

THE COLDWATER TRAGEDY.

Late last Sunday afternoon in Coldwater, Kansas, Dr. John E. Sombart shot and killed a citizen of that town named W. D. Murphy. The telegraphic dispatches regarding the affair, in the Kansas City and St. Louis papers, have been so unrelliable and so conflicting that they can not be depended upon to furnish anything like a full and fair report. It is alleged in them all, however, that Murphy charged Sombart with being criminally intimate with his wife, and that the tragedy grew out of this. The reports also state that Sombart shot Murphy several times, first using a shotgun and then a revolver.

Mr. Julius Sombart, father of Dr. Sombart, received a dispatch, Monday, from another son in Coldwater, telling that John had shot a man there justifiably, and he at once left for the scene of the trouble. The news was not made known generally in Boonville until the next day, since which time our people have watched and read the papers closely, eager to learn the details and know the truth. Of course the sensational character of the telegrams only deepened the interest here.

Wednesday evening, Mr. Adam Eckhard, of this city, received a letter from his son Schuyler, who resides in Coldwater, Kan., in which the young man stated that Murphy had threatened to kill Sombart, and that last Sunday evening—a week after—he advanced across the street toward Sombart, against the advice of the latter for him to keep back, and that he was shot and killed on the spot.

Yesterday noon a telegram was received from Mr. Julius Sombart in which he said that the newspaper reports were all wrong, that matters had quieted down, and that his son, who had surrendered himself immediately after the shooting, would come out all right.

Dr. J. E. Sombart was born and reared in this city. He is a graduate of pharmacy, having attended college in Philadelphia. He has been a druggist in Coldwater, Kansas, several years, and was doing finely. He stood high there as well as here at his old home, and the misfortune which has befallen him is quite painful to his many friends in Boonville.