

# A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.

## A MAN BLOWING HIS HEAD OFF WITH A SHOT GUN.

**Jonathan Owens Determines to End His Life and Places the Muzzle of a Shot Gun in His Mouth and His Toe on the Trigger—Coroner Summoned.**

A sensational suicide occurred in this county yesterday.

The news was brought to the city in the afternoon, and the coroner was notified that his services would be wanted this morning.

The man who took his own life was seventy-six years of age, and was a well-known farmer and stock raiser.

At Sandy Spring Camp-Ground, a small settlement in Fulton county ten or twelve miles from Atlanta, Jonathan Owens has been living for many years, and has been regarded as a well-to-do farmer and an honest citizen. Living with him were a wife and four grown children, and with good health and a happy home the old man was regarded as one of the few persons blessed with perfect contentment.

Early yesterday morning Mr. Owens remarked to his wife and children, in a quiet way, that he had lived seventy-six years and had bountifully received God's blessing; that he regarded so many years of contentment enough for one man and he wouldn't mind if he was called upon to leave his earthly home.

No attention was paid to this as Mr. Owen was regarded as a man of good sense.

A short while after twelve o'clock yesterday, the old man, while standing in his bedroom, called to his wife, who was in the yard:

"I want to tell you good-bye, for I am going to leave."

The strange words and the manner in which they were spoken alarmed Mrs. Owens, and she rushed into the house, and when she reached her husband she found him with a razor in his hand. Just as he attempted to draw the keen blade across his throat she sprang towards him, grasped his arm and succeeded in making him drop the razor. Picking it up, she saw there was blood on it and, frightened, ran into the yard, calling for help. The children were not at home, and before any of the neighbors could come to Mrs. Owens's assistance, the loud report of a shotgun was heard in the house.

As soon as his wife had left the house, Mr. Owens picked up a double-barrel shot gun, sat on the side of the bed, pulled his shoe and sock from his right foot, placed the muzzle of the gun in his mouth and pressed the trigger with his toe. A full charge of shot entered the roof of his mouth and literally tore off the top of his head.

When Mrs. Owens returned with several of the neighbors, a ghastly spectacle met their sight. The old man, who had ended his life in so terrible a manner, sat upon the floor in a pool of blood, with the shotgun between his knees. His head was thrown back upon the bed, mutilated and clotted with blood. Only the lower portion of the face was recognizable, and the open mouth, burned and scorched from the close contact of the gun when the discharge occurred, made a spectacle that awed and frightened those who beheld it.

The frantic wife was taken to a neighbor's, and traces of the shocking tragedy were removed before the children were allowed to enter the house.

Yesterday afternoon the news was brought to the city by a young man who came to notify the coroner.

This afternoon an inquest will be held, and to-morrow morning the remains will be interred.

Mr. Jonathan Owens was well known in Atlanta, he having visited the city quite frequently for the past twenty-five years.

No cause can be assigned for the rash act, other than a temporary insanity due to old age.

### THE WHISKY AGENTS.

**Mr. Joseph Thompson Talks—Mayor Cooper Gives an Opinion.**

Considerable talk has been created by the