

In Monroe county, Missouri, near the Salt river railroad bridge, on Sunday last, as James M. Lasley and his family were returning from church, together with a party of young ladies and gentlemen, who were visiting them at their country home, they found their dwelling and grounds occupied by Federal troops who had been stationed at the bridge. Suspecting no harm, though finding the grounds guarded, they advanced toward their residence, when Mr. Lasley was ordered to get down and go to Palmyra. He replied, that they must permit him to enter the house and get a thicker coat, as he would be absent all night. This they positively denied, telling him that the coat he had would do him. They then placed him and James Price (a young son of a widow lady) and young Ridgeway, an only son of aged parents, in front of the Federal lines.

The young ladies and Mrs. Lasley, with her two children, yet remained on the ground. Having separated these three gentlemen from the ladies whom they escorted from church, the officer in command addressed some very insulting words to them. The dreadful truth that they were to be shot, at once flashed across Mrs. Lasley's mind, and she darted to join her husband and share his fate, but was caught and held by one of the young ladies present, just as Mr. Lasley and young Price fell, having been shot dead. Young Ridgeway rushed into the woods which were near, but delayed his death only a few seconds, for he was pursued and instantly killed. It is proper further to say, that Mr. Lasley had

taken the oath of allegiance and was under a heavy bond; that young Ridgeway was also under oath and bond, and that Price was only fifteen or sixteen years of age.

Before this crime was committed, it is alleged that the soldiers had taken possession of Mr. Lasley's house—had helped themselves to everything they wanted—had partaken of a good dinner which the cook was ordered to prepare for them, and had destroyed many household articles.

We feel sure that our military authorities will not permit this outrage to go without investigation.

Although this horrid recital has found its way to the public ear, we know of no redress, and the murderers of those inoffensive Missourians are still suffered to go at large, and are considered good Union soldiers. Alluding to this act of vandalic cruelty, a Northern paper has the manliness to utter the following notes of warning:

As Governor Gamble does not appear to have power to control these acts in Missouri, we hope Gen. Halleck will see to these acts at once. Our cause must fail sooner or later if those who are loyal, or those who are ready and willing to submit to the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, are thus to be waylaid and slain after submission. It is folly to spend breath in showing what must be the effect of such proceedings. All history is full of warning. The attempt of the French Monarch to exterminate the Huguenots was not a success, for there are thousands of their descendants yet living to tell the horrid tale, and rise in judgment against the actors in that terrible scene. A good cause, managed and controlled by good men, requires no such brutality, and never did. Men, women and children, driven to madness and desperation, changes the issues of war and breed counter-revolutions more desperate than the first. Against this every man who loves his country or the honor of his race should protest.