

MORMON CRIMES.

The Church That Kills People to
Have Them.

[San Francisco Call.]

Cannot be Tolerated.

It is possible, that the confession of Lee may open the way to testimony more conclusive as to the part the First Presidency took in the inception and perpetration of the crime. We have always expressed the opinion that fanaticism cannot be urged in excuse of crime, if the fact of crime can be proved. Admitting that the Mormon leaders were sincere fanatics—that is, that they believed they were acting in obedience to the commands of the Lord in killing the enemies of the Church—the doctrine cannot for a moment be admitted that this belief may be legally urged in excuse for crime. Were such a principle established, every would-be murderer in the land would be a fanatic. We trust, however, that the confession of Lee will be allowed its full weight as a means of arriving at the truth. The methods by which the Mormon Church has maintained its ascendancy over the minds and bodies of its people are such as cannot be tolerated at this age of the world.

[San Francisco Chronicle]

Brigham Knew It.

Lee's confession is circumstantial and consistent throughout. It convicts Haight, Higbee, Dame, Allen and George A. Smith. The four survivors, if they can be captured and tried, will no doubt be able to tell exactly what part Brigham had in it; and this makes it of the highest importance that no pains shall be spared to arrest them. The Mormon Church, like that of the medieval Mohammedans, is in fact the Mormon State, and the head of it is as absolute as the Prophet of Mecca was. No such horror as the Mountain Meadows Massacre could possibly have been planned and executed without the foreknowledge of Brigham Young and his approval. That he ordered it is the general belief. That he kept the fatal secret, and closely guarded it with all his power and cunning for twenty years, everybody knows. He gave Lee up because some sacrifice was needed to save himself and the Church. But it is a poor atonement for such a crime, and justice demands that the real authors of it shall be made to pay the penalty as well as the wretched underdog.

[Gold Hill News.]

Must Not Stop.

The punishment of the Mountain Meadows crime must not stop with the execution of Lee. Justice will not be satisfied until the head and front of that awful conspiracy lays down his own life in expiation of his crimes. The avenging angel is on the wing, and in the light of these revelations by Lee, there is good cause to hope that his next victim will be the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

[Green River Press.]

Let Them Be Punished.

If the proper officials, desire that the guilty ones should be dealt with as they should be, they will lose no time in hauling up the leaders, and until this is done, the people of this enlightened country will never be satisfied, and the blood of innocent men, women and children who have been murdered by order of Young and his clan, will not be avenged. Let justice be meted out at once.

Utica Herald.—"The prosecution should not rest until every criminal in the garb of the Latter-day Saints is brought to answer for his evil deeds until justice long delayed is fully satisfied, and the country is convinced that it has been purged of a tolerance that neither law, equity nor charity can extenuate, nor the broad mantle of religious liberty make presentable."

Philadelphia Telegraph:—"The demands of justice have been only satisfied in a very imperfect manner by the execution of Lee. Brigham Young was the instigator of the Mountain Meadows Massacre and a number of similar atrocities, and the nation ought not to be satisfied until he is brought to punishment according to his deserts."

Baltimore Gazette—"The New York Herald insists that Lee's accomplices in that wholesale massacre shall share his fate. That is the general sentiment. On with the dance."

Jersey City Argus:—"Lee is dead, but Brigham is being wheeled around in an easy chair. Justice is a queer animal."

Ohio State Journal:—"In his old age he (Brigham) is adding perjury to his life of infamy."

Dayton (Ohio) Democrat:—"While all violators of law should be punished, innocent persons, whether Mormons or of any other creed, should not be wrongfully deprived of the property which they have accumulated or driven from their homes."

Yankton (D. T.) Press:—"He does not directly place the crime at the door of Brigham Young, but, after reading his confession and accepting it as the truth, little doubt remains that that venerable polygamist incited the bloody work, and that he is the party who should suffer the extreme punishment meted out to Lee."