

## Ravenwood Shaken by Tragedy.

Two weeks ago we chronicled the marriage of Loy M. Irvin to Miss Carrie Fryar. Today we chronicle his death and burial.

Loy was apparently in his usual health and good spirits all day Sunday, November 4. That night he volunteered to remain at the livery barn which he, with his father, Warren Irvin, owned and managed, in order to give his parent opportunity to rest at home.

His young wife spent the night at the residence of her father, J. C. Fryar, across the street from the newly-made household.

Very early Monday morning all were a-stir, and Mrs. Irvin, seeing her husband coming from the barn, went home, and began to prepare breakfast while he made the fire.

Having forgotten to bring cream with her, she went back to procure it. When she returned, her husband was lying on the bed. She went to the kitchen with the milk and while there hearing him cough and seemingly strangle, hurried to the room.

"Loy!" cried his wife, "what have you been taking?" "Nothing," replied the dying man. In terrified haste, Mrs. Irvin summoned her parents. When they entered the house, they met Loy coming from the bedroom, twitching convulsively from head to foot, and reeling as if about to fall. They seized him, and endeavored to support him to the bed, but he sank upon the floor and died there a moment or two later. One neighbor, Charles Mow, reached the scene as the young man drew his last breath. Frenzied efforts were made to secure medical help, but the only doctor Ravenwood affords, E. T. Molzahn, was in St. Joseph, whither he had gone to escort a patient to the hotel. Death, however, came so quickly that all was over before a single act could be performed to relieve the unfortunate one.

Mrs. Irvin remembered to have heard the stove door slam just before she reached the house the second time. Investigation revealed the bottle from which the lethal draught was taken lying on the smoldering coals, with its staring red label unharmed. The bottle,

with its deadly contents, carbolic acid, had been procured some months before, for use about the barn, and was kept there until carried away Monday morning to perform its last and dreadful work. The coroner, Dr. J. H. Todd of Maryville, was called, but after due inquiry, considered it unnecessary to hold an inquest, pronouncing that the death was self-inflicted.

No message or farewell of any sort was left; but as the young man's disposition tended slightly toward melancholy, it is believed that tem-

porary alienation of mind was responsible for the act which widowed his thirteen-day's bride, plunged two families into deepest woe, and shocked and grieved the entire community where he had lived so long, and was so universally liked and respected. All are lost in sad wonder, and sorrowful sympathy is given especially to the young widow and the old father, who are stricken to the soul by this undreamed-of thing that has come into their lives.

Loy M. Irvin, second son of Warren B. and Rachel Irvin, was born near Ravenwood, February 25, 1878. In 1895 he came with his parents to this town, where he resided until his death, November 5, 1906. His father, two brothers, Eldon W. of Maryville, Mo., and Edward C. of Watertown, S. D., and two sisters, Mrs. James Rhodes and Mrs. Fanny Antrim of near Ravenwood, survive him.

His funeral was held in the M. E. Church at this place by Rev. Lanius Gunby who used as scriptural lessons, the 90th Psalm and 1st Cor., 15th chapter, 20-28, 35-37. Then the body was borne to Oak Lawn and laid near the graves of his mother and his sister who passed from this life but a few years since.

Life offers us many a mournful puzzle, and this is one which must remain unsolved until all things are known. We must leave it with Him, the vastness of Whose love and wisdom and pity passeth human understanding. Let us be satisfied that the puzzle will be worked out to the utmost good of all concerned, and that, in His own good time, "somewhere," they will meet with joy the greater because so long deferred.

LOY M. IRVIN

A worn copy of the scriptures kept at his place of work by this young man and often perused by him, shows that he loved the Master's book enough to study it; still other signs assure the loving ones left behind that their sorrow is not without hope. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." And Loy's life was clean and honest. God give him rest. \*