

the basis of the existence of all society under English rule. Since then they have always been watchful that this guarantee contained in the great Charter should be faithfully maintained.

That is why, English law, Common or Statutory, has always upheld the obligation of holding inquests after deaths when a doubt might exist as to their cause.

That is why, carrying scrupulosity to its extreme, the Legislatures have commanded and still command, in all countries under English rule, that an inquest be held on every person executed by virtue of a judicial condemnation.

English Common Law, as we find it reproduced in Bracton: "*De legibus & consuetudinibus anglie*, Lib. III, ch. V-VI-VII-VIII" — in Reeves History of English Law, Vol. 2, p. 466" — in Britton, p. 8 — obliges the State to seek out homicide in all cases of death by submersion, by whatsoever act of violence, or by sudden death.

The English Parliament have confirmed this law, notably in its Statutes "*De officio Coronatoris*", 4 Edward I. and "*The Coroner's Act*" of 1887.

11. Even though this guarantee were not written in Magna Charta, it would none the less exist as the basis of the maintenance of established society.

Celebrated thinkers have proclaimed this truth long before to-day. To cite a few, chosen at random:—

Blackstone, in his immortal commentaries on English Law, Vol. I, p. 24, says: — "The principal aim of society is to protect individuals in the enjoyment of those absolute rights which are vested in them by the immutable laws of nature", and at page 129 of the same volume, he points out that of all these immutable rights, needing the protection of society or the State, the first which each individual possesses is the right to live.

Felice in his work entitled "*The Right of Nature*", Vol. II, p. 166, says: — "The duty of the sovereign which tends most towards the end of establishing society, and which is its