

fifteen years was about to bid adieu to him and to the world. He probably dislikes deathbed scenes. He travels some miles to commission another person (probably none of his immediate neighbours would have gone !) to fetch the priest; but having the good fortune to be surrounded by persons whom *his* severe affliction does not deprive of their presence of mind, they despatch a messenger to meet the Priest, (though no one but himself could be procured to go for him on the near approach of the closing scene,) to inform him that it is too late, in order no doubt to save him the fatigue of a short journey and the pain of beholding a dead body. It was perhaps just as well that the Priest should not be sent for until it was too late; and then of what use was it that he should see the body after death?—Priests are dangerous witnesses; they sometimes possess a knowledge of medicine, and are generally quick sighted and deeply conversant with the springs of human action. During his wife's illness the future Mrs. Bérubé is not seen but once at the sick bed, but is a frequent visitor while her remains are still lying at the house. On the day of the funeral, after the body has started for its final resting place, she returns, and Bérubé, who still lingers there, converses a good deal with her, but is not heard. He tells her, however, that he is about to proceed downwards for the funeral and begs of her *to take care* of his children, who happen respectively to be of the ages of *eleven, twelve and thirteen*. On the wednesday preceding the Saturday on which his wife is taken ill, he is asked, by the witness Philomène Bérubé, *what was that box which he had given to Césarée Thériault*. He makes no answer, but some time afterwards, on meeting the witness, he takes her aside and desires her *not to speak of that box to any one*. After his wife's death, he is asked if it was true *that he had poisoned her as people said*; he makes some kind of answer which is not heard and *hangs down his head*. He is then informed that Germain Talbot had said at his (the prisoner's) father's