

confirmatory of the suspicion that had arisen. Several of the accused parties died under the tortures to which they were subjected. The bones, after some time, were sent to Paris, and having been examined by the Academy of Medicine, were found to be those of an animal. The eminent writer who records this remarkable example of the deplorable effects of ignorance and the low state of anatomy, does not believe that such a mistake could occur where there were educated men, as it might be prevented by the examination of even a fragment. His opinion, however, is controverted by a late performance in this city. An aged pensioner lived unhappily with his wife. She was missing for a few weeks, and the thrilling intimation was mooted that he had made away with her. He was apprehended on suspicion, and in a search for confirmation of the current belief, some bones, more or less imperfect, were withdrawn from the ashes in his fire-place, whither they had lain hid. Three physicians of this city having examined the reliets, declared it as their conviction that they were the bones of an aged female, and this being put together with that, it was about to go hard with the poor old man, and he might have suffered the severest penalty of the law, had it not been that the solemnities of the court were interrupted by the entrance of his beloved consort in unimpaired health. The malicious bones were subsequently proved to belong to a sheep. They had formed part of the dinner meal, and having been picked, were carelessly thrown upon the hearth. We will not now pursue any further this sad exposition of professional benightment. On another occasion, as requested, we may expatiate on the differences between human bones and those of animal. In the meantime, we recommend the case to the notice of our medico-legal friends and expect hereafter to see it duly emblazoned in the pages of history as a great fact.

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#### CENSUS OF 'THE CANADAS FOR 1851-'52.

The first report of the Secretary of the Board of Registration and Statistics on this subject has lately been printed. The census was divided into Personal and Agricultural. The last is by far the most advanced. The former is intended to include census by age, births, deaths, &c.—trades and occupations—causes of disease—number of houses, and families occupying; but, so far, it only comprises a few general observations and tables, containing the origin and religion of the people of Canada. It is stated that the rest is being extracted and prepared, and much is ready for the printer. It is a work of vast labor, and no pains have been spared to collect the required information. Of necessity it takes a long while for completion, even with the aid of many hands. To the profession one