

exit. I was also disappointed in my expectation of finding parallel cases reported among the forty thousand cases of gunshot wound of the head analysed and tabulated in the *Medical and Chirurgical History of the War of the Rebellion*, or in any special treatises on gunshot wounds and the museum catalogues which I was able to consult.

In anticipation of a possible expression of opinion to the effect that there is no inherent improbability of a fracture of the skull from an injury such as is recorded here, being unaccompanied by any evidences of injury to the scalp, I must state that the experimental investigation on the production of fractures of this nature was undertaken under conditions where the medical evidence at a previous autopsy had led to the presumption that my fracture of the skull had been produced after death by a separate act of violence independent of the gunshot, and that it was necessary to produce objective evidence sufficiently convincing to change the views of a coroner's jury.

The medical evidence given at the first autopsy had led to the presumption that the fracture of the skull was due to a separate act of violence inflicted through blows from a blunt, smooth instrument, but my own examination convinced me that the gunshot wound was capable of having produced all the fractures found in the skull.

Finding that there are no existing records of autopsies on injuries of this description, I obtained permission from the Attorney-General for the Province of Quebec to make some experiments in order to determine this point. In making these I received valuable assistance from Mr. Bailly.

The following details were observed in my experiments: I employed the gun used by the deceased, using a charge of powder slightly less than 2 drs. to correspond with the amount contained in the measuring cup of the powder flask found on his body: the charge of shot used was three-quarters of an ounce, as this amount corresponded with the amount found within the skull.

It will be remembered that the whole effects of the charge were concentrated within an area of an inch and three-quarters,