

LEE'S STORY!

Terrible and Bloody Record of the Mormon Church.

The Butcher Implicates Brigham Young in the Massacre.

How it Was Planned to Throw the Blame Upon the Indians.

The Horrible Programme of the Fearful Slaughter.

"Acting as a Church Council for the Sake of Christ."

A Report of the Atrocities Duly Made to Brigham Young.

He "Communicates With God" and Indorses the Outrage.

"I Sustain You and the Brethren in All You Did."

The following is the confession of John D. Lee, which appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle and New York Herald, on Wednesday last:

FRIDAY, Nov., March 21.—After the sentence of death had been passed upon Lee in September, 1876, he made a full confession in writing of his participation in the Mountain Meadows Massacre, which document he delivered to W. W. Dabney, of Hocho, one of his counsel, and directed him to have the same published after his execution, following is the confession made by Lee: My name is John D. Lee. I was born on September 6, 1812, at Nauvoo, Randolph county, Illinois. My mother belonged to the Catholic Church and I was educated in the faith. My parents died while I was still a child, and my boyhood was one of trial and hardship.

I MARRIED
Agatha Ann Woolsey in 1833 and moved to Fayette county, Illinois, on Buckner creek, where I became wealthy. In 1836 I became acquainted with some traveling Mormon preachers. I bought, read and believed the Book of Mormon. I sold my property in Illinois and moved to Far West in Missouri in 1837, where I joined the Mormon Church and became intimately acquainted with Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and other leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I was subsequently initiated into the order of Danites at its first formation. The members of this order were solemnly sworn to obey all the orders of the priesthood of the Mormon Church, to do any and all things as commanded.

THE "DETRACTING ANGELS"
of the Mormon Church were selected from this organization. I took an active part as a Mormon soldier, as it was the recurring conflict between the people and the Mormons which made Jackson county, Missouri, a historic ground. When the Mor-

mons were expelled from Missouri, I was one of the first to settle at Nauvoo, Illinois, where I took an active part in all that was done by the Church or city. I had charge of the construction of many public buildings there, and was the police man and body guard of Joseph Smith at Nauvoo. After his death I held the same position to Brigham Young, who succeeded Joseph Smith as prophet, priest and revelator in the Church. I was Recorder for

THE QUORUM OF SEVENTY,
he clerk of the Church and organized the priesthood in the Order of Herceuty. I took all the degrees of the Endowment House and stood high in the priesthood. I traveled extensively throughout the United States as a Mormon missionary, and acted as trader and financial agent of the Church. From the death of Joseph Smith until the settlement at Salt Lake City I was one of the leading committees that selected sites for various towns and cities in Utah Territory. I held many offices in the Territory and was a member of the Mormon Legislature, and was Probate Judge of Washington county, Utah. Immediately after Joseph Smith received

THE REVELATION CONCERNING POLICEMEN,
I was informed of its doctrines by said Joseph Smith and the apostles. I believe in the doctrine and have been sealed to eighteen women, three of whom are sisters, and one was the mother of three of my wives. I was sealed to this old woman for her soul's salvation. I was an honored man in the Church, honored and regarded by Brigham Young and the apostles, until 1859, when I was cut off from the Church and selected as a scapegoat to suffer for and bear the sins of my people. As a duty to myself and mankind I now confess all that I did at the Mountain Meadows Massacre without animosity to any one, shielding none and giving the facts as they existed. Those with me at that time were

ACTING UNDER ORDERS
from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The horrid deeds then committed were done as a duty which we believed we owed to God and our Church. We were all sworn to secrecy before and after the massacre. The penalty for giving information concerning it was death. As I am to suffer death for what I then did, and have been betrayed both by those who gave orders to act and those who were the most active of my assistants, I now give the world the true facts as they exist, and tell why the massacre was committed, and who were

THE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS
The Mountain Meadows Massacre was the result of the direct teachings of Brigham Young, and it was done by order of those high in authority in the Mormon community. The immediate order for the massacre was issued by Colonel Dame, Lieutenant Colonel Isaac C. Haight and a council of Mormons at Cedar City, Utah. I held no position either in the civil or military departments or in the Church at that time. About September 15th I went to Cedar City, where I met Isaac C. Haight, president of the Council of that state of Zion, and also Lieutenant Colonel of the Iron county Missouri militia. This was Sunday, Lieutenant Colonel Haight

HE WAS THE LEADER
in all things concerning civil, church and military matters. It was a crime punishable by death to disobey his orders. Lieutenant Colonel Haight gave me a full account of the emigrants who were coming. We slept in the iron works all that night, and arranged our plans. Lieutenant Colonel Haight said that the emigrants were a rough set, and they were bad men, robbers and murderers, and helped to kill the Missouri property. I believed him. I was ordered to raise an Indian band to attack their train and run off their cattle, and to have the Indians

ALL THE KNIGHTS.
I sent Carl Ehrbe, my son-in-law, to raise a band of southern Indians. Naphi Johnson went to the other tribes. On Monday morning I left the iron works to obey my orders. Lieutenant Colonel Haight said, "We are acting by orders. It is all right. We will let the Indians bear all the blame." I said, "We are forbidden to shed innocent

blood." The reply of Haight was, "There is not a drop of innocent blood in the whole lot. Carry out the instructions of those in authority. If you are dutiful in this, your reward shall be great."

IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD,
for God will bless those who obey our counsels and make all things fit for the people of the Lord in their days." On the way home I passed many Indians out on the war path. I promised to join them the next day. On Tuesday morning the Indians attacked the train just at daylight, and killed seven and wounded sixteen emigrants. The Indians lost some of their warriors. The emigrants then fortified their position and the Indians surrounded them and sent for me. The whole country was aroused, both whites and Indians rushing to Mountain Meadows from all directions. I arrived at the camp late on Tuesday, and found the Indians in large force. They demanded that I should

LEAD THE ATTACK.
I refused until orders were received from Haight or Dame. I went south ten miles, met the whites and Indians coming from the south and camped there that night. On Wednesday I went to the Meadows and sent a man to Cedar City for further orders. On Thursday the orders came by Major Higbee. There were fifty-eight whites and about five hundred Indians there then. Major Higbee made a speech. He said the emigrants were all to be killed. Those who could talk must get them out of their fortifications by treachery. I was to follow

THE WILL OF GOD
for me to do as ordered. On Friday morning the emigrants had a white flag flying; the brethren were again assembled; speeches were made by all willing to act. There were present Major John M. Higbee, Philip K. Smith, Bishop of the church at Cedar City, Joel White, Wm. C. Stewart, Benjamin Arthur, Alexander Willson, Charles Hopkins, — Tate, Ira Allen, Robert Wiley, Richard Harrison, Samuel Postlock, Daniel McFarlane, John Ure, Geo. Hunter, Joseph Smith, Samuel Jukes, Neph Johnson, Carl Shirls, J. W. Jacobs, John Jacobs, E. Orris, Thos. Cartwright, Wm. Bakeman, Anthony Stratton, A. Lovelidge, Joseph Clew, John Lurvey, Columbus Freeman and others, making 61 or 63 whites and about 400 or 600 Indians. Major Higbee said "Brethren, it is

THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD
that all the emigrants must be put out of the way. President Haight has consulted with Colonel Dame and has orders from him to put all the emigrants out of the way. All must be killed that can talk." Again he gave the bad character of the emigrants. The Church authorities of Southern Utah were all there and we were acting as a Church council for the sake of Christ. We were then told, "We are here to do the duty we owe God, the Church and the people. The orders of those in authority are that all emigrants that can talk must die. Our orders are from our leaders who

SPEAK WITH INSPIRED TONGUES,
and their words are the will of God. You have no right to question. You must obey as commanded." The flag of truce sent was carried by William Bakeman. He was met half way by the emigrants. They held a parley, and when Bakeman returned he said the emigrants would surrender their arms and do as requested. The soldiers marched out within 200 yards of the emigrants. I took the wagons, went to the camp and read the orders. They said they would surrender, and would put their arms and their stock and wounded and chil-

TOO LATE TO GO BACK."
Dame said he did not know there were so many. We buried the dead and drove the cattle to Iron Springs. The wagons and other property were sold to Cedar City by order of the Church authorities. The orders were fully obeyed. The horrors of the massacre were beyond description. The brethren were sworn again to secrecy. This was done by order of the Church, then at war with the Government. George A. Smith, second in the priesthood, had just been there giving orders. He visited the Indian camp with me. He came to instruct the people to let none go through without a pass from Young, Dame or Haight, not to sell the emigrants food, grain or anything. He said

THE AMERICANS WERE A MOB OF RUFFIANS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DOOR.
He asked if the Indians would kill the emigrants. I told him the Indians and Mormons were both hostile to and would kill all not under the protection of the Church. This pleased him. He laughed and said, "All right." Haight and Dame told him the same. He taught the people that it was their duty to kill the emigrants — massacre them just as Smith and the leaders wanted it. Haight sent me to Salt Lake to report to Brigham Young, and promised me a crown of celestial reward for what I had done. I went and made a report to Young ten days after the massacre.

TOLD HIM ALL—
everything—who were there and who were the guilty; who were active in the killing — all I know. I said "Sustain me, or release me from the Endowment oath to avenge the death of the prophets." Brigham Young said, "I will communicate with God." I went back next morning and Brigham Young said, "Brother Lee, not a drop of innocent blood has been shed. I have gone to God in prayer and God has shown me that it was a just act; the people did right — only they were a little too hasty. I have evidence from God that the act was just; that it was in accord with God's will."

