

milar color was noticed also on the Right Superior Maxillary bone, extending from the inner angle of the Orbit downwards.

On removing the Calvarium, the Brain was found shrunk to about two-thirds its natural size, and emitted the most offensive odour. Not the slightest trace of organization was observed, but the Cerebral Substance, with its membranes, formed a pultaceous mass, and with the exception of that part corresponding to the middle lobe of the left hemisphere, which was blood red, and that in immediate contiguity with, and adjoining to, the fracture, which was blackish bordered by red, it was generally of a pale leaden hue. The centre of the Brain, in the line of the Corpus Callosum, had degenerated into a purulent looking fluid, which was evidently Cerebral matter far advanced in decomposition, or in its last stage.

The inference which appears clearly deduceable from the above premises, is that the deceased met his death by violence, and that he was soon after interred, *denuded of all upper clothing, but with his boots on.*

The blackish tint on the brain, in the neighbourhood of the Occipital fracture, is owing to decomposition of extravasated blood mixed with brain, a more rapid decomposition taking place there in consequence of more direct exposure to the causes inductive of decomposition. The blood here extravasated *must* have proceeded from the Right Lateral Sinus, which *must* have been most extensively lacerated.

The blood red tint of the brain, corresponding with the left middle lobe, may be referred to extravasation from rupture of, probably, the Middle Meningeal artery, from *contre coup*: and its retention of the red colour, the result of non-exposure to direct decomposing agencies.

The remarkable relative position of the two Cervical Vertebrae, might have been the result of accidental causes, after decomposition had severed the ligaments which united them together; but, though this is possible, yet it is far more probable that it was the result of the severe blow on the Occiput, which threw the head and Atlas forwards, producing a complete dislocation of the neck, with pressure on the spinal cord, and instantaneous paralysis of the whole body. The presence of medullary matter in the spinal canal, although not absolutely confirmatory of this view, yet considerably strengthens this supposition.

The blow on the Occiput must have been inflicted with some heavy instrument of metal, probably by an axe; the Occiput being the strongest and thickest part of the Cranium, would have resisted such a fracture by instruments of a much lighter description.

The blow must have been given *transversely*, and from its *position*, must have been received *unawares* by the individual.

The question of the time of inhumation is involved in difficulty. It is