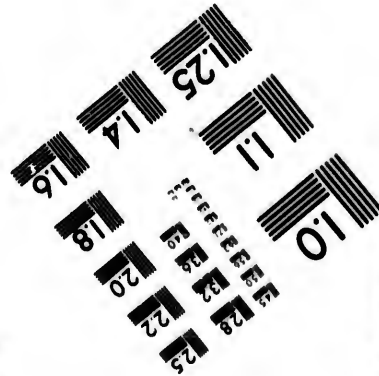
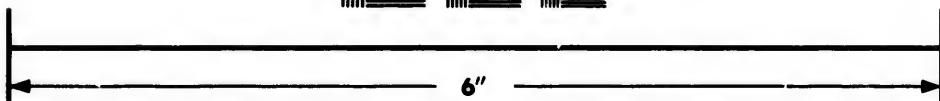
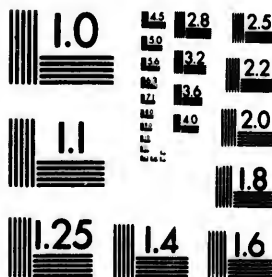


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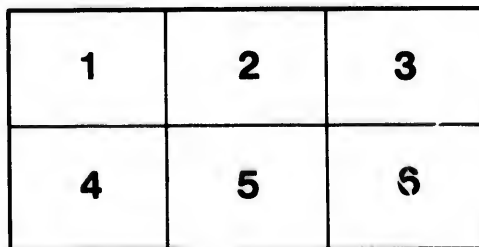
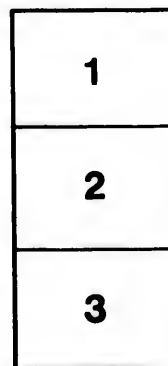
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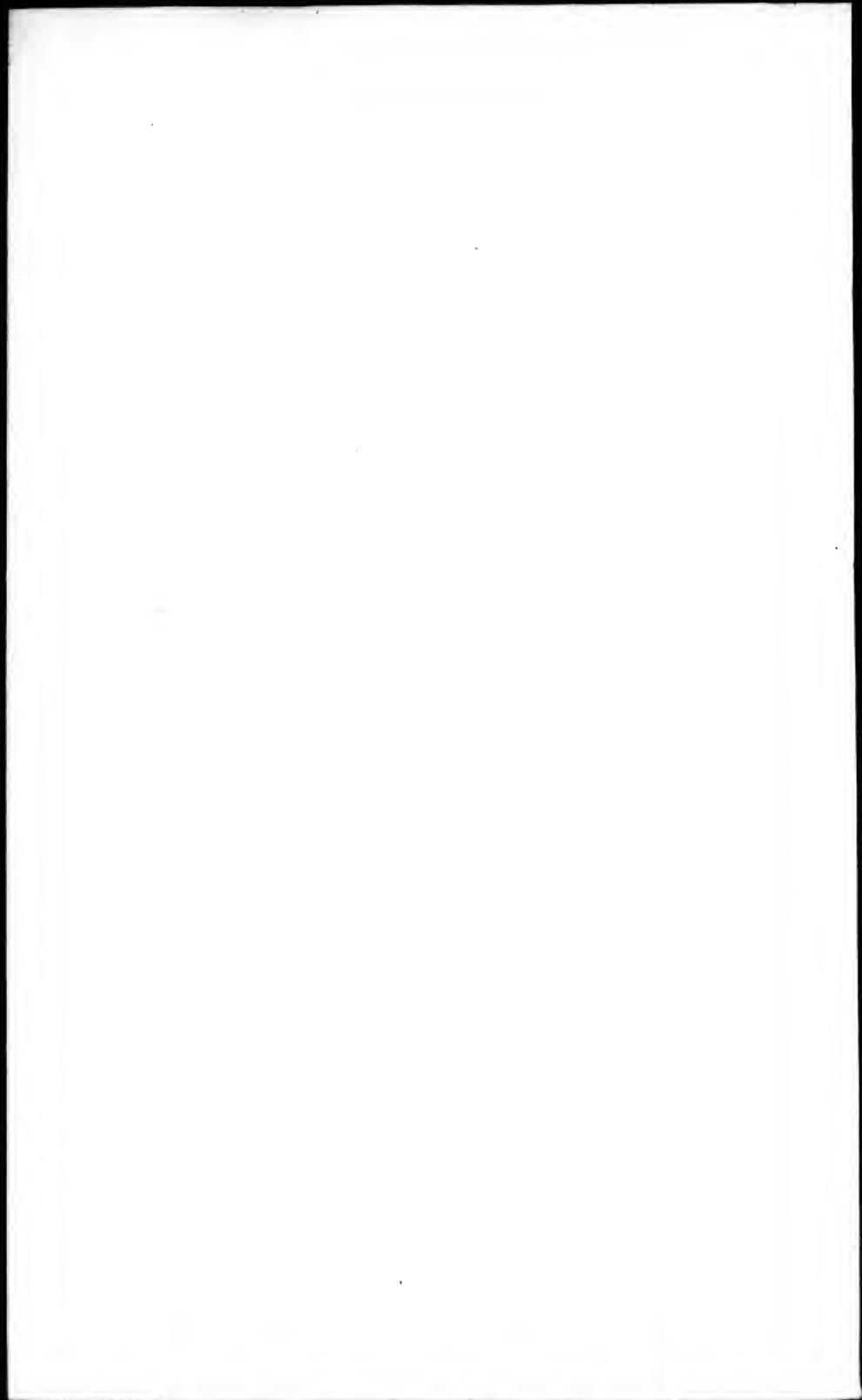
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AUTHENTIC

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF A

CORONER'S INQUEST,

HELD ON THE

BODY OF JOB BROOM,

WITH THE

COMMITTAL OF DIXON,

ONE OF THE STUDENTS OF THE TORONTO SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE,

FOR MANSLAUGHTER.

.....  
WITH NOTES, &c.  
.....

" This is the bloodiest shame,  
The wildest savag'ry, the vilest stroke,  
That ever wall-ey'd wrath or staring rage  
Presented to the tears of soft remorse."

