MARTIAL LAW.

The *News* editor rather misses his aim when he pleads that the Mountain Meadows iniquity was perpetrated while Utah was at war and under martial law. For the laws of the United States expressly provide that "all acts done during a condition of war," etc., may rightfully be tried by a military commission. As an instance, Wirtz, of Andersonville, was tried after the war closed, for acts done during the war, (but contrary to the laws of war,) by a military commission, and by the sentence of this commission condemned and executed! The conspirators against President Lincoln were tried by a military court, condemned and executed. Now for all regular warlike operations, such as fighting Johnston's army, destroying his teams, running off his stock, etc., there is no doubt but the President's proclamation applies, and none of the officials or militia could now be molested therefor. But for all acts *contrary to the rules of war*, as the murder of prisoners, firing on women, children and non-combatants, the assassination of Forbes and Duck, and the murder of the Aiken party, the President has power to-day to appoint a military commission to try the murderers.

Evidently the Mountain Meadows Massacre comes within this class, and is the very worst of its kind. The victims were civilians, women and children, disarmed and under the guard of the Utah militia when murdered, either as prisoners or protected. Whet' = they are to be regarded as part of a people at war with Utah, or as merely a body of non-partisans, their destruction was equally contrary to every law of the United States or of Utah, military or civil, and being done by militia in a time of war, it is properly the subject of a military court.

The President might have appointed such a court in 1858, or in 1868, or may do so in 1878; for neither Utah nor the nation has any statute of limitations for murder. So Grandmother need not grieve about the "inexcusable negligence" of the Government. Her friends will be tried soon enough to gratify her.