

## PUBLIC OPINION.

What the Press and People Think  
of the Mormon Butcheries.

[Chicago Inter Ocean.]

Lee's Confession.

The confession of Lee, the Mormon Bishop shot to death yesterday for participation in the Mountain Meadows Massacre, is a most startling and terrible revelation. The recitation of the facts attending that terrible deed, though horrible in themselves, and showing that the fate of Lee was richly deserved, yet throw upon him more of the guilt of the tool than the architect, and will excite renewed feelings of indignation toward the barbaric system which led to the deed, and the high priest who counseled and abetted it.

Lee does not spare the Mormon leaders in his last words, and the confession has about it all the air of truth and soberness. There is possibly an attempt to make his own connection with the crime appear less cruel than the facts warrant, but the history of the affair seems to be stated in full, nevertheless; and the appeal which he makes for a charitable judgment is that of one who confesses, while throwing himself on the mercy of the court.

Many years have passed since the awful massacre in the far away wilds of the West. The shrieks, the groans, the appeals for mercy there uttered were unheeded, and the deed seemed locked safely in the hollow place that witnessed it, shut out from all seeing connection with the great world beyond. But communication was open toward Heaven, and retribution was soon to follow. The bodies were found and buried, and some one, who, does not appear, carved on a rude stone that marked their resting place these words of prophecy

*Vengeance is mine I will repay, saith the Lord*

"The mills of the gods grind slow," but that they do grind is proven by the event of yesterday. And when Lee fell forward, pierced by those avenging balls, the volley reverberated through the mountain fastnesses, and struck like a knell on the hearts of the unpunished men whose day of reckoning is also approaching. Lee is dead, but justice is not yet satisfied. Where the arm of retribution will next fall we know not, but that it will fall until full satisfaction is rendered for this terrible crime is as sure as the hand of Fate.

[New York Evening Post]

An Ecclesiastical Massacre.

Whatever of exaggeration the confession of the Mormon, John D. Lee, might have derived from his new-born bitterness against the church that has betrayed him has been probably tempered by the impulse of truthfulness that any man who is in the shadow of death must experience. His revolting story, which comes to us through the mists and shadows of twenty years like a bloody episode of mediæval times, will be believed, and believed not merely because it is circumstantial, but because it so closely accords with what we know of Mormon life, character and statecraft. We know, too, that the Mormon Church is the Mormon State, and that the contempt of moral scruples, the hardened and callous deceptionness, the falsehood, the sin, the absolute divorce from the commonest impulses of honor and honesty which characterize the one characterize the other, because the two are the same. We know, further, that so long as the Mormon Church is what it is, a hierarchical state, subordinating revelation and divinity for the commission of crimes that send a shudder through the human race, just so long will the existing evils in Utah continue. There will be the corruption of juries, the secret murders and the prevalence of every crime of lesser degree for long years to come just as we have them now. Is it not time that we began to think more earnestly of checks?

It will be difficult to find in all the list of crimes perpetrated under the influence of fanaticism more elements of horror than united in the bloody work at Mountain Meadows. The isolation and helplessness of the victims, the cold-blooded preparation made with the burlesque of prayer, the plighted faith broken, the atrocious incidents of the massacre itself, which almost impugned human nature, are consistently supplemented by the treachery of the Mormon Church leaders when they find now that a victim must be sacrificed to save themselves. It will be a sad omen if they are allowed to succeed and if justice does not pass by the grave of Lee to pursue them with strokes more swift and a hand more vengeful.

many of them sick and all of them comparatively helpless, are treacherously induced to surrender their few arms and put themselves under the protection of this man Lee, and in less than an hour thereafter are deliberately set upon by himself and followers and brutally massacred. Is it not incredible that, in the middle of the nineteenth century, men American born, speaking the English language, educated, reared in respectability, and proclaiming their belief in God and the principles of Christianity, could be found to plan and execute such a deed? Is it not calculated to shake one's faith in civilization? For twenty years this soul blot has stood like an ulcer on the American name. We have been held up to the world as careless and indifferent of vengeance, as powerless and unable to bring the soul perpetrators of so awful a crime to justice. Yesterday's work relieves us in part of the charge, and as the avenging bullets crashed into the guilty form kneeling on its coffin, there could be but one feeling throughout the land. "Vengeance has come at last." But we must not stop with the punishment of Lee alone. Dapo still lives. Dapo who is even guiltier than Lee, for he planned the treachery and directed the crime. Haight, we believe still lives. So do Hittogensmith and Allen, and Higbee, and all that soul Mormon crew. Brigham Young still lives, and upon him rests as great, if not a greater responsibility. Justice will not be satisfied until the executioner shall have gathered all these in.

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GENEVA (Switzerland) papers sometimes contain authentic and delicious bits of American information like this: It is no longer denied that President Lincoln was murdered by Gen. Grant.