

THE LEE CASE.

The Blood-Atoners, Shoving the
Odium on Lee;

They Out Lie, the Devil for Brig-
ham's Sake;

The United States District At-
torney Badly Sold.

The One-Eyed Pirate's Mission
to Beaver.

Special Cor. Tribune.]

BEAVER, Sept. 15, 1876.

The verdicts of Mormon juries and the testimony of saintly witnesses are wonderful things. The prosecution to-day, in the Lee case placed seven witnesses upon the stand, only one of whom, Joel M. White, had testified on the former trial. All the others, at least, were regular blood-atoners, and their evidence was given in every instance in a manner which thrust the conviction home upon all, that they were telling the truth so far only as it related to John D. Lee. Their memories were treacherous; they saw men at the Mountain Meadows; in fact, went there in company with some of them, but did not remember their names excepting that of Lee and Klingsmith, on whose guilty shoulders the priesthood are seeking to place the whole burden of the terrible crime.

The prosecution filed with the clerk six documents which will be given to the jury probably to-morrow. These papers will be put in to show the military aspect which affairs were in, in Southern Utah in 1857.

THE ONE-EYED PIRATE

was first called to the witness stand, and took his seat batting his swivel eye like a toad in an ash heap. Here the defense asked for a list of all the witnesses, which the prosecution declined to furnish, averring that some of the prosecuting witnesses had already been tampered with by an appeal to their prejudices. They had been shown certain newspaper articles, (referring to THE LAMONT'S predictions that the priesthood had sacrificed Lee) and had their religious sentiments appealed to, to falsify these predictions.

A BILT SLINGING BISHOP.

Mr. Bishop, counsel for Lee, contented himself with flinging dirt at newspapers not read by the respectable portion of this community—aside instructions to the jury—and withdrew the motion for a list of witnesses.

The Pirate testified that he had lived in Utah since 1848, during which time he had known the butcher, Lee, who had occupied, in 1857, the position of farmer to the Indians in Southern Utah, and had been an officer in the militia, and had great influence over the battle-axes of the Lord. Apparently this evidence is what the Pirate was brought all the way from Salt Lake to give. But the fact that any old resident of Southern Utah could have sworn to the same, leaves the pretence that he is here simply as a witness, extremely thin. His hand is as visible in the prosecution of Lee almost as Howard's own.

Nephi Johnson, Lee's Indian interpreter at Mountain Meadows, who never before could be found when wanted to testify, put in an appearance at Beaver in answer to a telegram from the Pirate, and was served with a subpoena only a short time before wanted on the witness stand. As the case develops it will doubtless show that the prosecution pressed the priesthood so close that they were obliged to abandon Lee to his fate, by withdrawing from him that fellowship which, all Mormons, who have been through the sink-hole of iniquity, owe to each other under all circumstances, and further, that the priesthood, actuated by the law of preservation, had been compelled to aid the prosecution in bringing forth witnesses who would swear Lee to his celestial kingdom in heaven.

The testimony of the six new witnesses, to-day, corroborated the evidence for the prosecution brought out on the former trial as to Lee alone. But all the swearers told as little as possible that is calculated to implicate any other than Lee.

Laban Morrill, who was a sort of high counselor for Fort Johnson, Pinto and Cedar City, and was in the habit of attending councils to take into consideration the good of these settlements, testified that he heard of the Arkansas train when it passed through. When he went to the priesthood meeting at Cedar City on the following Sunday, he found there was a division among the priests as to whether the emigrants should be "used up" or allowed to pass on. It was finally agreed that they should be allowed to continue their journey, while a message was sent to the Prophet-Governor for instructions, the hostilities already commenced to be suspended until the return of the courier. Witness returned to Fort Johnson, and heard nothing more until Haight told him, forty-eight hours before the courier's return, that the word would come for late—

THE EMIGRANTS WERE KILLED.

Witness understood that Lee would be instructed to cease Indian hostilities till the Prophet's will should be known. Great excitement prevailed, and the cause of this was the boast of some of the emigrants that they had killed old Joe Smith.

