

# Our Country Contemporaries.

Beaver *Enterprise*, July 31—

The following is a synopsis of Mr. Wells Spicer's opening address for the defence in the Lee trial, delivered July 30—

He traced the course of the emigrants through Utah; claimed that they did not expect or intend to try to prove that the massacre was perpetrated by Indians themselves, but that they had white allies who acted under instructions of superior officers; that the Mormon Church was not responsible for what some of its members may have done, since bad men can be found in every church; that the Mormons were not to blame for refusing to permit supplies to be sold the emigrants, since they (the settlers) were themselves threatened with invasion, and might soon have to flee to the mountains to save themselves, and would need all that they had; that the Mormons proposed to leave Johnston's army no more than the Muscovites left Napoleon—no more than desolation. He then proceeded to state that the defence would prove that the emigrants were hard people, some of them criminal in their transgressions; to such an extent were

they disposed to be turbulent that they divided among themselves and formed two separate companies. The speaker asserted that Lee was the only man upon the field of slaughter who raised his voice in opposition to the massacre; that if a Bishop, who pretends to have made a feeble effort to avert the tragedy, dared not disobey orders, how much more so must it have been the case with a lay member? It is a remarkable fact that all councils that were held on the subject of the massacre, were held at Cedar, not at Harmony, where the prisoner lived. Referred to the fact that there were walled cities in those days, and Parowan was one of them. Why was it so? It was necessary in feudal and antediluvian periods to have cities walled up, but why now? Not on account of emigrants passing through, but to protect their own wives and children from the savages. Only such men were engaged in this massacre as were prompted so to do by their own wicked acts. When a man participated deliberately and voluntarily in the tragedy, he cannot excuse himself by saying he acted under duress, and no man should be convicted upon the testimony of such men. The Indians were at war with Americans beyond the mountain; and seeing that the people of Utah were friendly, were disposed to be friendly also, and would have remained so but for the acts of the emigrants themselves, and 500 savages were upon the warpath at Mountain Meadows; the people of Utah were compelled for their own safety to refrain from irritating the savages, and the most intense excitement prevailed. The Indians were painted and plumed for war, and here in little valleys the people, in helpless numbers, were surrounded by them. Settlers were unable to protect the emigrants under such circumstances. We deny that Mormons were there through counsel entirely, as some of them went to save the emigrants. Mormons were frequently killed by Indians in wars, and the military organization was for protection. Thousands of emigrants had been travelling the route of the emigrants to people the Golden State, and travelled in safety, so far as Utah is concerned; why was it that only this train was doomed? Even one portion of it passed through in safety. Our theory is that the emigrants themselves excited the savages to madness, and thus worked their own destruction. The Indians threatened a war of races, and the Mormons feared it; and if they did not help them wipe out the emigrants, they would kill the Mormons who were at the Meadows on an errand of peace and then wipe out the settlers. The speaker urged the jury to lay aside their prejudices, sympathies and religion, in order that a just verdict might be reached.

It is a significant fact that Lee held no position, either in the military, civil or ecclesiastic service. The story that he was a major is a falsehood; and the statement of his being Indian agent at that time is an exaggeration. He was not an officer in the militia, and was merely an Indian farmer, or sub-agent. But he must be built up and made sufficiently great, that his blood may atone for the crimes of others. It is also noteworthy that all the stock, goods, &c., of the emigrants were taken to Cedar, not to Harmony, where Lee lived. The principal actor was Lee's principal accuser—Klingensmith, and Lee's mission to Mountain Meadows was one of mercy, not of destruction.

The speech occupied about three and a half hours, and was mainly extemporaneous.

Utah County Times, July 31—

Yesterday another silver brick weighing 791 ounces, and valued at \$800, passed through this city from Tintic. Tintic is coming up.

Many of our farmers are very busy cutting and hauling in their wheat, and we are glad to know from them that the quality is very fine and that the yield from the straw will be unusually good. The prospect for an abundant corn crop is also very fine.

