

moral training. His house was an arsenal of small arms, and the children were familiar with their use.

On September 18, 1880, Dr. Talbott was shot, about nine o'clock at night at his home, by an assassin from without, through a window. It was a calm, beautiful moonlight night, not such an one as an assassin would naturally choose for dark and terrible deeds. Dr. Talbott, with some members of his family, had that day been attending the Nodaway County fair, and returned home in his buggy about six o'clock, his family going home by railway train. When he arrived at home, he found a call awaiting him to attend a sick child of a family residing some three miles south. He returned about nine o'clock, put up his horse, and went into the house. His wife and his son Albert were in the room, the rest of the family having retired. He handed Albert a copyright of a speech which he was having printed. Mrs. Talbott was lying on the bed with her head toward the foot. Albert was sitting by the table on the north side of the room, his arm on the window-sill. The doctor had taken off his coat, and was sitting on the bed when the fatal shot was fired. He was struck in the right breast, the ball passing clear through him, drawing blood on the calf of the leg of his wife, and striking in the plastering. The ball was a large conical one, and weighed an ounce and a half, being large enough to have been discharged out of a shot-gun. He had his hand up to his breast when the ball struck him, and portions of his thumb and middle finger were shot away. The doctor reeled and fell against the bed, exclaiming, "My God, Belle, I am shot."

About ten o'clock, the same evening, Henry Wyatt, a work hand of Dr. Talbott's, arrived in Maryville in great haste, after a physician, spreading the news that Dr. Talbott had been shot, and that he could not live long. Dr. Talbott expressed the opinion to those going to see him that he had been shot by some one on account of his political opinions. Before his death he called the members of his family about him, and bade them all good-bye, retaining his consciousness up to within five minutes of his demise, which occurred about two o'clock in the afternoon of the next day. After his death, a coroner's jury was summoned, when the following testimony of Mrs. Talbott and Albert was taken :

TESTIMONY OF MRS. TALBOTT.

My name is Belle Talbott. I am wife of deceased; am forty-seven years of age. On the night of the homicide, the deceased, myself, and my oldest son, Albert Perry Talbott, were in the room where the Doctor was shot. In the room immediately above us on the second floor, Jennie and Angie Talbott, aged respectively eleven and thirteen years, and John Talbott and Cicero Talbott, aged ten and eight years, were all