James Haight, who rode the express to Brigham, was called, and testified that on Monday, September 7th, 1857, Haight ordered him to take a dispatch to Brigham from Cedar City. Haight said word had come from John D. Lee that he

HAD THE EMIGRANTS CORRALLED.

on Mountain Meadows. A message had been sent to Lee to name until word could come from the Prophet. Witness rode through to Salt Lake by 11 o'clock a. m. on the following Thursday, and after a rest of two hours, the Prophet put a letter into his hand, saying: "Do you think you can stand the ride?" "Yes, sir," was the reply.

"Well, then, go; don't spare horse flesh; these men must be spared; let them go in peace," was the instruction of Brigham.

Witness reached Cedar City on the following Sunday, between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning, when Haight told him it was too late, but nothing more, and of course this modest witness asked nothing—he knew very well the whole story. Witness believed Joseph Clows was the man who took the dispatch to Lee. He heard Haight say to Clows: "Take this dispatch to John D. Lee, and tell him to do all in his power to stay the Indians." Clows is now in California, having written five years ago.

Joel M. White's testimony as to taking a dispatch to Pinto, directing the leading elders of that place to let the emigrants pass in peace, before they had reached Mountain Meadows, was almost word for word as given on the former trial of Lee.

The testimony of Samuel Knight showed that he was living in a wagon box at Hamlin's ranch, caring for a sick wife, when the emigrants passed and camped in the south end of the Meadows; that he soon after went home to the Santa Clara to water his crops, and when returning he was met by Lee ten miles south of the emigrant camp. Lee got in and rode along with him, and as he did so, recounted an attack that he (Lee) and

the Indians had made on the emigrants, who received them hotly, wounding three men and repulsing the assailants. Lee showed bullet holes in his clothing, calling it a narrow escape. He was clad in a high city suit, straw hat and homespun pantaloons, and was not disguised as an Indian. This occurred five or six days before the massacre, prior to which Lee was over to the ranch several times with other men.

The morning of the butchery Lee and Klingsmith wanted to borrow witness' team, as they said, to remove the sick and wounded emigrants who had consented to return to Cedar City. He refused to let his team go, because it was young and fractious, but finally went with it himself, and arrived in sight of the emigrants shortly before noon. Witness related the circumstances by which Lee gained admission to the emigrant camp by means of a white flag; after which witness and another man were directed by Lee to drive their teams down to the train, where guns, bedding, personal effects, etc., about six wounded men and a number of small children were loaded into the two wagons. Witness' wagon was behind, and Lee walked in the road behind the lead wagon as they pulled out; the emigrant women followed witness, and the men brought up the rear. The militia, about fifty strong, fell in with the men as they came up. After proceeding a few hundred yards, witness heard a shot, instantly followed by a volley of musketry; the Indians, a hundred strong, rose from their ambush with whoop and yell, and

DASHED DOWN UPON THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

dispatched them. He saw Lee put his gun to a woman's head and blow her brains out, and then beat a man to death with a club or the butt end of his gun. Witness' horses were frightened, and required his whole time to hold them. Lee worked until all the emigrants were killed.

Samuel McMarty, the other teamster who was at the Meadows, was ordered out from Cedar City by Haight. His testimony corroborated Knight's completely in regard to deceiving the emigrants out and killing them. He saw Lee shoot the woman, beat the man's brains out, and kill two or three men with his six shooter in witness' wagon, after which, aided by some Indians, Lee dragged the bodies from the wagon, and witness drove off.

This witness on cross-examination declined to state whether he took part in the killing, lest a truthful answer would criminate himself. But he is the Christian gentleman who aided Lee in dispatching the wounded, praying as he did the butcher work, that God would receive their spirits.

Nephi Johnson, Lee's Indian interpreter, was a boy about eighteen years of age when the butchering took place. He was present and witnessed the whole affair as related by the last witness. The killing he beheld from a hill, two or three hundred yards away. He saw Lee shoot the woman, beat the man to death, and, aided by an Indian, pull the wounded men out of one of the wagons to cut their throats.

Jack Hamlin's testimony as to a conversation with defendant a few days after the massacre, at Fillmore, was meagre. The principal point is it was that Lee justified his deeds by urging that inasmuch as the assault had been commenced on the train, and as an army of United States troops were coming to Zion, it was necessary to finish up the job, so that not one would be left to tell the tale.

These witnesses were sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. They told the truth and nothing but the truth, but it was painfully apparent that they fell far short of the whole truth. All the blame was cast on Lee and Klingsmith—these two did it all.

J. C. Y.