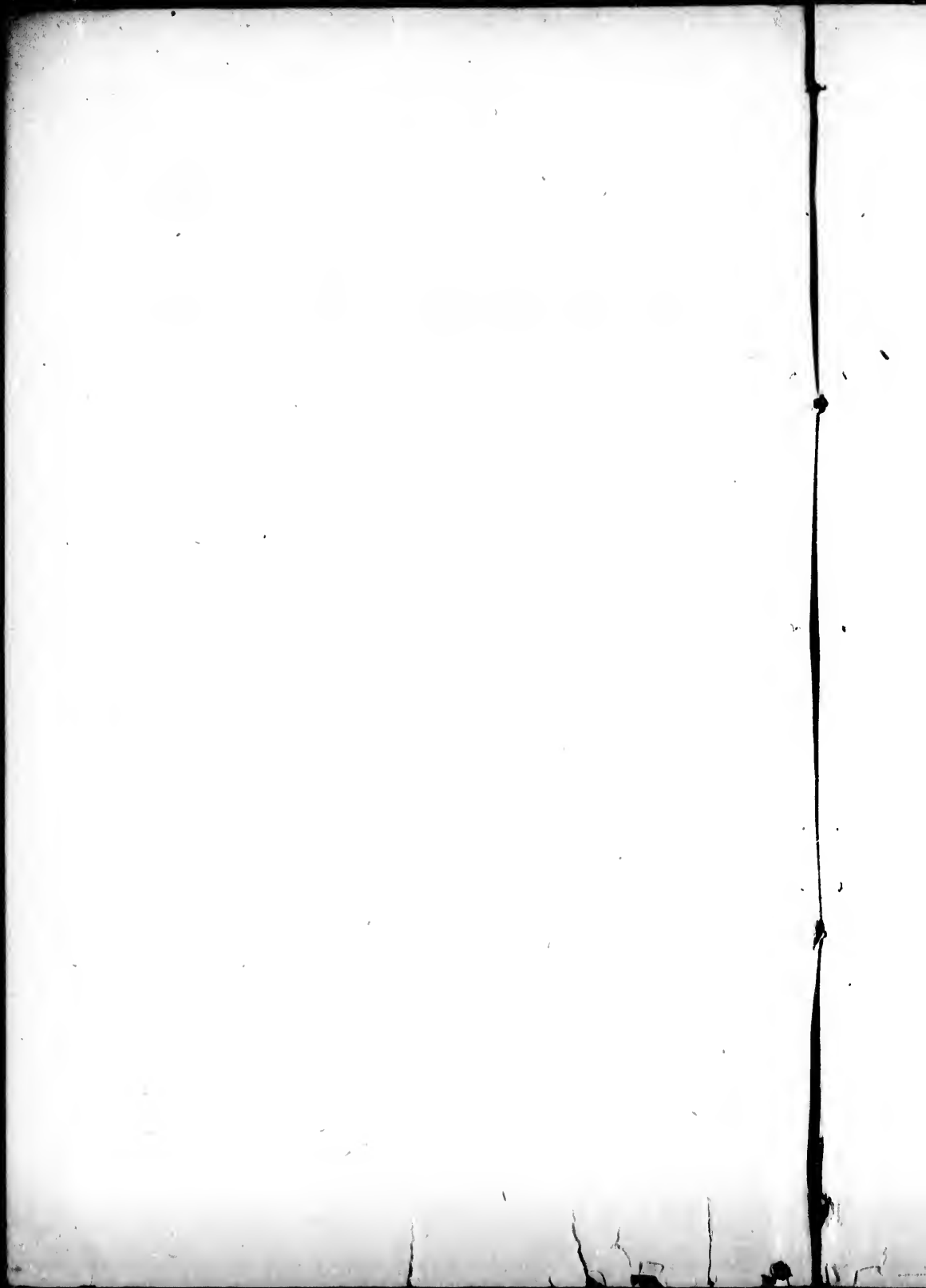
KING JOHN—Act IV, Scene 3.



TORONTO :

PRINTED AT THE LEADER & PATRIOT STEAM-PRESS PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

1855.



## INTRODUCTION.

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The annals of medical jurisprudence furnish few cases invested with so intense or universal an interest, as the one about to be submitted to public scrutiny. It cannot, however, be regarded simply or solely in its medico-legal bearings, even were it less inextricably mingled with the welfare of the community, the interests of humanity, the character of individuals; and, though last not least, the agonized feelings of a widowed mother and her orphan children. It presents, moreover, some points of vital importance, which will be rendered apparent as the the report of the inquest proceeds.

These points involve the stern necessity for a thorough and immediate reform in the law which governs the practice of medicine throughout this part of the province, the expediency of placing restrictions upon the dispensing of drugs, by unqualified and inexperienced persons; and the propriety of getting an act of incorporation for the Medical profession; similar to that enjoyed by the faculty in the Eastern Section: It would be well for the community at large, if, while the MUNICIPAL BODY is making an effort to bring about a more efficient system of police, to guard us from robbery; murder and arson, the LEGISLATIVE BODY would protect us from Quackery, a monster which, though to a certain extent invisible, (like him who was fabled to be buried beneath the Sicilian mountain), is daily immolating his victims through the length and breadth of the land.

The harrowing disclosures made during the following investigation; and the Cimmerian ignorance displayed by uneducated men, develop a state of things, which makes poor fallen humanity turn aside and weep for her race. Yet while it is painful to place upon record so much that is to be



deplored and reprobated, public safety demands it; and it is to be hoped that the Legislature of the country will take the hint conveyed in these pages, and act with impartiality and decision in the matter, by applying the pruning knife in the proper quarter.

It would be unjust not to acknowledge the untiring patience with which a most intelligent and respectable Jury listened to, and weighed the evidence in this critical and important case, during three successive days, and the ability, judgment and impartiality with which the learned Coroner conducted the whole proceedings. While there may be many who are inclined to call in question the propriety of the verdict, as being too partial in its operation, there is little doubt that when the case is maturely considered and arraigned at the bar of public opinion, the verdict will be, if not more just, at least, more comprehensive.

The excitement produced, in the public mind, by the circumstances which were elicited at the inquest, in connection with the fate of the unfortunate Broom; and a general desire having been expressed, throughout the community, in this City as well as various parts of the Province, to have the whole evidence as sworn to before the Coroner, collected and commented on, it is in obedience to this wish that the task has been undertaken. No apology, therefore, appears to be necessary for the appearance of this pamphlet; and, as the humblest efforts in the cause of humanity are most frequently crowned with success, so it is to be hoped that a steady direction of similar efforts in this case, may prove neither futile nor abortive.

