

before him, at a stated place, to make an inquisition. This inquisition must be held before the Coroner as presiding officer. The jury (who *must* consist of *twelve* at the least) are to be sworn, and charged by the Coroner to inquire how the party came to his death. The inquisition must be held "*super visum corporis*," for if the body be not found, the Coroner cannot sit (unless by virtue of a special commission issued for the purpose). The inquest, by the common law, is required to be held at the very place where the death happened, though not necessarily at the same place where the body was viewed; or the jury might adjourn elsewhere if found more convenient. Upon this inquisition, the Coroner must hear such evidence as is *offered* either on the part of the Crown or the person suspected, and it is to be given upon oath.

By the statute passed in this Province, last session, it is enacted, that no inquest shall be holden until it shall be made to appear to the Coroner, that there is *reason to believe* that the deceased came to his death under *such* circumstances of violence or unfair means, or culpable or negligent conduct, *either of himself or others*, as require investigation, and not *through any mere accident or mischance*.

This act also provides, that, whenever it shall appear to the Coroner that the deceased was attended at his death, or during his last illness, by any legally qualified medical practitioner, he, the Coroner, may issue his order for the attendance of such practitioner as a witness at the inquest; and where the deceased was not so attended, the Coroner may issue an order for the attendance of any legally qualified medical practitioner, being at the time in *actual* practice in or near the place where the death happened. By it the Coroner may also direct the performance, by the medical witness or witnesses, of a *post mortem* examination, with or without an analysis of the contents of the stomach or intestines: Provided, however, that if any person shall state upon oath his *belief* that the death was caused, *partly or entirely*, by the improper or negligent treatment of any medical practitioner or other person, such medical practitioner or other person shall not be allowed to assist at the *post mortem* examination.

It is also enacted, that whenever it shall appear to the majority of the jury that the cause of death has not been satisfactorily explained by the witnesses, in the first instance, *they* may name to the Coroner, in *writing*, any other legally qualified medical practitioner or practitioners, and *require* him to issue his order (which order he is *compelled* to issue under a penalty of ten pounds) for their attendance as witnesses, and for the performance of a *post mortem* examination, whether one shall have been previously performed or not. And further, to cover disbursements and trouble, that such medical witnesses shall receive remuneration upon the