

not possible to determine this with any accuracy. The complete disappearance of the soft solids, would appear to extend the period of inhumation to eight or ten years, while the existence of *brain*, decomposed although it was, tends to limit it to a much shorter period. Probably five or six years may be regarded as approximating to the truth.

Judging from the appearance of the Sutures, and the hair, the age of the individual may be estimated at about thirty-five years.

A. HALL, M.D.

Joseph Jones, Esq., Coroner.

*Montreal Gazette.*

TO THE EDITORS OF THE MONTREAL MEDICAL GAZETTE.

GENTLEMEN,—On the 7th inst. the *Montreal Gazette* contained a "Medico Legal Report" which was communicated to that Journal by A. Hall, Esq. M. D. and which I am certain will be found well worthy of a perusal by all your subscribers. I am, therefore, induced to request you will favour them, as well as me, by transferring it to your pages—as I am perfectly certain that the majority of them have not met with it. My object for soliciting this favour is principally to direct the attention of every member of the profession to the necessity of paying more attention to subjects having reference to Medico-Legal investigations, and also that remarks on such subjects should be made known to the profession generally through the *proper medium*.

The manner in which Dr. Hall has drawn up his report redounds much to his credit; he has shown ingenious reasoning and drawn very scientific inferences. No part of the report can be actually found fault with; nevertheless, in a Medico-Legal point of view, it would have been additionally satisfactory to have been informed of the nature of the soil wherein the remains had been found; whether gravelly, sandy, or of a clayey character. Also, whether it indicated a current moisture or a stagnant one; as all these circumstances are known to affect materially the slow or the rapid process of decomposition. To me it seems from the tenor of the Report that the decomposition must have been rapid and that the inhumation of the body was not at a period so far removed as the Doctor infers it to have been. True, he says there were no vestiges of clothes, yet a mitten, money, and boots were found. The money distinct and the quality of both the mitten and the boots still preserved—the latter sufficiently so as to enable him to state they were of British manufacture. Had the deceased been stripped of his clothing, it is difficult to conceive how the mitten could have been in the grave, and still more so, the money. Therefore, I would be inclined to infer that the soil was favorable to rapid decomposition; and it is well known that the more rapid decomposition goes on, the