I SUSTAIN YOU AND THE BROTHERS IN ALL YOU DID.
All I fear is treachery on the part of the brethren. Go home, tell the brethren I sustain them, and keep all as secret as the grave. Do or tell any one. Write me a letter laying the blame on the Indians. I will report it to the United States as an Indian massacre." Young was then and for years after fully satisfied with me and my acts. He gave me three wives after that and also appointed me Probate Judge of Washington county. Nothing but cowardice has made him desert me now. Fifty head of cattle were sold in Salt Lake by the authorities for merchandise. The emigrants had 400 or 500 head of cattle, but little money. When Cradlebaugh, Judge in Utah, went to the Meadows to investigate the massacre,

YOUNG CAME WITH HIM.
He (Young) then knew all about the massacre. He held a meeting of the brethren and preached at Cedar City. He said about the emigrants, "Do you know who they were? I will tell you. They were the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and children of the men who killed the Saints in Jackson county, and who afterwards killed the prophets in the Cartwrights. Their children are now in the poorhouses. Their relatives refuse them no action, because they are the children of thieves, outlaws, and murderers. I have

been told that there are many brethren willing to

EXPOSURE OF THOSE WHO DID THIS THING.
I hope there is no truth in this. I hope no such person lives. If there is, I will tell you what your fate will be. Unless you repent at once, and keep secret all you know, and protect each other you will die a dog's death. I would as soon go to hell as to possess a damned lost soul. Let me hear no more of treachery among my people." Any one who would have proved a traitor then would have met the Destroying Angel at once. As or I had reported to Young I went home, met Haight and gave him a full report of Young's statement. Haight said,

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,
you shall receive a celestial reward for your services. You have deserved well of God and the Church." I next went to work to write up an account of the massacre, laying the blame of it on the Indians. I wrote a long letter, the same as has been introduced to evidence against me. Brigham Young knew it was false, and writing to save the Mormon Church. His report to the Government was part of a plan to save the Mormons from blame. It was years after before I knew I had been made a tool of by the leaders. I only obeyed the orders of my superiors. I then believed I was serving God and would receive a celestial reward. Now I know it was wrong and that my reward is not to be celestial.

IT WAS THE FIRST PLAN
to have done but Indians take part in the massacre; but as William U. Stewart, Joel White and Benjamin Arthur were coming to the Meadows on Wednesday night they met young Aden and another man going from the emigrants' camp to Cedar City for help. They told of the Indian attack and asked aid from the settlers. The only reply was a shot from Stewart which killed Aden. The other man, who was wounded by White and Arthur, escaped and carried word to the emigrants that the whites had come to help the Indians. After this the authorities said there was no safety except in

KILLING ALL WHO COULD TALK.
William U. Stewart was the most blood-thirsty of any one there. He cut throats left for amusement. Klinger Smith, 15 ft. up at Cedar, killed a man. Everyone there took part in the killing, as a religious duty. We were then in the midst of the excitement of the reformation, and believed by the teachings of our leaders that

THE FULLNESS OF TIME HAD COME;
that the Mormons were to conquer the world, and at once inherit all the wealth of the universe. Christ was to come and rule one thousand years, and Mormon doctrine were to be universally accepted. We were the followers of false teachers. I have fallen a victim to the foolish and wicked men that I believed almost divine. I have had eight or nine wives, and eleven of them have been divorced from me by Brigham Young. Three still remain true to me, and have clung to me during my imprisonment. I am

THE FATHER OF SIXTY-FOUR CHILDREN.
Ten are dead and fifty-four still living. The witnesses on my trial have not told the whole truth. They are all guilty of helping to kill the emigrants. This is the only act of violence I ever took part in, except in lawful battle. I would not have acted on that occasion to have saved my body from torture had I not believed I was obeying the orders from the hands of the Church. I know I was doing according to the teachings of the priesthood, and I still think Haight led his orders from the heads of the Church. My journals and private writings have been destroyed by order of Brigham Young, and I have nothing left but my memory to give the account of the foul deeds done in God's name during the years when Brigham Young was chief and ruler in Utah. I know of many murders, castrations and robberies.

COMMITTED BY ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD,
all of which I have fully stated in my writings delivered to my attorney, W. W. Dabney. I have told the whole truth, and the God I am soon to meet face to face knows my assertions are nothing but the truth.

[The foregoing is an abstract of the confession of John D. Lee, taken from the original now in my possession, and given, so far as such a condensed report can do, a full statement of the facts disclosed in the writings of John D. Lee, which relate to the Mountain Meadows Massacre.—Wm. W. Dabney.]



SCENE OF THE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MASSACRE.