

been no fault on the part of others, and consequently that burial is justifiable without the permit of the Coroner, as exacted by law.

Not only is an error thereby committed, but also a punishable breach of the law. I shall have occasion to speak of this hereafter.

As it exists to-day, the law forbids burial, without permission from the Coroner, of every corpse when death is due, in a sense *immediate or remote*, to any other cause than ordinary illness, the result of an ordinary cause.

44. The principle adopted by our law, that there should be investigation by the State concerning these deaths, is just and should continue to be recognized by the law. There should be investigation in all doubtful cases, we have said in the preceding article. Now, there is doubt in all cases of death admittedly violent.

All civilized countries have recognized that there is doubt in all these cases, since all have ordered investigation. I refer my readers to the laws of the different countries mentioned in a preceding article as giving grounds for an inquest.

45. If the reason of this universal legislation be sought for, it is easily found. A moment's reflection suffices to convince us of the wisdom of the law. As a fact, violence, the cause of death, is manifested either in the presence of witnesses or without them.

In the first case it imports that all the facts should be methodically and judicially gathered from the lips of eye-witnesses, and carefully mastered. In the second case it imports that the place of the accident, the deeds and movements of the victim and of those about him before the accident, should also be carefully studied by a person or persons apt at discovering crime.

46. I know well that, when in the case of death following upon an accident, burial takes place without the Coroner's authorization, those who perform or permit the burial are