

## UTAH'S SHAME.

The Opinions of the Press all Over the Union.

[Cincinnati Commercial.]

The Execution.

The execution of John D. Lee for the part taken by him in the murder of the emigrants to California, at the Mountain Meadows, now nearly twenty years ago, was a simple act of retributive justice long delayed. In the confession left by Lee he seeks to excuse himself, and make it appear that he was merely the instrument of a power among the Latter-day Saints the commands of which he dare not disobey. He did not want to massacre these emigrants, or stir up the Indians to assist the Mormons in that bloody work, and he makes the most of his tears of sympathy and the part he took in rescuing the children of the unfortunate victims.

The fact that Lee, however undeceived at last, was a fanatic then, and as ready to execute the will of the ecclesiastical hierarchy which ruled Utah as with a rod of iron, as any of the followers of Mohammed or Khalif, who succeeded him. He was taught to believe that it was not only a political necessity but a meritorious work, and that his reward would be great in the kingdom of heaven. Whatever human pity he may have felt was overcome by his zeal for the Church, and he entered upon the enterprise with absolute religious enthusiasm, tempered by apprehensions of discovery and subsequent expiation for that shocking wholesale murder.

In one sense, however, Lee was the victim of circumstances. At the time of the massacre, Brigham Young and the Danites were in the height of their power. It would have cost Lee his life to have declined to co-operate in the plan of massacre. There is no doubt but that the exact truth when he speaks of the consequences to himself had he refused to further the plans of the priesthood, Lee was by no means the chief criminal. He is living to-day in Great Salt Lake City, and his name is Brigham Young. It may be impossible to obtain the evidence to legally convict him, but there is moral certainty that he was privy to the plan of exterminating the Arkansas company of emigrants, and by a single word could have arrested the attack upon them had he been disposed to do so.

Brigham Young, during the years that the Territory of Utah was cut off from civilization east and west, "was the supreme law of the land," with as much power, centred in his hands as was ever in those of an Oriental despot. Nothing was done in the Territory without his knowledge and approval. He held the sword and the purse, and the keys of the kingdom which every Latter-day Saint expected to enter upon release from his mortal toil. He is more responsible for the massacre at the Mountain Meadows than John D. Lee, and that crime will never be expiated till the old humbug shares the fate of Lee himself.

[San Francisco Alta.]

The Mormon Question.

The Mormon question, like the ghost so often referred to, will not "down." In some form its ghastly head rises above the surface of ordinary events, and for awhile from the humblest and least influential citizen, to Congress and the President, it becomes for a time the absorbing topic. But however much the suppression of the disgusting system of bigamy, its vilest murders and assassinations, its most villainous of practices, very little has yet been done toward ending the system, or even of checking it. The energy and determination exhibited by the Mormon preachers and teachers, if exercised in a good cause, would be worthy of the utmost admiration. But exerted in a way which only leads to evil, is deserving of equal detestation. But how to check its growth, how to curb the insolence and defiance of its advocates, leaders and defenders, appears a question which our ablest statesmen have not been able to devise, or at any rate have not been able to carry into effect. Many years ago Mr. Douglas, then in the Senate, introduced a bill intended to settle the Mormon problem, but he failed in his effort. No have others. The recent confession of Lee and his execution have drawn attention again particularly to the question, and many inquire what shall be done to expunge this fanatical blot from the politics, and policy, and the current history of the country. Something should be done to throttle this villainous monster.

By their constant accessions of the ignorant and fanatical, and by allowing each man to have as many wives as he can maintain, or as are willing to be considered one of the wives of a Mormon and maintain herself, and then by granting each woman the franchise, the Mormon Priesthood—who are the Mormon legislators and rulers—manage to keep control of the Territory and wield it in the Mormon interest. Our statesmen appear to lose all their wisdom when they meet this question face to face, and utterly fail in every attempt to suppress what every honest, conscientious person outside of Mormondom cannot but consider a disgrace to humanity, a blot upon our country's good name. We suggest a remedy which rests in the will of Congress and the Executive. Let Congress pass an act into a law—as it has the undoubted right to do—taking away from the women of Utah the franchise, which women elsewhere do not possess, and also disfranchising every man, who, as a Mormon, has more than one wife. A law embodying these two prohibitions would effectually defeat the whole Mormon policy, politically. Those women, of course, vote just as their husbands command them, and thus they continue to outvote the "Gentiles," as they designate all who are opposed to their loathsome theories and practices. The passage of such an act would very soon settle practically the question of Mormon supremacy. They have carried it with a high hand, hands dripping with the blood of the innocent for some score of years, and their career, which has been marked with blood and assassination, calls aloud for its suppression. It can be suppressed surely in the way we have indicated.

[New York Herald.]

The Mormons.

The Government has now the best opportunity ever presented for solving the Mormon question without giving any color to a charge of religious persecution. To punish an atrocious crime is one thing, to persecute religion is quite another. It may be possible to extenuate polygamy by pleading the example of the patriarchs, but there can be no pretext for consecrating treachery and murder. It would be absurd to pretend that John D. Lee was the only Mormon responsible for the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He had a large body of accomplices who were with him on the ground and stained their hands with innocent blood, and other more cautious but not less guilty accomplices who, while instigating the massacre, excited all their cunning to screen themselves from detection. So far as they can be identified and their crimes proved they should all suffer alike. There was no justification for taking the life of Lee which does not make it a duty to hunt down and punish his accomplices. If Brigham Young was the chief accomplice he, above all the rest, should be made to feel the severity of the law. The presumption of his guilt does not rest merely on Lee's confession, although that alone is strong evidence, but also on the nature and constitution of the Mormon hierarchy and the position of Brigham Young as its directing head. It is one of the most absolute despotisms that ever existed. None of his subordinates would have dared to take so important and compromising a step as the massacre without full assurance of his sanction. With the craft and cunning in which he is so great an adept he took pains to mask his agency in that diabolical crime, but his complicity after the fact is established by clear evidence, and that it is morally certain that he instigated the crime which he took infinite pains to shield from exposure and punishment. The presumption against him is so strong that he ought to be immediately indicted and put on his defence. If the Mormon leaders are made to pay the just penalty of their crimes, the aggressive intolerant fanaticism by which the community is distinguished will slacken for want of energetic directing power. The Mormon community will be in the condition of an army which has lost all its generals. It will afterward make but a feeble resistance to the enforcement of wholesome laws, and in less than ten years the Mormons will be a tractable citizenry

as the members of any other religious sect. There is now an excellent opportunity to bring them into subjection to the laws without meddling with their bastard religion. We trust the prosecuting officers may receive such directions from Washington as they cannot neglect or disregard. It is high time that this foul ulcer were dissected out of the body politic.