

probable, there being no crypt to the Church of Holy Trinity, the grave was dug out of the soil upon which the floor of the chancel is laid. If the Poet was thus buried, the request or adjuration: "for-beare to digg the dust enclosed heare" obtains a force which would be lost if his body had been "enclosed" in a leaden-coffin hermetically sealed, and consigned to such a durable habitation for the dead, as a sepulchre hewn out of stone, or a brick-vaulted chamber.—The absence of a vault may account for his wife not occupying with him the same tomb.

Mr. Norris cites the case of Schiller, who was buried in the year 1805, and his body exhumed in 1826, when his bones and skull were carefully examined; the presumption being that the flesh had been consumed; the "emperors for diet" having destroyed the body. After *eight* years burial (case of Peter Mawer, exhumed at Boston,) Dr. Taylor found a body in fragments, the soft parts being loosely adherent to the bones—the features were entirely destroyed and the bones of a dark colour. (The body in this case had been buried in a damp grave, and the coffin had water in it, which contained animal matter, together with ammoniac sulphate and phosphate.)¹⁰

It is usually supposed that in an ordinary grave a body becomes skeletonized in about ten years. Admitting this to be substantially accurate, there are not a few cases where, on the one hand, all the soft parts have been destroyed in a far less time,