

CANADA

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BURIAL OR CREMATION, WHICH?

The subject of Cremation is agitating the public mind at present, and is without question, the best means of disposing of human remains. What can be more purifying than fire; and viewed as a sanitary measure, destruction of all decomposing animal and vegetable material by fire, is far preferable to covering it up with earth. The object in entombment, is simply to bury the dead out of our sight, so that it may not be an offence to the living. To contemplate the gradual destruction of any body by decomposition, is most revolting; the gradual changes which occur during the process of decay, is a subject which is not sufficiently dwelt upon, and if it were, there are few of us living who would not consider it far more desirable to undergo the rapid destruction of our tissues by fire, than, permit them to be submitted to the more gradual, but equally certain disintegration which occurs in the grave. There is to our mind a feeling akin to horror at the thought of being placed in a deal box, or even in a metal casket, and buried with six feet of earth above our heads. We suppose it would matter very little to us how our remains were disposed of; nevertheless, personally, we should prefer the aid of a Sieman's furnace to reduce to its elements, in the space of half an hour, the tissues of which our body is made up. There are many arguments which can be advanced in favor of Cremation, not the least of which is the possible injury decomposing material can do to the living.

These are days in which utilitarian ideas are becoming