

general payable out of the county rate in the shape of fees upon each inquisition taken; the amount of fees is regulated by different statutes, chiefly by 25 Geo. II., c. 29.

Another branch of the Coroner's office is to inquire concerning shipwrecks, and certify whether wreck or not, and who is in possession of the goods. Concerning treasure trove, he is also to inquire who were the finders, and where it is, and whether any one be suspected of having found or concealed a treasure.*

The Coroner is also a conservator of the Queen's Peace, and becomes a Magistrate by virtue of his appointment, having power to cause felons to be apprehended, whether an inquisition be found against them or not.

The *ministerial* office of the Coroner is only as the Sheriff's *substitute* in executing process. For, when just exception can be taken to the Sheriff for suspicion of partiality (as that he is interested in the suit, or of kindred to either plaintiff or defendant), the process must then be awarded to the Coroner, instead of the Sheriff, for execution of the Queen's writs.

The passing of the act of last session (which is nearly a transcript of the English act 6 & 7, Wm. IV., c. 89,) has placed the law in Upper Canada, "respecting the office of Coroner," upon the same footing with that of England, if we except some unimportant alterations that have been there subsequently made as to the mode of appointment and local jurisdiction of Coroners.

Its adoption here, after its *sire* had been tried in England for several years, and found to supply the *principal* defects in the pre-existing law, may also be regarded as a step in the *right direction* in the way of law reform; and is a strong argument in favour of the position, that *more general public* benefits would accrue from the introduction into our statute book of many late English statutes, (with such remodelling as would meet our wants) affecting different subjects, which are founded upon reports made, *after a thorough investigation of the old law*, and the *mischief* requiring remedy, by the Real Property, Common and Criminal Law Commissioners, than from the huge masses of hasty and crude legislation ("rudus indigestæque moles"), with which we find our *annual present* from the Provincial Parliament loaded.

It seems desirable that the golden opportunity afforded by the welcome "Upper Canada Journal, &c.," should be embraced, by more experienced members of the legal profession, for the purpose of distributing information on some of the numerous *medico-legal* peculiarities of our law, which are brought under their notice more frequently, than under that of the members of their sister profession.

* In England the coroner is also empowered to inquire into the origin or cause of fires occurring in their districts, a power which it would be well to have exercised in this country. Mr. Wakely has exercised it in London.—ED.