Toronto, August, 1855.

N.B.—All the evidence in the following pages is a verbatim copy of what was sworn to before the Coroner and Jury, it may, therefore, be implicitly relied upon, as authentic in every particular.

## AUTHENTIC REPORT, &c.

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" Those that can pity, here  
May, if they think well, let fall a tear,  
The subject will deserve it."

HENRY VIII.—Prologue.

---

Upon the evening of Wednesday, the 25th of July, the following communication was received by Coroner King, M. D., of the City of Toronto, addressed to him by the Police Magistrate, George Gurnett, Esq.

Jarvis Street, 25th July, 1855.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,

I enclose you an information which has just been made before me, which I think presents a case that renders it necessary that an inquest should be held on the body of the deceased Job Broom therein mentioned. Will you, therefore, cause a jury to be summoned, and take all the necessary steps, such, as Coroner, you may deem necessary for a thorough investigation of the case.

You will please take care that the information be returned to me for file if necessary.

I remain, my dear sir,  
yours faithfully,

(Signed)

GEO. GURNETT,  
*Police Magistrate.*

JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner, Toronto.

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[The following is the information alluded to in the Police Magistrate's letter.]

*City of Toronto to wit :*

The information and complaint of John Broom, of the City of Toronto, taken on oath before me, Geo. Gurnett, Esq., Police Magistrate of the said City, this 25th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1855.

The said informant, upon his oath, saith, that yesterday his father, Job Broom, residing in Elm-st, died after a short

illness, and he further saith, that he has reason to believe, and does believe, that the death of his said father was occasioned by the improper administration of some poisonous substance, by an inexperienced person who came to attend him; and by the subsequent use of a stomach pump; and by a course of harsh treatment, to which he was thereafter subjected; all which complainant believes destroyed the life of his father. And he therefore prays that an inquest may be directed to be held upon the body of him, the said deceased Job Broom, in order that the true cause of the deceased's death, may be ascertained.

(Signed) JOHN BROOM.

Sworn before me,

(Signed) GEO. GURNETT, Police Magistrate.

Upon receipt of the above document the Coroner caused a highly respectable and intelligent jury to be summoned next day at the Police Court, at two o'clock, P. M. After opening the Court, in due form, the Jury unanimously appointed Drs. Hallowell and Philbrick to make a Post-mortem examination of the body of Job Broom; as the case appeared to be a very grave one, these gentlemen were authorised to associate another medical gentleman with themselves in the examination. Dr. McMurray and afterwards Dr. Grant, accordingly assisted at the autopsy, the result of which will be given in due course.

#### THURSDAY—FIRST DAY:

CITY OF TORONTO, } Information of witnesses severally  
TO WIT } taken and acknowledged, on behalf  
of our Sovereign Lady the Queen,  
at the Police Office, in the ward of St. Lawrence, in the said City, on the 26th day of July, in the twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen Defender of the Faith and soforth, before John King, M. D., one of the Coroners of our said Lady the Queen, for said City, upon view of the body of Job Broom, then and there lying, died as follows, to wit:

JOHN BROOM, of the City of Toronto, Carpenter, sworn; deposes and saith as follows: I am son of deceased, Job Broom; I am 24 years of age, my deceased father was the same

trade, and was about 58 or 59 years of age. He usually enjoyed good health; on Wednesday, the 18th of this present July, he complained of a slight attack of the bowel complaint, and towards night he felt rather worse, not being severely attacked during the day, towards night I was recommended to apply to Drs. Rolph and Aitkin for medical advice, at about half-past nine I went there, to their office on Queen Street; the first person I saw was a person who since called himself Dr. Dixon, I asked him to come up and see my father, who had a slight attack of the bowel complaint. I did not know who the person was at the time, I thought he was one of the partners of the establishment, I knew there were two partners (Drs. Rolph and Aitkin) out of doors, and that the person I addressed was one of them. I was recommended to go to Drs. Rolph and Aitkin's establishment beforehand, I knew where their office was by seeing their names on the door; I did not know Drs. Rolph and Aitkins individually before, when I came to the door, the first person I saw was the person whom I since understood to be Mr. Dixon, but did not know it before, another gentleman, which I since understood to be Dr. Rolph, was in the hall with Dr. Dixon, when I went in. When I first went in I was requested to take a seat in the hall, and asked Dr. Dixon if he would come and see my father who had bowel complaint. Dr. Rolph, to whom, by appearance, Dr. Dixon appealed, gave his consent by saying you may do as you please, or words to that effect, then Dr. Rolph left the hall. I remained about 20 minutes, while Dixon was making up medicine for another patient; and, after he asked me as to the nature of my father's evacuations, he put on his hat, turned off the gas and came with me, he brought six powders with him, of a reddish color, he gave one, after asking a few questions, to my father, and ordered them to be repeated every two hours if the looseness was not checked, he took the six powders during the night. In the course of the night, and towards morning, he appeared to get much worse, the complaint not being checked; I went down then early in the morning, about 7 o'clock, I saw Dr. Dixon in the office and told him to call up and see my father as the powder had not had the effect promised, as he had taken the whole of them and they did not check the complaint; he stating that the powders would cure the complaint, and that he would be all right by the morning. He came up about 20 minutes or half an hour after I saw him, to see my father again, and brought

some powders with him which were white, they appeared to be about the the same size of the powders he had already given, of which my father had taken six. I cannot tell how many, but I think he brought four, of which he took only one which Mr. Dixon mixed up for him, with direction that he should get one every half-hour ; after which my father went off in a drowsy sleep in about four or five minutes ; this was on Thursday morning 19th ; after Dr. Dixon had given the powder a little remained in the glass and he rinsed it out, and said he must take the whole to have effect ; he raised his eyelids immediately afterwards, that is four or five minutes after the dose was given, and said sir you are weak I expect we shall have to bleed you, I will go and fetch Dr. Aitkin to look at you. During his (Dixons) absence my father spoke and said "I think I am going;" about half an hour afterwards Drs. Dixon and Aitkin came, looked at him (the deceased) and said he must be raised up on the bed, Dr. Aitkin took then out of a case, in which there was a stomach pump, something which he ordered should be put between his teeth, which was made of bone or heavy wood, black and with a hole in the centre. Dixon and myself endeavored to put it between his teeth, but could not succeed until assisted by Dr. Aitkin. While Dixon and myself were endeavoring to get the gag into his mouth Dr Aitkin was adjusting the stomach pump, my father was perfectly insensible.

