

two days to intervene between the death and the burial. Among the rich whose dwellings are commonly better ventilated and cleaner than those of the poorer classes, there would be naturally felt a strong desire to retain this custom, and even admitting the capability of the dead body to propagate its disease, there can be no doubt that its powers in this respect would be much diminished, if indeed they were not under such conditions reduced to nullity, and therefore the preservation of the custom might not be inductive of injury. A like argument could hardly apply to the poorer classes; and although the earlier removal of their dead under such circumstances might be imperative, it would prove an Herculean task to make them appreciate the cogency of the reasoning which resulted in such a different treatment. That legislation must be pernicious, which tampers, however slightly, with the feelings and affections of a people, and we must confess to the difficulty which strongly impressed itself on our mind when perusing the Bill. Had however the time permitted to elapse between the decease and the removal been specified, it is possible that all our difficulties would have vanished. We should much wish to see the Bill pursuing "the even tenor of its way," and above all to chronicle its having received the Vice-Regal assent.

II.—*An Act to prevent the adulteration of Articles of Food and Drink, and to provide for the inspection thereof.*

This is another measure introduced by Dunbar Ross, Esq., and is as much remarkable for its common good sense, as the bill introduced by the same gentleman, and commented upon in our last number, was for qualities of an opposite character. We believe that the present bill has been based upon the one recently introduced into the British House of Commons. We have not seen this last, and cannot therefore indicate their points of similarity or variance.

No legislative enactment is more desirable than that embodied in the Bill before us. It would be hard indeed to find the article of food or drink which is not adulterated. From the bread we eat to the water we drink all is adulterated. In the latter case we have not only to charge Dame Nature in employing her own hand in giving us varying quantities of the crenic and apocrenic acids, but even our water committee must try their hand also and supply us ad libitum with varying quantities of alluvium. The bill is a very important one, and we hope to be able to record at an early period its having passed both Houses. We notice that it provides for the appointment of a qualified inspector and analyst, and rests his nomination in the Board of Governors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada. This is as it ought to be, and we are sure that the Board will never abuse the important trust thus intended to be confided to it.

III. *An Act to regulate the Education of Apothecaries, Chemists, and Druggists and the sale of Poisons.*

The foregoing is the title of one of the most important Bills submitted to the Legislature at its present session, and we are happy to announce that under the active supervision of Sir E. Taché, it has passed through the Legislative Council, and was received by the Legislative Assembly on the 3rd instant.