

papers with a sensational column, full of horror to the readers, full of harrowing circumstances to surviving friends, which points to no moral, but rather panders to the prurient curiosity of a debased taste of the public at large.

We do not desire to say anything of a personal nature regarding those engaged in the special inquest under discussion, but can alone remark, that whatever the suspicion as to cause in the death of this unfortunate man, we cannot admit that it has been proved that he did die of poison. The presumption may be in favor of morphia poisoning, but in the Scotch acceptation of the term it remains unproven. With respect to inquests we have something to say.

If it is necessary to hold an inquest at all we should apply the old-fashioned maxim, "if it is worth doing, it is worth doing well." An inquest of this solemn nature ought not to be done in a slovenly manner. Any case that is likely to come before the criminal or civil courts ought to be so conducted as to leave no question of doubt. To secure this end, so desirable, the persons employed should be thoroughly conversant with the law and in their several departments possess the acumen of experts. If a chemical analysis is to be conducted the Government ought to employ a person, not second-hand, but direct, who is known to be capable of carrying out such analysis. In the case of the late R. Patton, the contents of the stomach were required to be analysed, and, strange to say, to Dr. O'Leary, who we believe to be a very excellent private practitioner, was allotted the task of searching for the poison. We were somewhat surprised that the Doctor assumed the task, but in doing so he had to associate with himself, or to secure the services of a known practical chemist, so that the country is called upon to pay for the services of two men, both we presume, charging the customary fee. We think Dr. O'Leary would have been more true to himself had he refused to accept the responsibility of such an investigation, and have referred the Government to a practical chemist. This is merely our opinion, and can go for all it is worth.

But again, in conducting an enquiry, we think the Government would be better served if instructions were given to their officer