(Signed)

JOHN BROOM.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 26th day of July, 1855.

(Signed) JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner.

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#### FRIDAY—SECOND DAY.

Dr. Aitkin said he wanted the deceased to vomit, that he had a quantity of bad matter on his stomach ; he then passed the tube of the stomach pump through the hole in the gag, and then commenced pumping the contents off the stomach ; he continued so for some time, and then asked for some warm and cold water, which he mixed to form the heat he wanted ; and in all, I think, he (Dr. Aitkin) pumped in and out deceased stomach about 14 quarts of the contents. Dr. Aitkin and Dixon were particular in smelling them as they were pumped from the stomach. The water from the stomach was at

first discolored, but did not look or smell so badly afterwards, Dr. Aitkin remarked that it was the bile of the stomach. He, (Dr. Aitkin) appeared to be very angry with Dr. Dixon, my opinion at the time, there was something wrong between them to make him, (Dr. Aitkin) angry. About an hour and a half elapsed from the time he commenced to pump until they withdrew the stomach pump. The management of the stomach pump was altogether under the control of Dr. Aitkin who ordered Dr. Dixon about as if he (Dixon) knew nothing about the application of the apparatus. During the use of stomach pump by Dr. Aitkin, he frequently ordered Dixon to press upon the stomach of the deceased, as I understood, to assist the use of the stomach pump. From the time the stomach pump was used I understood my father was under Dr. Aitkin's charge. I first knew it was Dixon who attended my father late upon the evening of Thursday the 19th, previously to that I was under the belief my father was under the care of Messrs. Rolph and Aitkin, and at the time of the use of the stomach pump, I took Dr. Dixon to be Dr. Rolph, if I thought that Dr. Dixon was not one of the firm of Rolph and Aitkin I would not have allowed him to attend my father, I thought he was either Dr. Rolph or Aitkin. When I went into the hall I did not say I would not have any other persons than Dr. Rolph or Aitkin to attend my father to anybody. After the use of the stomach pump by Dr. Aitkin, he, (Dr. Aitkin) called for hot water, which was brought to him by the neighbors; and he, (Dr. Aitkin) dipped a rag in hot water applied, to his feet and legs which had the effect of arousing him a little, and he said "DON'T SCALD ME TO DEATH." Dr. Aitkin then stripped of his shirt and flannels, and he (my father) was entirely naked, some more water was brought which Dr. Aitkin said was not hot enough. The neighbors brought water which they said was boiling, Dr. Aitkin then applied it to his back and arms with the rag. My father appeared to be dreadfully tortured while this was going on. I said to Dr. Aitkin, do you think there is any chance of his recovery? He answered the chances were against him. Where the water had been applied the skin peeled off, at which I remarked to Dr. Dixon he (meaning deceased) is scalded, he answered, that he had three skins, and that the one peeled off was only one of them. Dr. Aitkin then left, and said he had other patients to attend to, and said to Dr. Dixon he should do the best he could or words to that effect. The hot water was applied for about an hour, my father fre-

quently, during the application of the hot water, called out "DON'T SCALD ME TO DEATH," particularly when the water was applied to fresh parts. The last application of the hot water did not appear to have any effect in the rousing my father. Dr. Dixon then shook my father violently by the shoulders, as I thought, to keep him awake, I did so myself, being told to do so, it appearing to have some effect; and continued to do so until another gentleman came in, whom I did not know at the time, but subsequently found to be Dr. Rolph; and there was some cold water thrown in deceased's face by Dr. Dixon, in presence of Dr. Rolph. He was sitting up in bed and naked before the window, I holding him up, and was told not to let him sleep or he would never wake, by Dr. Dixon. Dr. Rolph remained about five minutes, and after his departure we dashed cold water by dippers into his face with a view to keep him awake; after that I slapped deceased on the face and pinched him, for the purpose of keeping him awake, and by Dr. Dixon's approbation, which appeared to arouse him. My brother was telegraphed for to St. Catherines, on Thursday morning 19th, and he arrived at about three o'clock, P. M. and under the direction of Dr. Dixon, myself and my brother used him, (the deceased) very roughly, slapping him in the face striking him and pinching his legs, toes, and stepping on his toes with heavy boots, until four o'clock in the morning, at which time Dr. Dixon said he thought he could be laid down with safety, and that he would sleep until eleven, he was laid down and Dr. Dixon went home and said he would have a sleep. The deceased slept until six, A. M., he awoke and appeared restless, and delirious. On Sunday afternoon I called at Dr. Rolph for some ointment, by Dr. Rolph order, to dress my father back which my mother requested, with which his back and sores were dressed until death. Dr. Rolph remarked that they should attend to his bowels first, and then all would be right. Dr. Rolph told us it was dysentery my father had on Sunday last; we did not know before that my father was subject to piles which bled, it is a family complaint the blood *produced upon the Venæ* is not from piles BUT FROM THE SCALDS ALONE. He was never sensible from the time of his taking the white powder on Thursday, 19th, until his death, which occurred on Tuesday 24th, at 10 minutes past 7 o'clock, P. M. From Sunday noon he was exclusively attended by Dr. Rolph, who gave us some hopes of his recovery, and applied a blister to his stomach. On Monday night Dr. Rolph called in Dr. Tel-

fer; on Monday he brought him with him who with Dr. Aitkins saw my father, who then had received for some time repose, and Dr. Telfer said my father's case was not hopeless, and that he was laboring under a severe attack of dysentery. By Dr. Rolph's direction, on Sunday my father got some wine and beef tea, and on Monday a bottle of the best Port Wine was mixed with beef tea, corn starch, and some sugar, by Dr. Rolph, of which two wine glassfulls were given every two hours, until about five hours before his death. He had been taking it about 24 hours before calling at Dr. Rolph's. On the 18th my father's evacuations were frequent about two or three in the hour, and towards night they became more frequent; he was not taken to bed on the day he was attacked his regular bed time. The evacuations passed by my father, when I first went to Dr. Rolph, was of a natural color, but small of course, I speak of those I saw, his evacuations latterly and before his death were copious and *principally blood*. The evacuations became more violent and more copious from the time my father took the white powder until his death.

(Signed)

JOHN BROOM.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 21st day of July, 1855.

(Signed)

JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner.

---

JAMES BROOM, sworn, deposeth and saith, as follows:—I have heard the testimony of my brother, the last witness, and fully corroborate the testimony as far as facts are concerned, which may have occurred in my presence, in relation to the cause of the death of my father.

(signed)

JAMES BROOM.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 27th day of July, 1855.

(Signed)

JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner.

---

BEATA BROOM, sworn, deposeth and saith, as follows:—I am the widow of the deceased Job Broom; on the evening of the eighteenth of July instant my said husband being ill; I sent my son John to the house of Drs. Rolph & Aitkin, to request that they would attend my said husband; subse-



quently a person came, I was in the bedroom attending my husband, he brought six powders of a pinkish colour, he administered one, and ordered one to be given every two hours if my husband's complaint supposed to be diarrhoea did not cease, and said that he had no doubt but my husband would be better before morning. This person I afterwards learned is named Dixon. The complaint not having abated I gave the powders as directed, and in the morning, my said husband not being better I sent my son again for the doctor. Dixon came about half past seven o'clock in the morning, he asked after a glass and some cold water, he mixed a white powder and gave it to my husband; he opened one of my husband's eyes and said I will bring Dr. Aitkin to see you for I fear that we shall have to bleed you, shortly after my husband had taken the powder he began to moan, and when I went to the bedside he looked at me and said "I am going, I'm going." I ran to the house of a neighbour to ask her (Mrs. Sands) to come with me as my husband was dying, and when we came back his teeth were firmly shut and his hands clenched. Dr. Aitkin and Dixon came in a few minutes and Dr. Aitkin did not speak to me but he laid his hand on my husband's stomach and said "there is a deal of bad matter here, we must make him vomit." I replied that he could not as his teeth were shut. He (Dr. Aitkin) then gave Dixon a small black stick to put in my husband's mouth, and Dixon not being able to do it alone Dr. Aitkin with his finger forced open my husband's mouth, and put the stick across it. There was a round hole in the middle of it. He then passed a stomach pump down my husband's throat and brought off some watery matter and smelled it; he then injected warm water down the throat, and again pumped it out, and did so again; they spent about an hour and a half about my husband with the stomach pump; and Dixon said to me, "*those powders which I gave last night have not digested and we want to take them out*" after they ceased using the stomach pump, my husband appeared scarcely able to breath, and Dr. Aitkin asked me to bring some hot water and a piece of cloth. I ran next door and got some hot water and took it to him, it was quite hot, Dr. Aitken then dipped the cloth in the water and patted it against my husband's feet, and shortly said, "*bring me some HOTTER WATER, I want it VERY HOT, MAKE HASTE*"; when the water came Dr. Aitkin applied it to the calf (of my husband's) leg; my husband then started and rubbed his leg

violently; Dr. Aitkin did the same with the other leg and my husband started, again and Dr. Aitkin asked for *more hot water*, while I ran away for the water my husband's shirt was torn off, and when I returned his person was quite naked. Dr. Aitkin then applied the hot water to his shoulder; the water was very hot, and roused my husband very much, and he called out "DO NOT SCALD ME TO DEATH, LET ME DIE." Dr. Aitkin frequently repeated the application of the water, and asked for *some as hot as it could be brought*; he repeated the application, but after my husband said "LET ME DIE" he did not seem affected by the water, and then Dr. Aitkin stopped. Afterwards Dr. Aitkin & Dixon said that my husband should be kept up to the window, or else he would die; we raised my husband in the bed, and Dr. Aitkin left, and Dixon remained. Shortly afterwards Dr. Rolph came in and said "*I have come by accident.*" He ordered cold water to be thrown on my husband's head and face which was done without effecting any material change, and then feeling much agitated, said my husband is dying, to which Dr. Rolph replied "*these things cannot be helped*" he shortly afterwards left, finding that my husband was not getting better. Dixon said it is as well to lay him on the bed; my husband was then as if he were gasping for breath, apparently about breathing his last. Dixon then said that we must slap him, or pinch him or do something to keep him awake, for if he fell asleep he would never wake again. We did then slap my husband, shoulder, hands, and cheek which seemed to revive him for a while; Dixon went then to the house of Mrs. Sands to get some refreshment, and during his absence I tried to administer to my husband a little brandy which Dixon had ordered. I tried to pour a little into his mouth, but when it got to his throat he coughed and seemed revived. I then sent for Dixon who said give him a little more. This was between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. After my husband had taken the brandy he seemed revived, and took a little tea, and I took his feet and wrapped them in a blanket, and he seemed to feel a little comfortable, but still in the same drowsy state, and inclined to sleep, and could fall asleep if we had not continued slapping and throwing him about. Between seven and eight o'clock in the afternoon Dr. Rolph came, Dixon had previously stated to my husband, in order to keep him awake if possible, Mr. Broom, if you fall asleep I will pull a tooth from you. This appeared to agitate my husband very much, so

that when Dr. Rolph came he would not allow the Dr. to feel his pulse; he was very much excited. Dr. Rolph said I am glad to see him excited as it is favourable for him, but told Dixon not to say so again, they both then left. Dr. Rolph, said to me we are going to hold a consultation as to what we shall give him during the night; shortly afterwards Dixon returned, and administered some medicine which I did not see. Dixon ordered my husband to be treated more roughly than before, as he seemed more inclined to sleep. I was obliged to slap him on the back of the hands, and he raised his hands and said, "Oh! do not do so." Between twelve and one o'clock (night) we got some ice, and it was applied to his head. We continued the treatment until past four o'clock in the morning. Dixon said that we might then leave him to sleep. He said nothing about the wounds and burns my husband had received, *they were not dressed*;\* Dixon said they would not hurt. My husband slept until about six o'clock. He appeared restless; my son, who went for the Dr. again, Dixon came again, and some young Mr. — with him, they conversed between themselves, and then left. About eleven o'clock, A. M., Dr. Rolph came, and said my husband *was out of danger*, and required only good nursing; and prescribed the food described by my son John. My husband continued in the same drowsy state; and never once seemed to think or ask us why he was so scalded. He appeared to suffer much pain when stirred. His evacuations became more frequent and copious, one had almost continually to attend on him; and, on several occasions, until after he had passed some matter, he did not seem conscious of his state. Subsequently Dixon administered an injection, and said that no one should be allowed to see my husband; but to keep his head cool, for if he was excited he might go mad. Towards noon, on Saturday, my husband seemed to get worse. At night Dixon came and mixed two spoonfulls of brandy with some water and sugar, and told me to give him half of it in a few minutes. On Sunday, about nine, A. M., Dixon came, and my husband was then collected, and asked Dixon to judge of his case; Dixon smelled matter, which my husband had passed, and said it was bad. I asked him if my husband would live a month; and, he replied, *he will not be here for three days, he is passing his insides from him!* About noon, on Sunday, Dr.

\*This was a shameful piece of neglect, and must have contributed, among other things, to hasten the man's end.

Rolph came, and said, *the man is decidedly better!* We told him that my son James wished to have further medical advice. He said that *there was not any occasion*; I said, if Dr. Rolph would take my husband under his own care, and not allow Dixon to attend him any more, I would be satisfied. On Sunday he (Dr. Rolph) came twice; on Sunday I asked for some ointment to dress my husband's wounds; and my son got some from Dr. Rolph's House. On Monday, at noon, Dr. Rolph came; and, as we wished to telegraph to my son at St. Catherines, Dr. Rolph said that it was a critical case, and gave me no hopes. I said, I found my husband had got an over dose, he said that such things did occur sometimes, but that, then, if it were so, my husband was not then affected by it. I said that if my husband died I should consider HIM A MURDERED MAN! He asked for another Dr., and suggested Dr. Telfer\* to which we consented. Afterwards Drs. Rolph, Telfer, and Aitkin came, they consulted together and said that my husband suffered from a severe attack of dysentery, but not beyond the reach of medicine; when I was about to tell Dr. Telfer the treatment my husband received, Dr. Rolph said that they were not there to inquire into the conduct of Dixon. Afterwards Dr. Rolph administered an injection, and applied a blister to my husband's stomach. Dr. Rolph also made up some food of corn starch, beef tea and port wine, and ordered two wine-glassfuls to be administered every two hours. My husband got worse and was restless all Monday; my husband got hiccough on Sunday night. On Monday night he got a fresh change for the worse; he continued sinking and restless until seven, P. M., on Tuesday, when he died. Dr. Rolph had been to see him about nine, A. M.

I should have previously mentioned that after the stomach pump had been applied, and while we were throwing cold water on my husband, I observed his stomach swelled; I remarked to the Dr. that he was cold, and Dixon replied that *he was warm inside*. Subsequently I told Dixon I thought he had given my husband too strong a dose; and he said that my husband was a fine strong man, and that he had given a dose strong enough for two, and that he (Dixon) should have died under half the treatment my husband had received; this was on Friday. I also wished to remark, that during a con-

\*It must be remarked that, according to the evidence, Drs. Widmer, King and Hodder were each in their turn proposed by the friends, but rejected by Drs. Rolph and Aitkin for reasons best known to themselves.

versation with Dr, Rolph I remarked on the stupid state of my husband, and he replied, "well at this season of the year, in this part of the City, *in cases of Cholera, it is necessary to give strong doses.*" Dr. Aitkin put the rag into the hot water, holding the rag in his fingers at a distance from the water, and slapping it against his (deceased's) back. The box of ointment now produced is the ointment with which my husbands back was dressed for the scalds; and by Dr. Rolph's order.

(Signed)

Mrs. BEATA BROOM.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 30th day of July, 1855.

(Signed) JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner.

At the request of the Coroner, Dr. King, (who had to go over to St. Catherines upon Saturday, to attend a critical case,) and by the courtesy of the Jury, further proceedings were postponed until Monday, 30th July, at one o'clock.

#### MONDAY—THIRD DAY.

MARY LOWRY, being sworn, deposeth and saith, as follows:—I knew deceased. Job Broom, he was my husband's tenant, knew him about three months, during that time he was a sober temperate man. I was never in the house before his illness, and I heard then that he was dying, and went to see him. They were then using the stomach pump. I staid in the room until after the scalding water was applied. I was excited and took Mrs. Broom aside and said that if it was my husband *I would not have him so scalded, I would let him die.* I have heard Mrs. Broom's evidenee read and it is the same as I have heard her state several times.

(Signed)

MARY LOWRY.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 30th day of July 1855.

JOHN KING. M. D. Coroner.

ELIZABETH GAUGE, sworn, deposeth and saith, as follows:—I knew deceased, Job Broom, about three months, he was sober and temperate as far as I knew.—On Thursday the 19th Instant, Mrs. Broom, came to my house and said "Mrs. Gauge come in for my husband is dying." I went with her,

when I went in I thought the man was dead, his teeth were clinched and his hands clutched. I staid a few moments and then two doctors came in, I do not know who they were; they used a stomach pump; I was backwards and forwards to my house for water (warm and cold), I brought up about three buckets in all, and came away; two buckets after were taken from the stomach; after they ceased using the stomach pump they asked for warm water, which I brought, I did not know at the time who the Doctors were but I have since learned that they were Drs. Aitkin and Dixon. The water I first brought was not quite boiling and they said it was not hot enough so I went for more and got it boiling, I told the Dr. that it was boiling. Immediately after the water was brought, one of the Drs. dipped a cloth into it and threw it against deceased's feet and legs, and also on his shoulders and back. The stomach pump was used for about an hour and a half, *the boiling water was used for about an hour and a half, or two hours*, and then cold water was used. During the time that the boiling water was used frequent supplies of hot was brought in; I can't say how long, the cold water was used afterwards, but I saw it thrown in his face, and wiped off immediately. I do not know whether it was in a tea cup or a tumbler. I stated to Mrs. Broom that *I had seen many persons sick, but had never seen any one so treated before*. Dr. Rolph came in and said *he came accidentally*, he ordered the cold water applied. I saw him (deceased) afterward frequently slapped and pinched. About 7 o'clock on Thursday Dr. Dixon went to Mrs. Lowry to get a cup of tea, and Mrs. Broom and I tried to force a little brandy into deceased's mouth, we did so and it seemed to revive him, and he asked for some tea, we gave him some and he said that it was the best he had got since he got sick. I saw him slapped and pinched and shook after he had the tea.

