

DOMESTIC TRAGEDY.

One Brother-in-Law Shot and Killed by Another, in the Village of Gross' Point.

The Coroner "Cut Out" of the Inquest by a Local Justice.

The village of Gross' Point, in the town of New Trier, was the scene, on Wednesday evening, of a terrible murder. An auction was being held in the place, and farmers from the surrounding country had come to attend the sale. Among the rest came Peter Smith and Michael Schaffer, brothers-in-law. It is alleged that the parties had been on bad terms for a long time, and met only by accident. However this may be, both drank pretty freely on the day in question. This did not improve their tempers. They came in collision, had a dispute about old differences until words were succeeded by blows. After some hard hitting the two men grappled and fell to the ground together, Smith being under. Schaffer it is alleged, let go his hold and allowed the other to rise, when Smith in the blind fury of the moment, drew a revolver and shot his unfortunate opponent dead. The poor man never moved after receiving the bullet, which entered the left lung, and, taking a downward course passed through the liver and right kidney. The remains were taken in charge by the Constable of the village, who also, assisted by some citizens, arrested the murderer. Both men resided near Winetka, and have large families. Deceased was generally considered a respectable and industrious man, and, previous to this sad event, no charge has been made against the character of the homicide.

Yesterday afternoon Coroner Stephens received a telegram from ex-Justice Hantern, of Evanston, to come out to Gross' Point and hold an inquest on the body of Schaffer. The Coroner complied with the request, and, accompanied by Drs. McCarthy and Dunne, started in good time to perform his duty. Having reached the place where the murdered man lay, the county officials found that a Justice of the Peace, named Currie, had taken upon himself to hold an inquest, and had accordingly summoned a jury to decide on the merits of the case. The local sawbones was also called in and, it is stated, that in his efforts to find the fatal bullet, he hacked and hewed the unfortunate remains in a remarkable manner. Coroner Stephens, finding the affair in progress, announced his office and demanded that the proceedings terminate on the instant. Mr Currie replied, in effect, that he had voted for Mr. Stephens, and that he knew what he was about. He did not recognize the authority of the Coroner, when the latter was absent at the time the inquest was commenced. Mr. Stephens stated that he would find out in the Courts whether the properly elected county officer should be sustain in the performance of his functions or the reverse. The intelligent Mr. Currie replied that he knew more than any Chicago lawyer, not excepting Charley Reed. Arguments were of no avail, and the rural luminary finished up the inquest by holding, on recommendation of the jury, Peter Smith on charge of manslaughter. The friends of both parties appear to be dissatisfied about the affair and want the Coroner to hold another inquest. Mr. Stephens is going to have the matter ventilated in the law courts.