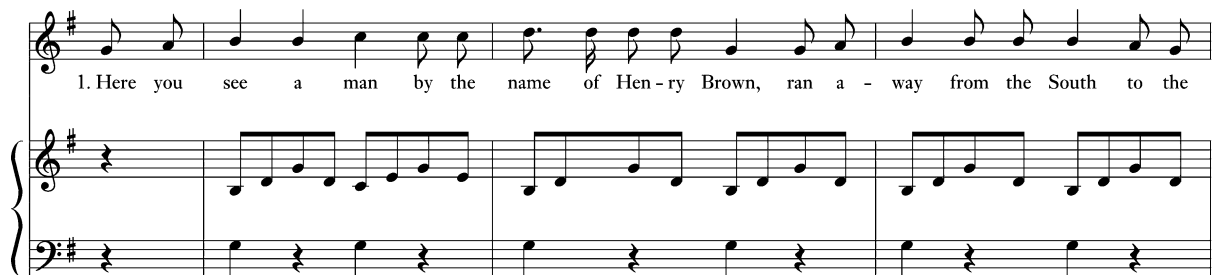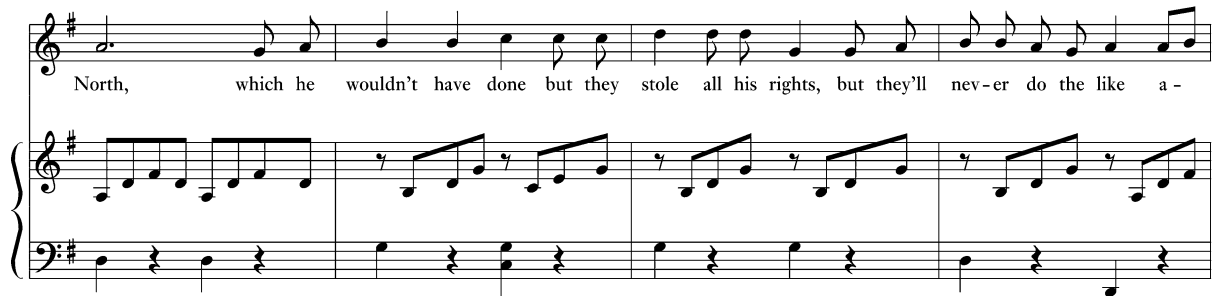# ESCAPE FROM SLAVERY

lyrics by Henry Box Brown (Boston: Laing's Steam Press, c.1850)
set to the tune of "Old Uncle Ned," by Steven Foster (New York: W. E. Millet, 1848)
edited for Past Times History by Rob C. Wegman

1. Here you see a man by the name of Hen-ry Brown, ran a-way from the South to the North, which he wouldn't have done but they stole all his rights, but they'll nev-er do the like a-

2

Lyrics:
gain.

Brown laid down the sho-vel and the hoe-o-o-o, down in the box did he go.

No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

2. Then the or-ders they were giv-en and the cars they did start, roll a - long, roll a-long, roll a-

- long.   Down to the land-ing where the steam-boat met,   to   bear the bag-gage off   to the

North.

Brown laid down the sho-vel and the hoe-o - o - o, down in the box did he go.

go. No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

3. When they packed the bag-gage on, they turned him on his head. There poor Brown would've liked to have

died. There were pas-sen-gers on board who wished to set down, and they turned the box down on its

side.

Brown laid down the sho-vel and the hoe - o - o - o, down in the box did he go.

go.   No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

4. When they got to the cars they throwed the box off, and down up-on his head did he

fall. Then he heard his neck crack, and he thought he was dead, but they nev-er throwed him off a-ny

more.

Brown laid down the sho-vel and the hoe-o-o-o, down in the box did he go.

go.   No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

5. When he got to Phi - la - del - phi - a they said he was in port, and Brown he be - gan to feel

glad. He was tak - en on the wag - on and car - ried to the place, and left "this side up with

care."

Brown laid down the sho - vel and the hoe - o - o - o, down in the box did he go.

go.   No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

6. The friends gath-ered round and asked if all was right, as down on the box they did

rap. And he an-swered them say-ing "yes, all is right," and he was then set free from his

pain.

Brown laid down the sho-vel and the hoe-o-o-o, down in the box did he go.

No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.

No more slave work for Hen-ry Box Brown: in the box by ex-press did he go.