

## The Mountain Meadows Massacre.

[From the Owyhee Avalanche.]

It is nearly eighteen years since the terrible and brutal massacre of a party of innocent emigrants occurred while crossing the plains, and, as there are many who have grown up since, and have, perhaps, never learned of the atrocious incidents connected with it, we give a brief resume of the affair that contributed to make Mormonism so odious in the estimation of all civilized persons. A woman was the cause of the tragedy. Pratt, one of Brigham's chief satellites, while on a mission to Arkansas, was killed by the husband of a woman, Mrs. McLean, whom he had seduced and taken to Utah. Joe Smith had previously met with his death at Nauvoo, Ill. The party of emigrants from Arkansas, Illinois and other States journeyed westward in the summer of 1875. They numbered about 150, and among them, it is said, were parties who had previously resided in and near the localities where the two Mormons were slain. Threats had been previously made that their killing would be avenged one hundred fold. It was a prosperous season in Utah, and the emigrants tarried at Salt Lake with a view to replenishing their supplies. Col. Albert Sydney Johnston was soon expected in the Territory with an army capable of subjugating the Mormons. The latter and the Indians, who were then acting in concert with them, had been expressly forbidden from selling provisions to the emigrants, under the penalty of excommunication from the Mormon Church. The emigrants, sore and disheartened, proceeded onward as far as Mountain Meadows—a spot about 250 miles south of Salt Lake. The massacre had been previously planned by John D. Lee, Col. Dame, D. H. Wells and other Brighamites.

On the morning of Sept. 7th, 1857, the emigrants supposing themselves safe in the Mountain pass, were suddenly fired upon by Lee's men, who were secreted in the vicinity. Fifteen were killed at the first charge. Thus hemmed in without water, the unfortunates made a pitiful appeal for aid, but to no purpose. A woman was sent outside the pass to procure water, and she was riddled with bullets. The same fate befel two innocent little girls dressed in white, on the same mission. Three emigrants on swift horses, bearing a petition for aid, ran the blockade at night in hopes of reaching some point where assistance could be procured. On the 7th day of the siege the infamous John D. Lee, an officer of the Nauvoo Legion, approached the ground under a flag of truce, and represented to the emigrants that they could have the privilege of leaving if they would surrender their arms. They gladly did this, but it proved to be a decoy, for while men, women and children marched forward in procession, they walked right into the very "jaws of death," and were brutally shot down, the woman debauched, little children dashed against rocks, and the sight generally, presenting one of the most inhuman and appalling butcheries ever perpetrated. But 17 children were left to tell the tale of this fearful massacre. The three brave men who had gone out for assistance, were followed and they too were remorselessly slaughtered. More than one hundred fresh bleeding corpses were stripped of their clothing and valuables, and from the fact that none were scalped, it is surmised that the butcheries were mainly perpetrated by Mormons. Nearly all the men assassinated were either Masons or Old Fellows. Most of the children saved are now grown up young men, and have, of course, a very indistinct recollection of the massacre. Naught remains at this day to mark the spot where these bloody deeds occurred, save the collection over mangled remnants of a few stones from adjacent hills, and a rough monument erected by United States troops, which bears the inscription, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord."