

appointment of two gentlemen from the town of Sorel, who, together with the Curé and the Church warden in office of the Parish of St. Pierre de Sorel for the time being, shall constitute the Board of Trustees. The duties of the Trustees are those of a board of general management, and it is their province "to constitute and appoint a medical staff to consist of not more than three licensed physicians and surgeons." We observe that the Governor General has already performed his duty, by the nomination to the trusteeship of J. G. Crebassa, Esq., the Mayor of Sorel, and G. F. Sincennes, Esq., under the Act. These we believe to be two excellent nominations, and as the Hospital is now organized in its board of management, we hope that nothing will frustrate the speedy erection of the building.

THE DESFORGES MURDER, AND THE FEE ALLOWED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO CHEMICAL EXPERTS.

About three years ago a murder was committed in the village of St. Jérôme, upon the wife of Joseph Desforbes; the parties implicated, and who were afterwards hanged, having been Jean-Baptiste Desforbes and a woman named Marie Crispin. Incertitude having existed as to the mode of death, the stomach and contents were delivered by the medical gentleman who performed the *post-mortem* examination to the coroner, for the purpose of a chemical examination. We have now to remark that on many previous occasions we had examined the stomachs, &c., of persons supposed to have been poisoned, and had never received what we considered a proper fee for such labour, the usual fee having been about £5, or £7 10s. It had been our custom on several antecedent occasions to decline the examinations for the reason stated. A medical gentleman, however, who supplemented ourselves on one declined occasion, received a fee at the rate of 2 guineas a day; and when we were waited on by the coroner in the Desforbes case, we distinctly informed him, that we declined undertaking the investigation unless upon the same terms of remuneration which that gentleman had received. This was assented to on his part, and we accordingly undertook the analysis with Dr. Craik, whom the coroner associated with us. The examination lasted eleven days. We had no clue to any particular poison, and had therefore to make a qualitative examination for every known probable poison, whether of mineral or vegetable origin. The result was a negation of all poisoning, the truth of which was confirmed by the confession of Crispin herself. We need not remark that a negative examination of this nature is a far more difficult task, than the search for a particular poison known or suspected to have been administered. Our account amounted to twenty-two guineas, which the Government has refused to pay; the sum offered by it being *fifty dollars*, which we, on the other hand, have refused to accept as an equivalent for our services rendered under the peculiar retainment before specified.

We give the above explanation to our esteemed contemporary, the American Medical Times, which has been kind enough to reply to our twice-put query to the American Medical Press to be informed of the fee paid for the chemical analysis of the stomach and contents in their respective cities. We desired to