On January 7, 1860, the Virginia General Assembly passed an act compensating $1,500 to state attorney Andrew Hunter of Charles Town, Jefferson County, for his legal services in prosecuting John Brown and his raiders.

CSO: SS.8.22

Investigate the Document: (John Brown/Boyd B. Stutler Collection, Z. Jacobs to Andrew Hunter, 1859 October 27; James M. Mason to Andrew Hunter, 1859 December 20; Ms78-1)
1. What is the main idea of this written document? When is it dated?
2. What do you suppose ‘martyrdom’ implies? Do you think it is applicable to John Brown?
3. A word that describes a person who favors the eradication of slavery can be found within the document—which word is it?

Think Critically: Using what you know about John Brown’s Raid on Harpers Ferry, why was John Brown’s raid at Harper’s Ferry unsuccessful? Did the raid accomplish anything in your opinion? Explain. Describe the effect of John Brown’s Raid and how it coincided with increasing sectional tensions prior to the Civil War. If you were assigned by the West Virginia Archives to create the text for a Historical Highway Marker about John Brown’s Raid on Harpers Ferry, what would be on it? (50-75 words.)
Washington, D.C., Dec. 27th, 1859

Dear Sir,

I see by the newspapers you are prosecuting Brown & his associates. Pardon me for presuming to make a suggestion or two. I am anxious not only that those men should be punished for their wicked deed, but that it should be so managed on the part of the government as best to deter & expose & degrade the many abolitionist prisoners & Whig leaders & his sympathizers with them. I doubt not they have & do aid & abet them.

If not too late, I would suggest that Brown & Stevens be not tried till the sad & sad occurrence is to remove all...
pretense that they were not able to attend to their defense

and further I am impressed with the notion that it would be wise to

long delay the execution of Brown, after he is

convicted. When he gets well, life will become

sweeter to him - at the cost of the

glory of mastery down, you
dare to I would more

even here, can't I hardly

got at increased numbers

of abolitionists - reevers

if the prolonging of his life

should lead to detections it

would show that we are cool

certainly disposed

through

And - Hunter 

Charleston, W. Va.

Must reinforce

L. Jacobs
Washington, Dec 20, 1859.

Andrew Hunter Esq.
Charlestown Va.

Dear Sir,

Will you do me the favor to send me by return mail the names at full of the following persons whom I intend to have summoned as witnesses before the select committee of the Senate in the Harper’s Ferry case — Col. Baylor Lewis, Washington, — Allsott (who was taken with his saga) — Dangerfield (clerk of the paymaster) — Ketzmiller (clerk) and — Ball (the armour.)

Oblige me also by sending me the names and place of residence of some two intelligent persons who resided in the neighborhood of Brown’s house at the Kennedy farm, and who visited and knew him whilst there, though ignorant of his designs, and who can tell of the amount be gave of himself and of his views in that part of the country, his habits, occupation etc.

I shall send subpoenas for these witnesses on receipt of your letter. I am here probably on the 3rd or 4th of January. You of course, included, will a due season to bring here the Brown papers in your charge.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Moser