

and by the children of the accused; these last mentioning wounds on the hands and the wrist, and the dressing of the wounds with the cotton cloth, I am of opinion that the skeleton submitted to me for examination is that of Jean Baptiste Onellet.

I have heard the evidence which testified to the discovery and internment of the corpse and all which concerns the place where the corpse was buried, and the time that it remained in the earth. A corpse recently deceased which has not had time to be decomposed before it is placed in the sand, at the end of September, after the great heats of summer and particularly at the Isle de Mai, on the sea-shore, where the temperature begins to fall, could not be much decomposed. Putrefaction does not begin much, nevertheless a commencement of the process of decomposition must be made until the middle of November. Then the winter season beginning in those parts, decomposition or putrefaction is arrested to begin again only in the spring.

According to the testimony of Germain Gagnon the snow disappeared 3 or 4 days before his discovery; therefore the corpse could not have become decomposed from the beginning of winter until the date of his discovery. The two witnesses Gagnon have ascribed a red color to the skin; they heard a kind of groaning arising from gas. Agapit Gagnon remarked a strong corpse-like smell. The red color is not the color of the skin, it is caused by the epidermis of the first layer of the skin which disappears very rapidly by putrefaction; it falls into dust, and on its disappearance; the second skin appears red at first, and afterwards violet. This sign, added to the groanings and to the corpse-like smell proves that putrefaction was proceeding, particularly in the inward parts. It now remains for me to say, whether a corpse in a state such as I have just described could lose the greater part of its soft parts in 22 days. I first remark that by the evidence of Germain Gagnon his first visit took place towards the end of June; that the twenty-two days which followed this visit were in the month of July, the hottest month of the year, that the corpse was only lightly covered with sand; that it was on the skirts of the wood, and in a place exposed to the sun; that foxes and muskrats existed in the place; that these animals, that these animals may have removed a portion of the flesh of the corpse and I think that they may have removed some of it, for there were two ribs missing.

Under these circumstances, I think that the corpse seen in process of decomposition by Germain Gagnon and Agapit Gagnon towards St. Peter's day may have lost its soft parts almost entirely, and that at the end of 22 days the corpse would be in the state that Germain Gagnon has described, even without the foxes and muskrats. The holes which I have mentioned and the tears appeared to me nothing unusual, produced in them by wear or handling. The garments were pierced by worms; at least from their appearance the little holes would appear to have been gnawed by worms. There was a rent in the side of the flannel under-shirt to which I do not ascribe any importance, without other evidence in corroboration.

#### *Cross-Examined.*

I only landed at the Isles de Mai on this occasion; I had passed by them by water without going ashore. I have resided at Matane, on the south shore, fifty leagues from here; on the north shore—never. The statistics as to the temperature I took at Matane, which should be more favored. The Isles de Mai are sixty leagues from Malbaie to the north; I saw neither foxes nor muskrats, but a ground hog was killed there. I only remained some hours at the Isles de Mai, and three or four days in the vicinity, from the 31st August to the 3rd or 4th September, 1868. I did not do the disinterring myself; it was done in my presence, with pieces of wood. I did not dig elsewhere than there. I endeavored to do so with a pointed stick; the ground was very hard. When I said twenty feet in the wood, it was behind the corpse and on each side, but not in the sand. I went about twenty feet into the wood. The bones of him who is supposed to be J. B. Onellet are now in a barn belonging to the brothers Contnriers; I put them there myself when I resided at their place, and upon my departure I entrusted the care of them to them. I took them out of the box and put them into a barrel, after having soaked them with lime to prevent their emitting any smell in the vicinity. I have no knowledge whatever of dogs having gnawed the bones, nor that any part was taken away by them, and I do not believe that that occurred; at least while they were in my possession. I engage to produce this corpse in five minutes. The two little cloths which I found in the box