

MOUNTAIN MEADOW NATIONAL CEMETERY

(Special to The Herald.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 1.—The secretary of the interior recently opened correspondence with the secretary of war as to the propriety of taking means of reserving as a national cemetery the ground in which the victims of the Mountain Meadows massacre were buried by the United States troops in 1875. When the soldiers buried the victims they marked the spot with a rock pile twelve feet in height, on which was placed a board with the inscription: "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."

In bringing the matter to the attention of the war department at this time, the secretary of the interior says that the monument has fallen down, and many of the graves are uncovered. According to the reports received by him, Meadows is all that remains in the name. All that once gave them beauty has long since faded, and the spot is now a scene of waste and desolation.

A communication was referred to Colonel Patten of the quartermaster's department, who is in charge of national cemeteries, for remark. "It is not believed," says Colonel Patten in his report, "that under the existing law a national cemetery could be created where its purpose is to preserve the burial sites of such places as the scene of the Mountain Meadows massacre inasmuch as those who lost their lives there were neither soldiers, sailors nor marines, and the law under which the national cemeteries are established expressly confines interments therein to soldiers, sailors and marines. There is no appropriation known to the quartermaster's department which could be expended for the maintenance and improvement of the site of this massacre, were the grounds set aside as suggested. It might, however, very properly be made the subject of a request to congress for an appropriation necessary to properly set aside and care for this historical spot."

The secretary of war and the quartermaster general adopted these views, and the secretary of the interior will be notified accordingly.