

THE KILLING NEAR SPRINGFIELD—BURNING OF COTTON GIN, ETC.

The Bureau Agent at Cotton Gin, Freestone county, Texas, a Lieutenant Culvert, with his clerk or sergeant, were killed two miles north of the town of Springfield, in Limestone county, a few days since, by a man named Stewart and his son. Stewart had some misunderstanding with his hands, some freedmen, a short time previously, and the difficulty had been referred to parties selected by Stewart and the freedmen to be settled by arbitration. The award given seemed to satisfy all parties at the time, but the next day after its rendition, complaint was made by the freedmen to Culvert, the nearest Bureau Agent, whose domicile was at Cotton Gin, and he sent some wagons and freedmen over to Stewart's house, distant from Cotton Gin about twelve miles, with orders to haul Stewart's cotton and corn from his house to the agent's headquarters. Stewart would not permit the parties sent to take away his property, and the agent then came, and the fatal affray was commenced by the agent himself, who first shot Stewart, wounding him severely, whilst Stewart was inside his house. The sergeant and agent both fired at the inmates of the house, also wounding Stewart's wife. Stewart, in self defence, then fired upon and killed the agent; and Stewart's son, a lad of about fourteen years of age, shot and killed the sergeant.

Reports of the burning of the town of Cotton Gin by the negroes and Loyal Leaguers have been received, and we are satisfied they are correct. It is also reported that the people at Springfield are threatened with the destruction of their town by fire and that all the law-abiding whites, including the entire Union element, save three or four leaders of the negroes, are coming in to the assistance of the townspeople.

The bodies of Culvert and his Sergeant were dressed and decently buried by the people at Springfield.

The old man Stewart and his son are under arrest by the military.

Stewart we happen to know personal-

ly. He is between fifty and sixty years of age, quiet, sober, religious at all times and upon all occasions; universally esteemed for his prudence and kindness, and known all over the county as a man of untiring industry. He has never meddled in politics, and we believe was an original Union man, though of his political views we know little, as he never talked politics.

From what we know of the character of the man, we have no doubt that the danger to himself and his family must have been fearful and imminent, to have caused him to kill the agent Culvert.

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