

MORMON RECORD OF BLOOD

King Brigham and His Horrible Crimes in Utah.

[New York Herald, 2d]

Brigham Young.

Lee's confession, made in view of death, of the History of the Mountain Meadows Massacre so plainly incriminates Brigham Young as to leave no doubt on the mind of the unprejudiced reader that the Mormon leader was cognizant of that horrible slaughter and a party to it. But this is a moral conviction only, and unless the crime can be legally brought home to him it would be unwise in the government to initiate proceedings, for the failure to punish would have a bad effect. It is, therefore, a point of very great public interest, whether or no it is not yet possible to obtain evidence to prove legally that guilt of which there is morally no doubt. Many stories that have appeared in Western papers since the publication in the Herald of Lee's confession, and many statements made by frontiersmen, seem to indicate that there are persons having knowledge of the occurrence who are now willing to tell all they know. Some of them may themselves have been accessories, and are now frightened at the fate of Lee and the indication that the heads of their church have given them up, but whoever they are the occasion to make them of service in the enforcement of justice should not be lost. It is just possible that the criminal law may yet solve the most difficult parts of the Mormon problem.

Dayton (Ohio) Democrat:— "The presumption of his guilt does not rest merely on Lee's confession, although that alone is strong evidence, but also on the nature and constitution of the Mormon hierarchy and the position of Brigham Young as its directing head. It is one of the most absolute despotisms that ever existed."

Alta California:— "When the Christian people of Lucknow were slaughtered under the uprising of Nana Sahib the strong arm of Great Britain rested not a minute until the British general had forced his way to that beleaguered city and relieved those of the white race who yet survived. But almost twenty years had elapsed after the wholesale assassination of more than 120 American citizens ere justice had reached even one of the Mormon butchers."

New Orleans Picayune:— "Retribution has been slow in reaching the guilty perpetrators of this horrible deed. But justice will not be satisfied until all the survivors who are guilty have paid the penalty of their crime. Brigham Young himself is not too old nor too exalted in position to escape the full consequences of complicity, if it be proven that he was connected with it."

Washington Capitol (Mormon):— "With these facts before us in behalf of the defendant, would it not be well to wait patiently for the Lord to work out, through the laws of nature, a correction of the evil? This might be legitimately hastened by adding enough territory and population to Utah to counterbalance the power of the Saints and give all a State government. This would correct the political evil found in the union of Church and State."

Kearney (Neb.) Press:— "If his confession is to be believed, Brigham Young is as guilty as himself; for, although Young took no part in the actual butchery, it was done at his instigation and with his connivance."

Frankfort (Ky.) Yeoman:— "Now comes the discovery of a written order from Brigham Young directing how the Mountain Meadows Massacre should be conducted. If it can be proven, let the old miscreant suffer the extreme penalty of the law."

Detroit Post.— "It looked, at first, as if Brigham Young were proved by the testimony of the document found among the papers of Judge Titus to be directly responsible for the Mountain Meadows Massacre by giving orders to perpetrate it. But further investigation goes to show that another massacre of eighty transferees which he ordered, that Young is responsible for two atrocious crimes instead of one, to one of which he was accessory, in the other a principal."

Sharon Springs (N. Y.) Gazette:— "It is not easy to believe otherwise than that Young was the real author of the crime. He was more than king among his people. His subordinates would hardly undertake so foul a deed without his order."

San Jose (Cal.) Herald.— "Not all the rain 'in the sweet heaven,' as Shakespeare has it, nor all the witnesses from Adam down to the present hour, could wash away the Prophet's guilt and prove him innocent of the hellish deed at Mountain Meadows. And John D. Lee is the first of Young's accomplices to fall before the avenging retribution of outraged law, but ere the lifeless body of the hireling murderer fell back upon its waiting coffin, he had left a last will and testament in the shape of a confession, which may in the future bring to justice worse men than himself in the persons of Brigham Young and those of his blood-stained apostles and thieving hierarchy whose victims' bleaching bones have whitened every hillside of Utah. It will be well for the world and glory to the name of religion when the last of them shall have atoned on the gallows for their crimes, as far as it can be done on earth. After that even omnipotent mercy should be inadequate to give respite to their guilty souls."

Normstown (Pa.) Herald.— "We are not as bloodthirsty as some people, and are, therefore, opposed to shooting all the Mormons who took part in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. They should be hanged."

Hutchinson (Kansas) Interior.— "Lee's confession means death to the Mormon Church. May this twin relic of barbarism that has been a dark spot upon the fair countenance of American civilization be wiped out speedily."

Dayton (Ohio) Democrat:— "Notwithstanding these assertions of the Mormon organ, the fact still remains that for many years after the perpetration of the murder he took no measures to expose and punish the men who were engaged in one of the most bloody and fearful outrages ever committed on this continent, though all the circumstances of the crime must have been fully known to him."