

end of September, and discovered at the end of the month of June following in the condition described by the Gagnons, of a red color with gas and smell, I ask whether in twenty-two days it would have been decomposed?

*Answer*; Yes. I have heard the evidence of Dr. Hamel here this morning, and I agree with him in all respects with regard to that part of his evidence.

*Cross-examined.*

In a warm place putrefaction is much more rapid than in a cold climate, and the smell of the corpse depends upon the degree of putrefaction. If a corpse is buried in the sand in a close place it may exhale the smell of a dead body in four days, in a place exposed to the rays of the sun and when only covered with a thin layer of sand. The word ruddy (*vermeille*) in the sense in which the inhabitants of the country use it, means healthy. A corpse cannot be ruddy. If a country person said to me that he had met a ruddy corpse, I should say that he did not know what he was saying. If a country person said to me that I have found a ruddy corpse, *I have found a ruddy corpse*, I could not tell what he meant by it. I could understand the question well. I cannot answer it. Ruddy is when a person is of a fresh complexion, and in good health. I do not understand ruddy as applied to a corpse and I have never heard it used in that sense; I cannot answer that. Let us suppose a corpse buried at the end of September, the decomposition of which has begun (and gone on) from September till the middle of November, and that the sun shines hot for seven or eight days; after a week's sun putrefaction would be far advanced; even at the end of four days, if the sun had struck fairly down and the corpse was thoroughly thawed, putrefaction would be considerably far advanced, especially if decomposition went on for seven or eight days. Decomposition generally commences at the abdomen. In the parts adjacent to the abdomen only a red tint is seen but blackish spots extend over the whole abdominal region.

When the sand has been moved in the autumn all traces of the moving do not disappear. In some parts in compact sand, the tracks of vehicles made in the fall are still visible in the spring. In a place which the sea does not cover and where the sand is unstable, no trace remains. At Baio St. Paul, vehicles follow about the same tracks.

MONDAY JUNE 21, 1869.

Doctor Joseph Alexander Hamel.

In the month of August 1868, I accompanied Dr. Boudreau, Coroner of the district of Saguenay to assist him, in my capacity of physician at an inquest, which inquest was to be held upon the body of a person supposed to be Jean Baptiste Ouellet, at the Isles de Mai. According to the information the coroner had received, the corpse was to be found in the Isles de Mai or at the Isles de Mai. These Islands are in the district of Saguenay, in the Province of Quebec, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, at about 60 leagues from Malbaie. Arrived at the Cailles Rouges, the Coroner then stopped, and gave me an order in writing (which I produce) for the examination of the body which was at the Isles de Mai and its removal to the Cailles Rouges where the inquest was to be held. Accordingly I went to the Isles de Mai on the 31st August, accompanied by Germain Gagnon; Alexander, alias Agapit Gagnon; Joseph Dugas; Joseph Maloney; Marcel Leclerc; Francois Poitras; and my brother Alfred Hamel, all witnesses who have been examined. I observed before landing, that the water around these islands was very clear, so that one could distinguish pebbles and shell-fish at the depth of 15 or 20 feet. On landing I asked Germain Gagnon and Alexander Gagnon to conduct me to the place where the corpse was. They conducted me, (we were at the western extremity of the Isles de Mai) to a place where we found a wooden cross painted black which Germain Gagnon told me had been placed there by commander Tetu, at the time of his inquest. I observed then that the place where the corpse was, was at the border of the wood; at 86 feet above the highest flood tide. I caused an excavation to be made to the depth of a foot and a half and we found an oblong box in a sandy soil. I made an examination for twenty feet around the place where the box was, and remarked that the soil was very hard, stony, and contained very little earth. I had then a stick; I tried to stir the soil, and I am convinced that to dig a grave beyond the borders of the wood, would have required considerable time with a pickaxe or mattock. I am not even certain that it could be done with those implements. I afterwards caused the box to be placed on a boat on board of which I embarked myself, and accompanied the corpse which the box contained to Cailles Rouges, and gave it into possession of the Coroner there, who caused it to be deposited in a *hangard* be-