(Signed)

ELIZABETH GAUGE.

Signed sworn and acknowledged before me, this 30th day of July 1855.

JOHN KING. M. D., Coroner.

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JOHN ROLPH, being sworn, saith: I am a Doctor of Medicine. On Wednesday night, the 18th inst., I was in my Surgery, and Mr. Dixon was there; a person came and ask-

of Mr. Dixon if he would go and see a person sick of dysentery, on Elm Street. Dixon is one of the pupils of the Toronto School of Medicine, of which Dr. Barter, of Upper Canada College, is President: I am a Professor in the School; *as he did not make any application to me, I thought he came, as many persons do, to get Mr. Dixon to render assistance in a case of inadequate circumstances to pay a medical man.* Mr. Dixon turned to me and said, "may I go?" or "shall I go?" I said, "it is a matter in which you may act as you please," the messenger made no appeal to me after that: and I left the messenger and Mr. Dixon to manage the matter between themselves." On the following day, about twelve o'clock, I was attending a case of dysentery in Mr. Leslie's family, immediately opposite, and I was called over to the house by Mr. Dixon. I went over because I had understood from Dr. Aikin that Mr. Dixon had administered a large dose of morphia, which might prove fatal. I found Mr. Dixon and ~~Leslie's~~ son applying hot water to the chest for the purpose of rousing him: *and, although I had no doubts of the propriety of using such a remedy although warm, yet upon examining him I found that he had become sufficiently conscious to justify its discontinuance.* In my opinion, every case must speak for itself; and, if I met a case which required rousing by those means, for an hour and a half, I should do so: and, if a patient was insensibly passing to sleep, he would be so to death." I would leave, and, therefore, in this case, I advised its being discontinued with.\*

*Question, by the Coroner.* Supposing you should meet a case of profound coma, would you think it necessary to use boiling water so as to rouse, for an hour and a half?

*Answer.* I should, in a difficult case, think little of the mere rousing, not being worse than the rousing from a blister: but I should not seek to produce rousing, but I might not, in such a case, be able to produce the full effect of hot water without it: and, with respect to the hour and a half, it would not be continuous application of hot water, but only the occasional application at necessary intervals, of more or less duration, to prevent the patient passing into profound coma. I would not hesitate at all near the body, nor, in my opinion, would it be necessary to do so in such a case; and, in the use of hot water for any length of time, I should alternate it with the use of cold.

\*It was about this when all the medical men were here.

**Q.** If, according to your opinion, the man was sufficiently aroused, when he said, "DO NOT SCALD ME TO DEATH!" with what view did you use the cold water?

**A.** *Because I found that only four hours had elapsed since the administration of the excessive dose, and, therefore, considered that its effect had not been sufficiently expended to justify the discontinuance of rousing means, and allowing to pass into a profound sleep, which might end in fatal coma.* I understood, from Dr. Aitkin, that the dose Broom had taken, according to Dixon's statement, was fifteen grains of the Sulphate of Morphia. I CANNOT EXACTLY STATE THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF OPIUM AND SULPHATE OF MORPHIA!\* But Sulphate of Morphia is stronger than Opium. I would think fifteen grains a poisonous dose. I cannot tell how long Dixon has been a Student of medicine, but he passed last Winter at the Toronto School of Medicine. I think Dixon is as well qualified as the ordinary run of Students; BUT IF MY LIFE WAS IN DANGER I WOULD SEND FOR DR. KING,† if I could not get any one else I would send for Dr. Dixon. *Every pupil, I think, would be at liberty to come into my Surgery and take any medicine he may think necessary!!!* I prepared the ointment applied to deceased, it was simply charcoal and lard.

**Q.** In cases of excessive abrasion do not patients frequently get rigors, and sometimes coma?

**A.** I think that such is the case when the function of the skin are suspended, but when it is mere vesication these effects could only follow a very extensive denudation. ●

**Q.** What, in your opinion was the cause of the death of the deceased, Job Broom?

**A.** In the first place, I would state, that he did not die from the effects of the dose of morphia. Those effects hav-

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\*Rather a humiliating confession for a Professor of Medicine to make thus publicly; that he actually does not know the relative strength of two of the most powerful narcotic poisons, OPIUM and MORPHIA!!! And yet he not only prescribes it himself, but allows Students of a few months standing to use it indiscriminately.

†This is rather a strange avowal coming from the man who, to serve his own selfish ends, burnt down his neighbour's house, that he might roast his own eggs in the embers! i. e., destroyed the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Toronto, deprived Dr. King of the principal means of subsistence for his family, and robbed the poor of the benefit of his valuable advice and experience in the General Hospital. Dr. King may well say:

"Why, what a candy deal of courtesy—  
This fawning Grey hound now does proffer me!"



ing passed away within the usual time, when recovery takes place, that being from ten to twelve hours. On Thursday evening, and especially on Friday morning, when I saw him, he was awake, rational, and conversed freely with me. The subsequent symptoms and course which they took arose, in my opinion, from the fever and dysentery under which he had laboured from the Sunday week, preceeding the day of his death, he was free from any of the appearances of the effects of morphia, when I saw him on the day of his death; but I believed that he had been attacked with severe diarræa, from the said Sunday week; that it was with suffering that he continued his work, at the house where he was working on Monday; gave up work on Tuesday, and was very ill the Wednesday, the stools being frequent, painful and bloody; Mrs. Broom expressed her regret that she had not called medical aid sooner. I got these facts from the family. I also heard from her that he had been for years subject to severe attacks of looseness of the bowels; and since he had been in Canada he had been similarly attacked. When I took charge of him and had learned these particulars, I found pain upon pressure, which I pointed out to Mrs. Broom, throughout the whole course of the colon. The tongue was covered with a brown fur, and the evacuations were copious, consisting of sanguineous fluid of a peculiar odor. It was so disagreeable that I found chloride of lime had been scattered around, but did not order it. This was on Saturday. I found the pulse disposed to fail as well as the temperature, the hands and feet being cold; I think that Broom had typhoid fever before he died. I cannot say from experience that vesication upon the breast is more serious than it is on the members, but, on the whole, serious injuries to the trunk are more serious than on the members.

