

ENDOWMENT ROBED JURY.

Would a Jury of Thieves or Murderers Condemn One of Their Own Number?

The Mormon Crime—Close of the First Act.

The trial of John D. Lee for participation in the Mountain Meadows Massacre has terminated as we have expected, the jury disagreeing, and being discharged, it is said that eight Mormons and one Gentile of the jury were for acquittal; but it matters nothing how the jury stood, for there never was even a possibility that justice would be done by that body. The majority of the jurors were Mormons, and perhaps all of them had sworn to a lie when they said they were not cognizant of the facts of the massacre. But it has been clear all along that they went on the jury for the express purpose of defeating justice, and so far as any practical result was concerned, it was long since evident that the trial would be a mere farce. It now remains to be determined what the Government will do. The trial has fully established two central points: The first is, that the Mountain Meadows Massacre is a crime demanding retribution most urgently; the second is, that the administration of justice in Utah is impossible, because the Mormons are in open or secret sympathy with the murderers, and are so completely under the control of the Church, that they will hesitate at no perjury or falsehood, while there are no oaths capable of being administered to them which they will hold sacred. It is absolutely necessary that the Government should realize this latter fact, for, unless it does so, much time and money may be squandered in vain attempts to obtain fair trials of the accused parties. It is clear that it would be now folly to experiment further in this direction, for, so far as the purposes of justice are concerned, the Mormons are no more trustworthy than a tribe of Apaches. The main question to be determined therefore, is by what means the murderers can be subjected to an impartial trial? At present we perceive but one method which offers any certainty of success, and that is to put the Territory under martial law. Reliance upon the Mormons themselves is hopeless. They are in this regard as much rebels and traitors as the worst fanatics of the Southern Ku-Klux, and we hold that they should be treated with no greater lenity. The spirit that prompts men to perjure themselves for the sake of shielding a gang of dastardly cut-throats and child butchers is not one that should command tender or respectful treatment. It should be crushed down and stamped out with the iron heel, and if in the process of extirpation the men who cherish it happen to get extinguished also, the world will not grieve for their taking off. We believe that the time has passed for dallying with this evil parody of a religion called Mormonism. No system that justifies assassination, that undertakes to hallow iniquity, that inculcates defiance of the federal Government, that ignores the laws of the United States, that broods up men to accept a base and sordid despotism, in the midst of this free republic, ought to be tolerated. The Government has hitherto acted a cowardly and ignoble part in regard to this matter. Congress has shirked the issue year after year, instead of meeting it manfully, and the result is now seen in the utter failure of the first serious attempt to obtain justice for the brutal slaughter of the unfortunate Arkansas emigrants. It is, however, now evident that the beginning of the end has been reached. After the ventilation which this trial has afforded to the details of the crime, it is impossible that the prosecution of the assassins shall be abandoned, and public opinion once formed will insist that the dishonesty and disloyalty of the Mormons shall not be allowed to serve them by baffling the administrators of the law. No doubt they calculate that this movement, like all preceding ones, will prove but a nine days' wonder, and that with the frustration of the prosecution in Lee's case all public interest will disappear. We trust, for the honor of the Government, that Brigham Young and his counsellors are sustained this time, and that they will find their anticipations of easy evasion falsified. Assuredly the people will not rest content until a gallows has been erected over against the scene of the massacre, and the instigators and perpetrators of the infamous deed have been hanged in testimony of a nation's righteous retribution.—*Sacramento Record.*

Innocents in Utah.

Brigham Young and George A. Smith, whose presence as witnesses in the investigation of the Mountain Meadows Massacre, now being held at Beaver, Utah, would be very desirable, are unfortunately afflicted so as to prevent their attendance. Brigham avers that it would be a great risk to his precious life and health to travel that distance; while Smith is quite sure such a journey would cause his premature dissolution. They are, no doubt, anxious to go to Beaver and discharge their duty in the case, but, as the hazard would be so great, they will probably not be required to attempt the great sacrifice. With all its keen edge, United States justice is disposed to remember mercy. Accordingly, last Monday the defense offered the depositions of Brigham and his apostle George. Of course, they are as clearly innocent as the feather of an angel's wing, indeed so much so that they not only knew nothing of the massacre at the time, but came very near missing the sad piece of news altogether. Both were miserably unlucky. Rumor, very vague at that, hinted at something of the kind, but no particulars of the Western Bartholomew were served for the edification of these holy men. Here in the east a full report of the infernal deed reached every fire-side, but the great Mormon leaders, living almost within hearing of the shrieks of the victims that fatal morning, had almost to depend upon the investigations of a United States court 18 years after for any information of the slaughter. The most touching part of Brigham's deposition is the account he gives of his response to Lee when the latter, a long time after the affair attempted to unfold the bloody narrative for the great chief's contemplation. Then all of Brigham's tender nature heroically stood forth. He positively, nay sternly refused to have his "feelings harrowed up with a recital of the details." Here the beautiful, (if we may be allowed to say it,) the sublime, character of the prophet was transfigured amid a glory unequalled since the scene on Mount Tabor. From this episode we learn the peculiar gist of Brigham's character. It is softness. How such a tender nature ever lived to plant a colony in the wilderness, and what is more, marry so many women, baffles speculation. The prophet's explanation why he did not institute proceedings to investigate the massacre is ingenious, but of course conclusive. He says another governor had been appointed by the President of the United States and was then on his way to the Territory. Of course Young was modest, disinclined to appear over-ambitious or wreathe the glory of bringing the murderers to justice from the very jaws of the new governor. Where in history was there ever such official courtesy and self-abnegation displayed? Smith, the apostle, was not a whit behind the great head of the church in blighted ignorance of the whole affair. If there was any rivalry between these two immortal souls, it was which should be slower than the other in catching the news of the soul taking off. It is our mournful duty to say that these two admirable depositions were ruled out, but filed by the clerk.—*Tray (N. Y.) Times.*