

his inquiry, may refer to a lingering continuance of this rude custom. Indeed, a statute passed in 1678, ordering that all dead bodies shall be interred in woollen and no other material, is so worded as to give the idea that there might be interments without coffins. The statute forbids that any person be put in, wrapt, or wound up, or buried in any shirt, shift, sheet, or shroud, unless made of sheep's wool only; or in any coffin lined or faced with any material but sheep's wool; as if the person might be buried either in a garment, or in a coffin, so long as the former was made of, and the latter lined with, wool.

I think the "buryall without a coffin", quoted by W. J. J., must have referred to the interment of the poorest class. Their friends being unable to provide a coffin, conformed to an old rude custom, which had not entirely ceased.

ALFRED GATLY.

EPITAPHS.—(No. 24, vol I, p. 64). Our correspondent will find a fine choice of epitaphs in the following necrological chrestomathy:

A collection of American Epitaphs Inscriptions, with occasional Notes. By Timothy Alden, A. M., of the American Antiquarian Society. *New York*, 1814. 5 vols 18 (mo.) Frontispiece by Moverick, and portraits of Waskington, Rush, Jonathan Edwards and Lawrence, by Edwin.

R. R.

Quebec,
Oct. 10, 1900.

FIRST MENTION OF NIAGARA FALLS.—(No. 44, vol I, p. 96). I would refer "Curious" to a pamphlet privately printed by the Hon. Peter A. Porter of Niagara Falls. Its title-page is "Champlain not Car- tier made the first reference to Niagara Falls in literature." In the article Mr. Porter says: "Hence the date of the first reference to Niagara must be changed from 1535 to 1604, and the honor of being the first white man to tell anything whatsoever about it, must be transferred to Champlain."

E. D. STRICKLAND,
Sec'y Buffalo Historical Society.

Buffalo, N. Y.
Oct. 8, 1900.



"Curious" asks who made the first mention of Niagara Falls?

In Mr. George Johnson's *Alphabet of First Things in Canada*, it is stated that Niagara Falls were first mentioned in Lallament's (Lallemant?) *Relation* of 1641.

See also Parkman's *Pioneers of France in the New World*.

An excellent English version of Lallemant will be found in Thwaites splendid edition of the *Jesuit Relation*, now being published by the Burrows Brothers Company of Cleveland, U. S. A.

L. J. B.

Ottawa, Ont.
Oct. 12, 1900.

