Carbon Advocate Vo.V. No. 32 Sat. ~~Mar~~ July 7, 1877

THE SHOOTING IN MAHONING VALLEY

Considerable excitement was created inour borough on Sunday last, a little before noon, by the report that a young man had been shot and k killed, a few miles up the Mahoning valley while engaged stealing cherries. The particulars of the affair as we learned, appear to be about as follows: Late on Saurday night a party of boys and young men, ranging in age from 14 to 21 yrs., consisting of James Burke, alias Kelley, Patrick O'Donnell No.1 and 2, Francis Malloy, Manus Bohner, William McLaughlin, William McClean, William Davis, Hugh O'Donnell, and Frank Brady, left S. H. and proceeded to the Mahoning valley, with a supply of baskets and ~~/////~~ pails, which they proposed to fil with stolen fruit, before the farmers were about Sund. Morn. A h heavy storm of rain accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning add terrific peals of thunder, passing over the valley between 3 & 4, they were compelledto seek shelter, which they obtained by entering an unoccupied building, through the windows. In this place they remained until the storm had passed, when they proceeded to the farm of Mr. Amos Reifel, over which Mr. Daniel E. Fritz has been placed as manager or superintendent, and commenced to gather cherries from the trees, without asking permissionfrom anyone. Being observed by Mr. Fritz, he armed himself with a gun and proceeded to the spot. Arriving there he ordered them to desist from picking cherries and to leave the p premises, which they all appeared to do with the exception of one James Burke, or Burke Reilly, as he is called, a young man about 20 or 21 yrs. of age, who lointered on the tree, and, on finally coming down, became abusive to Fritz and commenced to throw stones at him, whereupon Fritz went up to him and strudk him with his gun alongside the head. Burke then reached to his pocket and exclaimed: "Damn you, I'll shoot YOu!" when Fritz, believing his own life in danger, fired the contents of his gun at the lower extremities of Burke; but the latter stooping, as he supposed to dodge the shot, received the load in his neck. He staggered to and over the fence into the road, where, sitting down, he attempted to take off his coat, but fell over dead before he could accomplish it. Fritz ahn went to his house, but shorly returned and surrendered himself to a Justice of the Peace. A coroner's jury was empanneled, and, aft r hearing the testimony, rendered the following verdict: "That deceased was shot by Daniel E. Fritz in self-defense." T ~~The/following/are/the/names/of/the/gentlemen/who/composed/the/j~~

On Monday afternoon, at the request of District Attorney Siewers, Dr. J. K. Kistler held a post mortem examination on the body of the deceased. 57 wounds were discovered about the neck and shoulders, and 39 shots were extracted: after which the vody was interred in the Catholic Cemetery at S. H..