

Simplified Text

Document 8. A part of an article called “The Late Horrible Massacre” published in the California newspaper, *Los Angeles Star* on October 10, 1857. This article quoted an emigrant, P. M. Warn, who passed through Utah with a small emigrant party a few days behind the emigrants that were massacred.

One possible reason for the massacre of this train [emigrant group] is that everyone knew it had a lot of valuable property, and this made the Mormons greedy. It was said, the emigrants had over 400 cows, mules, and other animals. They had a lot of guns and ammunition [bullets], something the Mormons thought a lot about. The train was made up of families who all seemed to be rich and because they were moving to California they probably had a lot of money with them. The [emigrant] men said a lot [of bad things] about the Mormons. What they did was dangerous, and they would do little things to bother the saints and to make them angry. They felt completely safe because they had guns and a lot of people. They were rude to all the powerful people who could fight against them. And they didn't feel the dangers that were around them, until they had no way to get help.

Original Text

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Mr. Warn says according to his memorandum, on the 5th of September we encamped at Corn Creek. Here I had conversation with the Indian agent, concerning the poisoning of the ox. He said that six Indians had died; that others were sick and would die. Upon one of them, the poison had worked out all over his breast, and he was dead next morning, as reported. Afterwards, I conversed with an Indian, said to be the war chief Ammon, who spoke good English. I inquired how many of his tribe had died from eating the poisoned animal. He replied not any but some were sick. He did not attribute the sickness to poison, nor did he give any reason for it. His manner, and that of all his people towards us, was not only friendly, but cordial; and he did not mention the train which had been doomed. Besides the Mormon train, there were camped at this place two or three emigrants trains, amounting to fifteen or eighteen wagons, with whom the Indians were as friendly as with ourselves. From Corn Creek, nothing of importance occurred more than is related by Mr. Powers, until we arrived at Cedar City. Here the four men, spoken of by Mr. Powers, (and among whom I recognized Mr. Dame), arrived at our camp; they wished to get fresh animals, that they might go on that night to the besieged party. This was on Friday night, the night on which the slaughter was completed. They rested an hour or two, and took refreshments. In the conversation which ensued, one of our party said, be careful, and don't get shot, Mr. Haight. Mr. H. replied, we shall have no shooting; emphasizing the *we*, and throwing up his head, as if he meant to imply that the shooting would be all over before he arrived. They left us in good spirits.

One reason that may be assigned for the massacre of this train, is, that it was known to be in possession of considerable valuable property, and this fact excited the cupidity of the Mormons. It was said, they had over 400 head of stock, besides mules, &c. They were well supplied with arms and ammunition, an element of gain which enters largely into all Mormon calculations. The train was composed of families who all seemed to be in good circumstances, and as they were moving to California, their outfit indicated that they might be in possession of considerable funds. The men were very free in speaking of the Mormons; their conduct was said to have been reckless, and they would commit little acts of annoyance for the purpose of provoking the saints. Feeling perfectly safe in their arms and numbers, they seemed to set at defiance all the powers that could be brought against them. And they were not permitted to feel the dangers that surrounded them, until they were cut off from all hope of relief.