

# Canada Medical Journal.

MONTREAL, JANUARY, 1871.

## THE BODY SNATCHING CASE AT LACHINE.

A great deal of unnecessary publicity has already been given by the sensational press of this city to this *cause célèbre*, and after columns of maudlin bunkum have been set and printed and read by the million, it has been established that some person or persons, known or unknown, have done the good people of the village of Lachine out of one hundred and twelve dollars. This is virtually all that the public have ascertained from the effusion of printers ink which has been expended in this case, and this is all the public ever will know. Further deliberation, if it does occur, between the parties will be conducted with closed doors, and even the inquisitive reporter or correspondent of the press will be left out in the cold. We wish him no special harm, nor do we invoke on his head a blessing or a curse, but *en passant* we must say that we do not admire the style of articles published by some of our daily papers. They are mawkish, flippant and not in keeping with a respectable and high toned journal.

Now with regard to the so-called outrage, we approach the subject with regret and full of sympathy, and at the same time we would point out a remedy which would, if faithfully carried out, put a stop once and forever to a repetition of such scenes. We in Canada have always believed that we are a law-abiding people, we pride ourselves on being so, and as compared with other communities we are so. There is a law on our statute book which is being constantly set at defiance, and that is the provision of the anatomy act passed by United Canada in 1844. By the provisions of this act all paupers dying in any poor house or hospital, receiving Government aid, or gaol, shall remain in the dead house of that institution for a certain number of hours; if at the expiration of that time the body remains unclaimed by *bona-fide* relatives or friends, the authorities of the institution are required to inform the inspector of anatomy, who shall hand over the body to any school in the vicinity for the purposes of dissection. The law recognises the great necessity of fostering the study of anatomy, and in doing so provides