

a pursuer. Was the body of the boy examined closely for any evidences of sodomy? and by what stretch of imagination is the theory set up that the elder boy in the extremity of his anguish ran through the house, upset the milk pans, broke the windows, and then shot himself. This is verily the height of imagination. The public in consequence of no inquest being held are left in ignorance of these important points and another scandal is credited to Manitoba:—

Austin, Man., June 22.—Johnnie Powell, a Barnardo boy, thirteen years old, and working for Mr. W. C. Wheeler, shot and killed Mr. Wheeler's four-year-old boy Charlie, and then committed suicide last night at Mr. Wheeler's farm about two miles east of Austin.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler drove into Austin in the evening, leaving the two boys at home alone. Mrs. Wheeler returned first, and missing the boys, went to a neighbor's to enquire after them, but before she got back Mr. Wheeler had arrived home, accompanied by Mr. Walker, a neighbor. Mr. Wheeler went to the house for a lantern, and in the meantime Mr. Walker lit a match in the stable and saw the two boys lying there dead. The younger boy was shot in the left temple and the Barnardo boy through the heart. The revolver was lying at his feet.

When Mr. Wheeler left the home he left Powell milking the cows. As soon as he was gone Powell must have gone into the house and thrown the milk pail on the floor, then upset nearly everything in the house and broke the windows. He then went upstairs and got Mr. Wheeler's revolver and also some cartridges from a bureau drawer and loaded the revolver. After shooting the little boy he took out the empty cartridge, then opened the breast of his shirt and deliberately shot himself through the heart.

The only motive known for the crime is that Mr. Wheeler refused to allow him to go to a picnic, which is being held at Moose lake, near Sidney, to-day.

Manager White, of the Barnardo home in Winnipeg, returned Thursday evening from Austin, where he had been investi-

gating matters relating to the tragedy at that town on Tuesday night. Interviewed this morning Mr. White said:

"Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler left their residence Tuesday night about 7.30 and returned shortly after 10 p.m. to find their little boy dead, shot through the temple, and the hired boy also dead, the latter evidently having committed suicide. The local doctor, Dr. Curtis, called, telegraphed to Dr. Shaw of Carberry, who at once visited the scene of the tragedy and made full investigation.

"No one connected with the family," said Mr. White, "believes it was a case of murder. The bond of sympathy between the boy, Powell, and the rest of the family, was so great. He always called Mrs. Wheeler 'ma.' I made inquiries as to the boy's moral character and Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler spoke very highly of him in this respect.

"From what I could learn, and judging by the whole circumstances, I believe that the shooting of the four-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler was accidental and that the boy, crazed by the terrible result of the accident, lost his reason to some extent, and after smashing things in the house for some time, he ultimately committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart.

"When Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler found their boy he was stiff and had been dead for some time. The accident must have occurred very shortly after they went away. Some time had elapsed between the death of the child and Powell's suicide, judging by the state of Powell's body when found.

Mr. Wheeler, on looking over his cartridges found that 23 were missing, and it is believed that the boy Powell had been in the habit of playing with the revolver on previous occasions during the absence of Mr. Wheeler. There does not appear to be the slightest evidence to show motive for murder.

"As to the picnic incident, none of the family went, as they were so busy and Powell did not feel so disappointed as has been indicated."

After considering all the circumstances