of Eli Thayer's Paper on the New England Emigrant Aid Society (1887). . .

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