

## THE TRAGEDY AT MOUNTAIN MEADOWS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the proofs which have been given from non-"Mormon" sources that the tragedy known as the Mountain Meadows massacre was perpetrated without authority from the "Mormon" Church or its leaders, and from other sources that it was in utter opposition to authoritative instructions and in violation of fundamental principles of the "Mormon" faith, the charge is frequently reiterated that the terrible deed was done by direct order of President Brigham Young, and that the "Mormon" Church is responsible for it. That this is not only unfair, but really wicked and detestable, most persons who have impartially investigated that deplorable matter have frankly conceded. We seldom notice the absurd and malicious stories told in relation to it by those who write and lecture against "Mormonism." Everybody with ordinary sense ought to see the folly of charging to a society or a community the wrong-doing of a few of its members, particularly when the spirit and sentiments of the body are opposed to the evil complained of.

We refer to this matter now because of a statement recently made by a seceder from the "Mormon" Church, one who is opposed to its teachings and authority, one and who has joined a hostile sect, and whose testimony would naturally be of an unfavorable character, if possible. His name is John Hawley. He lived in John D. Lee's neighborhood at the time of the massacre, and openly denounced the deed. He claims that he was warned to be more on his guard in his language, but continued to express his abhorrence of the murder. His statement is published in the *Lamoni, Iowa, Herald* (the "Josephite" organ) of June 28th, and is generally antagonistic to this Church. But he closes his letter with testimony that we think should be put on record.

He refutes the statement in John D. Lee's history that he was at the meadows, and declares that he knows nothing about the massacre except from hearsay; and after describing the dispute at the time over his outspoken denunciation of the deed, he says:

"That day brought Brigham's message to the people, concerning the company just killed, but too late to do them any good. It read as follows:

"Let them pass, and treat them as you would like to be treated were you passing through their land."

When this was read I had friends. This testimony I must meet some time.

JOHN HAWLEY.

At the final trial of John D. Lee, the United States Prosecuting Attorney frankly admitted that the evidence entirely exculpated President Young and the "Mormon" Church from any complicity in the massacre. And there are no people in the world who are more opposed, in principle and in practice, to the unlawful shedding of human blood than the Latter-day Saints commonly called "Mormons."