

of murder in the first degree ; whose life and death turned upon so slight a pivot as the definition of a single word, was again a free man.

It is said that a subscription was raised for him after his acquittal in Rock Port. He was the first person sentenced to be hanged in Nodaway County.

#### THE TALBOTT BOYS.

The first legal execution in Nodaway County took place July 22, 1881, at Maryville, when Albert P. and Charles E. Talbott suffered the extreme penalty of the law for the crime of murdering their own father. As this criminal case has awakened such a public interest in this and adjoining states, we have compiled a synopsis of the case as part of the history of Nodaway County.

Dr. Perry H. Talbott, who was shot about seven miles south of Maryville at his own house, September 18, 1880, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 5, 1827. He received a good education as he grew to manhood, and was graduated in 1849 with honor at the Sterling Medical College, at Columbus, Ohio. Early the next year he started to seek his fortune, and found a home and friends in Northwest Missouri. In the year 1852, he joined a throng of gold seekers, then crowding to California. The next year he returned to Missouri, and soon after his return met Miss Belle McFarland, of Page County, Iowa, and in April, 1854, the two were united in matrimony.

Dr. Talbott might be termed a typical man of the border. He was fond of cards, and tradition gives him skill in their manipulation. As a physician, his reputation spread far and wide, and when the country was new and thinly settled, his professional visits extended for miles in every direction. Dr. Talbott and his old gray mule are historical figures in the annals of Nodaway County. He rapidly accumulated property, and became quite prominent in local politics, representing his county in the Legislature during the years of 1856-7. During the war he espoused the side of the Union, and was surgeon of the Twenty-fifth Missouri Volunteers.

After the war he again entered the political arena and became an aspirant for congressional honors. He was a candidate before different conventions, but failed of a nomination. In 1876, he became prominently identified with the Greenback Labor movement. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, and possessed an indomitable will. He had a high ambition, but was not devoid of egotism. In person, he was tall and of rather commanding appearance, his hair and beard as black as the raven's wing. As a friend and neighbor Dr. Talbott always stood high among those who knew him. As a husband and father he seemed to lack affection, and his home was the abode of discord. His children grew up neglected, no care being given to their temporal welfare or