

that his life had been attempted, seized upon Clement, and rendered him strange even to his own eyes." He was confined to his room and unable to see anyone, even the ambassadors of foreign powers. On the 17th August, one month and five days before his death, feeling somewhat better, he received the diplomatic corps, and then he was found to be reduced to a mere skeleton. Not only did his health completely and suddenly break up, but his mind gave way. He was haunted by fearful dreams, from which he wakescreaming; and he often ran from one place to another crying, "*Compulsus feci, compulsus feci*,"—I was forced to do it. The Jesuits of course say he meant, I was forced by the foreign powers to do it. Just as simple and much more likely an explanation would be, Your excesses compelled me to do it. Cretineau-Joly and Gorgel, the ex-Jesuit, both agree that he died of remorse! Remorse does not often take eight months to show itself, and for eight months after the suppression of the Society Clement XIV. was in the very best health and spirits—a fact established by indisputable testimony. Moreover, remorse does not suddenly attack a man after a meal, bringing on spasms and the symptoms of violent indigestion. It is not as a rule accompanied by violent irritation of the alimentary canal, vomiting and extinction of the voice; these symptoms, medical men say, more frequently follow the administration of poison—belladonna for example. "Several days before his death, his bones exfoliated and withered—to use the forcible expression of Caraccioli—like a tree, which, struck at the root, dies away and sheds its bark. The scientific men who were called in to embalm his body, found the features livid, the lips black, the abdomen inflated, the limbs emaciated, and covered with violet spots; the size of the heart was much diminished, and all the muscles detached and decomposed in the spine. They filled

the body with perfumes and aromatic substances, but nothing would dispel the mephitic exhalations. The entrails burst the vessels in which they were deposited; and when his pontifical robes were taken from his body, a great portion of the skin adhered to them. The hair of the head remained entire upon the velvet pillows upon which he rested, and with the slightest friction his nails fell off." The sight of the pontiff's dead body sufficed to show of what he died. We have already stated that Bernis would not at first credit the truth of the rumors that Ganganelli was poisoned; let us now refer to his correspondence. He was on the spot; was an intimate friend of the Pope, and from his high official position, was in a way of learning more than others of the facts attending his demise. On the 28th of August, twenty-four days before the Pope's death, he wrote to the French Minister:—

"Those who judge imprudently or with malice, see nothing natural in the condition of the Pope; reasonings and suspicions are hazarded with the greatest facility, as certain atrocities are less rare in this country than in others." Six days after the Pope's demise, on the 28th of September, he wrote:—"The nature of the Pope's malady, and, above all, the circumstances attending his death, give rise to a common belief that it has not been from natural causes.

\* \* The physicians who assisted at the opening of the body are cautious in their remarks, and the surgeons speak with less circumspection. It is better to credit the account of the former than to pry into a truth of too afflicting a nature, and which it would perhaps be distressing to discover." A month after, on the 26th of October, all his doubts had vanished, and he wrote:—"When others shall come to know as much as I do, from certain documents which the late Pope communicated to me, the suppression will be deemed very just and very necessary. The cir-