

MOUNTAIN MEADOWS.

Appropos of the present position of the *News* touching the Mountain Meadows Massacre, it may not be out of place to recall some bits of history, and to repeat some statements of fact. First, there is no question that there never has been an organization under better discipline than the Mormon organization was under Brigham Young in 1857. His command made every Mormon the friend of every man whom he liked; it made every Mormon hostile to any man whom he disliked. It is a well known fact that John D. Lee was a warm friend of Brigham Young's, a bishop in the church, and Young's brother-in-law and second adopted son. It is known, too, that when the doomed company left this city, word was sent ahead of them to withdraw all supplies from them, so that their march of over three hundred miles from this city was through an enemy's country. One man that met an old friend in the company and sold him or gave him some fresh milk for his little children, was cut off from the Mormon Church for the act. Finally they were all, save a few little children, foully murdered, their murderers being Mormons and Indians under the immediate direction of Lee, Haight, Higby and others. Very much of the rich plunder of their camp was sent to this city and appropriated by the saints here. When, many years afterwards, Lee and others were arrested for the crime, the *Deseret News* inveighed against the arrests, declaring it was but another attempt to "persecute some of our best citizens." On the second trial, however, in order to make a scapegoat, Lee was given up, convicted by Mormon witnesses, and the stolid brute was executed, declaring to the last that he had been betrayed. It is known that prior to the massacre, some hearts faltered in contemplation of the tremendous contemplated horror, and sent a letter to Brigham Young asking for instructions. An answer was sent, but before it reached Cedar City the tragedy had been consummated. That letter, if innocent, could years ago have cleared the heads of the Church here from suspicion. A copy of it is on file in this city, and has been all the time. Now after all these years the *News* creeps from its hiding place and produces what purports to be the testimony of a man in Iowa who says the letter read as follows.

"Let them pass, and treat them as you would like to be treated were you passing through their land."

Does the *News*, believe that if Brigham Young had ever written a letter like that, he would not have produced it in his lifetime? Does any one believe that had those been his sentiments he would have made no effort to have the murderers brought to justice? Did any one ever hear of any message from Brigham Young touching Gentiles that was at all like that? Does any one who knows anything of Mormon discipline, believe that had those been Brigham Young's sentiments, those emigrants would have been unable to purchase vegetables and eggs and milk from the Mormons on the route, who were so poor and who wanted a little money so badly? In short, has there ever been in Utah an attempt at a more glaring fraud than the attempt of the *News* to palm off the words of one of the sorriest old humbugs and liars that ever was in this Territory, as a complete explanation of the feelings of Brigham Young toward those emigrants, and of the part he took in regard to them? The *News* simply makes the matter worse by its attempted, wretched explanation.