

THE MASSACRE.

Opinions of the Press Throughout the Country.

The confession of Lee, as briefly summed up, in this morning's dispatches, if confirmed, ought to send some of the dignitaries of the Mormon church to the scaffold. As we read of so terrible crimes as the Mountain Meadows Massacre and reflect upon the uncertainty and insufficiency of human punishment, we are ready to accept the severe doctrine of the orthodox church, as to punishment for earthly sins, in the life to come, and derive no small consolation from it, at least as applied to other people.—*Denton Tribune*.

A large majority of the Mormons loudly protest that Brigham is not guilty; that on the contrary upon hearing of the massacre, he said, "If anything could break up and destroy this people, this one act would do it." In further substantiation still it was announced in our telegraphic column yesterday morning that the statement of Lee would completely exculpate the old prophet in this particular case; which in charity it is to be hoped will prove a fact, for the old polygamist will still have enough hanging over his head to effectually damn him for all time, if not for eternity. But if the guilt for this horrible crime can be fixed upon the perpetrators, no punishment human ingenuity can invent will be adequate to the occasion.—*St. Paul Press*.

The trial of John D. Lee, the Mormon, for his connection with a notable and inhuman massacre of overland emigrants, in 1857, at Mountain Meadows, Utah, will probably occupy the entire time of the United States Court, at Beaver, in that Territory, this week, and probably much longer. The tragic interest of this remarkable massacre does not die out with the flight of years, but to-day the deed stands as a blot against the name of the Mormon Church, and a foul stain on the shield of justice. It is a spectral horror, which struggles for the attention of the law, and haunts the pages of Mormon history, praying for an *aldenda*, a sequel, which shall chronicle the labor of Nemesis, in avenging the blackest of all black Western crimes. All that is definitely known in regard to the Mountain Meadows Massacre has come from the lips of Mormons who have been driven to confession by conscience or fear, there having been no living soul left of all the party of emigrants to tell the story of the great and bloody crime.—*Leavenworth Times*.

The statement of the confession of "Bishop" Lee, so far as it is reported in the dispatches, only confirms previous accounts in regard to the Mountain Meadows Massacre. Lee declares that the leaders of the Mormon Church were responsible for the dastardly deed, which was done under their orders by a party of Ulky Mormons, aided by a large number of Indians who were under their control. He adds that Brigham Young deplored the transaction, fearing it would bring disaster upon the Mormon people.

The history of the massacre, and of the abortive attempts to punish the murderers, forms one of the most terrible and interesting chapters in modern criminal history.

The attempt and failure to punish the perpetrators of the massacre at the time were by no means creditable to the Federal officials and the Administration. Brigham Young, then at the summit of his power, forbade all investigation. The temporizing policy was carried so far that a regiment of United States troops on the way to Salt Lake City was at his dictation ordered to halt and remain where they were. At last there seems to be a prospect that, though many of the witnesses must be dead or scattered to far-off points, some of the survivors of the guilty parties will get their deserts.—*Chicago Post*.

In another column will be found details of the proceedings yesterday in the trial of Lee at Beaver City, Utah, for participation in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. The testimony of Ellingsworth, who was one of the participants in that frightful slaughter, is almost too horrible for perusal. The scenes enacted seem beyond the reach of human brutality. Women and children were shot down, hacked with knives and otherwise mutilated, then stripped and left to be eaten by wolves. The plunder secured went into the tithing office of the Mormon Church. The exposure of these frightful crimes, and the fact that they were committed by direct order of Brigham Young, will damn him and his lecherous apostles and proselytes for all time to come. Jury trials seem too slow for such barbarians. The whole civilized world would say amen were the fiend-barbarous scenes, to be at once arrested by the military and hanged in rows upon the public streets of Salt Lake City. Humanity shudders at the utter savagery displayed by the Mormon Priesthood. Not content with attempting to starve this train of immigrants, by refusing to sell them supplies, they followed the tired travelers to the confines of Utah Territory, and there murdered them—men, women and children, old and young, in cold blood. After this, vulture like, they stripped their remains, and carried the accursed plunder to the tithing office of the "Church." For such hell born iniquities no adequate punishment can be conceived.—*Gold Hill News*.