

that could be raked up, being invented for the purpose. To have this solitary ghost vanish into thin air, by the appearance upon the scene of the assassinated man, in substantial material form, after a lapse of 27 years from the date of the murder, is a great disappointment. The "Liberal" chiefs therefore insist that he was carved and entombed by "Mormons," when he is distant from them but a three-hours' journey. The fact that they still contend that Mr. Green was killed indicates that they heartily and devoutly wish he had been. Doubtless that gentleman congratulates himself at not being in a position to accommodate them.

We have already intimated that the idea of reproducing Mr. Green's affidavit once in a while, as occasion might demand, would be somewhat palatable to us, in the line of vindicating truth and exposing trumped up anti-"Mormon" political blood-curdling Munchausenisms. This view is still retained and we therefore at this point find place for the document:

[In this article as published in the daily and semi-weekly of the NEWS, Wm. Green's affidavit which is given on page 808 was repeated hear.]

If the "Liberal" anti-"Mormon" managers had any real doubt about the identity of Mr. William Green of Spanish Fork they would soon make the mud fly in the hunt for evidence in that direction, notwithstanding that the murder was *disproved* before his affidavit was made. Mr. Creer, the notary before whom his statement was made, is an attorney and has been a member of the Territorial Legislature.

#### OFFICIAL DECLARATION.

SALT LAKE CITY,

December 12th, 1889.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In consequence of gross misrepresentations of the doctrines, aims and practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called the "Mormon" Church, which have been promulgated for years, and have recently been revived for political purposes and to prevent all aliens, otherwise qualified, who are members of the "Mormon" Church from acquiring citizenship, we deem it proper on behalf of said Church to publicly

deny these calumnies and enter our protest against them.

We solemnly make the following declarations, viz:

That this Church views the shedding of human blood with the utmost abhorrence. That we regard the killing of a human being, except in conformity with the civil law, as a capital crime which should be punished by shedding the blood of the criminal, after a public trial before a legally constituted court of the land.

Notwithstanding all the stories told about the killing of apostates, no case of this kind has ever occurred, and of course has never been established against the Church we represent. Hundreds of seceders from the Church have continuously resided and now live in this Territory, many of whom have amassed considerable wealth, though bitterly hostile to the "Mormon" faith and people. Even those who have made it their business to fabricate the vilest falsehoods, and to render them plausible by culling isolated passages from old sermons without the explanatory context, and have suffered no opportunity to escape them of vilifying and blackening the characters of the people, have remained among those whom they have thus persistently calumniated until the present day, without receiving the slightest personal injury.

We denounce as entirely untrue the allegation which has been made, that our Church favors or believes in the killing of persons who leave the Church or apostatize from its doctrines. We would view a punishment of this character for such an act with the utmost horror, it is abhorrent to us and is in direct opposition to the fundamental principles of our creed.

The revelations of God to this Church make death the penalty for capital crime, and require that offenders against life and property shall be delivered up to and tried by the laws of the land.

We declare that no Bishop's or other court in this Church claims or

exercises the right to supersede, annul or modify a judgment of any civil court. Such courts, while established to regulate Christian conduct, are purely ecclesiastical, and their punitive powers go no further than the suspension or excommunication of members from Church fellowship.

That this Church, while offering advice for the welfare of its members in all conditions of life, does not claim or exercise the right to interfere with citizens in the free exercise of social or political rights and privileges. The ballot in this Territory is absolutely untrammelled and secret. No man's business or other secular affairs are invaded by the Church or any of its officers. Free agency and direct individual accountability to God are among the essentials of our Church doctrine. All things in the Church must be done by common consent, and no officer is appointed without the vote of the body.

We declare that there is nothing in the ceremony of the Endowment, or in any doctrine, tenet, obligation or injunction of this Church, either private or public, which is hostile or intended to be hostile to the Government of the United States. On the contrary, its members are under divine commandment to revere the Constitution as a heaven-inspired instrument.

Utterances of prominent men in the Church at a time of great excitement have been selected and grouped, to convey the impression that present members are seditious. Those expressions were made more than thirty years ago, when through the falsehoods of recreant officials, afterwards demonstrated to be baseless, troops were sent to this Territory and were viewed by the people, in their isolated condition, fifteen hundred miles from railroads, as an armed mob coming to renew the bloody persecutions of years before.

At that time excitement prevailed and strong language was used; but no words of disloyalty against the Government or its institutions were