"A Citizen," writing to the Times, says—

"Permit me to call your attention to an inhuman, barbarous, cowardly and exceedingly dangerous practice that has been going on for some time in our city, more particularly in the west part of town, that is, the poisoning of dogs, cutting their throats, etc., by cowardly

midnight hoodlums, who prowl around after dark, seeking an opportunity to carry out their low, dirty designs. The writer is acquainted with seven cases within a radius of about five blocks, within two weeks. Some of the animals being prized by their owners as good watch dogs to mind their wagons when out traveling, others to guard their premises, etc. No later than last evening there were two animals that had their throats cut and stabbed, one of them presenting a piteous spectacle next morning, he being still alive.

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"Owners of animals should be on the watch for these gentry and give them a reception worthy the occasion. A little medicine applied in proper doses may have a healthy effect. If prompt measures are not adopted some one's children will be bit by the poor dogs after the poison has been administered, and death ensue in consequence, then how much better than murderers are this class of hoodlums?"

"I for one will give \$10.00 towards the apprehension and conviction of these low-lived raiders."

Ogden Junction, July 31—

This morning about eight o'clock, flames were seen issuing from the roof of the kitchen of the Allen House, belonging to W. G. Child, Esq. Messrs. John Nicholas and Orvil Child mounted the roof and several persons ran to the rescue, handing buckets of water, with which the fire was subdued without material damage to the building. The roof of the kitchen was partially destroyed. The cause of the conflagration was a heated stove-pipe, which passed through a hole only seven inches in diameter and was protected only with part of a thin tin bucket.

Ogden Junction, Aug. 2—

Who knows Charles W. Tyrer? His wife is very anxious to hear from him. She wants the Utah papers to publish this:

"Charles W. Tyrer, your wife, Annie N. Tyrer, wants you to come to Centropolis, Kansas. I have not received a letter from you since Dec. 20th, 1874."

If anybody knows the man let word be sent to the anxious wife, who says there is important business for him to transact at Centropolis.

Mr. C. Wright, of Ogden Valley, showed us yesterday a paradoxical member of the feathered tribes. It is a blackbird in all its characteristics except color, and that is principally white with a dove tint on the back. It has been seen for some time with a flock of blackbirds of which it seemed to be king near Huntsville, and at last Mr. Wright's sons snared it and he has conveyed it in a cage to Salt Lake for the Deseret Museum.

We have not heard much about the broom business lately, but the subject of home made sweepers has not been dropped. As a proof of this take a walk down Young Street and you will see close to Mr. H. B. Scoville's residence, a large brick building which he is erecting ready for business in the fall. It is to be hoped that those who are raising broom corn will take proper care of it in time, and deliver it in good order to the manufacturer. We should make at home all things we need that can be manufactured profitably, and brooms can certainly be numbered among them.

Yesterday Marshal W. N. Fife was taking a ride with his wife in a buggy, and was just in the act of turning, on the State road, when the coupling-pin that fastens the hounds and the reach together was jerked out, the point of it having evidently been previously broken off. The buggy tipped, and Marshal Fife and his wife were thrown to the ground. He still retained possession of the lines and hung to the horse, which now, terribly scared, began to plunge and kick. The animal struck Mr. Fife twice on the leg, inflicting a painful wound, but he held on like grim death and succeeded in quieting the horse, and thus saved the buggy from destruction. Mrs. Fife who has been unwell for some time, was terribly shaken, but fortunately no bones were broken, and she is able to sit up and converse to day though she feels very sore. Five dollars will cover all the damage done to the buggy.

An American colony has sprung up in the Caribbean Sea. The

name of the island is Cozumel, and it belongs to Mexico. The climate is delightful, being at an average temperature of 80 degrees, and the distance from New Orleans is four or five days' sail. The products of the island are sugar, tobacco and all kinds of tropical fruits, while it also grows valuable timber, such as ebony, lignumvitæ and logwood. To settlers the Mexican government allows 2,471 acres of land in favorable locations on the payment of £25, which payment can run through several years.

The free excursion system in Baltimore has much reduced the death-rate among the poor children of that city this summer.