Q. As coma is produced by vesication as well as by morphia, can you state the difference, if any?

A. In the first case the scald would explain the coma. In the second, no explanation but the excessive dose proved or suspected. In this case there was no denudation sufficient to occasion coma, nor was there any coma after the vesication was produced.

Q. Does not morphia sometimes produce symptoms of dysentery?

A. I have never seen or read of it doing so, small doses of Opium produce tightness of the bowels, but large doses pro-

duce looseness ; but, I am perfectly satisfied that the dose of morphia had no relation to the dysenteric disease of which Broom died. All the cases of dysentery which I have seen lately seem to be of a typhoid character. On Saturday I first noticed that there were typhoid symptoms. I recommended (I think on Saturday) Mr. Dixon to give ammonia, I afterwards ordered port wine and food. The dysenteric symptoms continued, and two enemata had been given.

(Signed)

JOHN ROLPH, M. D.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 30th day of July 1855.

(Signed)

JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner.

J. W. T. AITKINS, M. D., sworn, deposes and saith as follows, viz :—That some where between 7 and 8 o'clock, A. M., of Thursday the 16th inst., while standing in the office, Mr. James Dixon, Medical Student, came in and said he had a very bad case of vomiting and purging in an adult man, to whom he had been giving grain doses of opium, but without any benefit as the vomiting and purging still continued ; and then asked what I would recommend. Supposing the opium had been rejected by the stomach, I replied that I usually administered the morphia in such cases. He *inquired* the dose, I answered that I took a drachm of the mixture which contained a grain of morphia and gave it in divided doses, with intervals of ten, fifteen or twenty minutes, according to the urgency of the attack. He then asked me if a quarter of a grain of morphia was not the usual dose, I told him it was. Sometime after, how soon I cannot tell, Mr. Dixon, who had returned from seeing his patient, again made enquiry of me about the comparative strength of the M. M. mixture and the *solid sulphate of morphia powder*,\* alluding to the two morphia preparations which were standing side by side upon one of the shelves of the office, this was explained to him, hereupon he at once discovered that he had given *his patient*† fifteen

\*How a substance could be both *solid* and a *powder* we are at a loss to understand ; but we live in an age of paradoxes !

†Dr. Aitkin here tries to shift the responsibility off the shoulders of the *firm* by calling Broom "*Dixon's patient*," although it has been shown in evidence, that the family were under the impression that Dr. Rolph or Aitkins was in attendance

grains of the sulphate of morphia at one draught. In reply to his question as to what ought to be done, I stated that as the stomach was so irritable possibly it might throw up the dose ; but that he had better go back with some sulphate of zinc, of which I gave him twenty five grains, to be given at once as an emetic. Shortly afterwards he came with the report that emesis had not taken place and that the patient was becoming drowsy. I then took my stomach pump and accompanied Dr. Dixon to the residence of *his patient*, named Broom. It was nine, A. M. or a little latter when I left the office ; the following were the more prominent symptoms present, the patient lay in a sleep which was heavy but without stertor from which, by shaking and loud speaking, he could be roused so as to exclaim oh ! but into which he immediately relapsed *again* ; pulse moderately full and more frequent than natural, pupils very much contracted and the *jares* firmly closed. I directed him to be raised and held in the sitting position in bed, and proceeded to use the stomach pump, the introduction of the tube of which through the fauces and pharynx produced only a noticeable amount of uneasiness of the patient. The *stomach* having been fully and effectually emptied the tube was withdrawn. As the day was very hot and sultry, the patient was then placed opposite a window and seated on the edge of the bed with his feet hanging down, his shirts were removed and the lower part of his abdomen covered by a sheet ; cold water was applied to the head and neck sometimes continuously, more frequently by interrupted shocks. This, *by and by*, losing its effects hot water was applied in short and repeated shocks, which at first would hardly rouse him, subsequently, however, he became gradually more sensitive when the applications were diminished ; he had somewhat improved by or about noon, when I left him. During the period of my attendance I don't think, (and I observed closely,) that the bowels were moved more than three times, the evacuations which I saw consisted of mucous and *feculent* matter.

I did not again see the patient till the next Monday at half past one, P. M., when I visited him with Dr. Telfer and Rolph ; patient at this time quite rational ; tongue moist coated dark brown in the centre, clean along the edges and tip ; tenderness upon pressure over the colon, especially the descending. I saw patient again with same gentlemen at half past eight, P. M., a good deal of sinking had occurred since our previous visit, and Mrs. Broom remarked that

during the last two or three hours he (the patient) had wandered considerable. He still did not wander while I was present. I did not see the patient subsequently. The hot water used was not used *for the purpose of producing vesication,\** and was only used because water of a lower temperature had no influence in rousing the patient. The hot water was applied to the legs, the thighs, forearms, arms and subsequently to the trunk itself. *I do not hold myself responsible for the acts of Mr. Dixon.* I don't think any student capable of attending a patient.† If I thought Mr. Dixon capable I should send him to the Medical Board for his examination. I believe Mr. Dixon has been studying for a year, he may have been much longer for all I know. I think the cause of death was dysentery, and not from the effects of morphia or from any effects by the treatment subsequent to his taking the morphia. When I saw him last the deceased was sinking, and I think he was then treated correctly for that stage of dysentery, that was on Monday evening. I don't think that the treatment he was subjected to had any effect upon the *ultimate termination* of the complaint.

(Signed)

W. T. AITKIN, M. D.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, the 30th day of July, 1855.

(Signed)

JOHN KING, M. D. Coroner.

WALTER TELFER Doctor of Medicine, being, sworn saith, on Monday, 23rd, Dr. Aitkin called upon me to visit a patient with him and Dr. Rolph. He said it was a case of dysentery of several days standing; that a Student had attended him first and had given him an overdose of morphia; he had now got over the effects of the narcotic by the use of the stomach pump, warm water, fomentations, and keeping him

\*Dr. Aitkin here tacitly avows that he did not know the effects of boiling water on *living animal textures*. Probably his experience extended no further than its use in facilitating the scraping of pigs! We trust his lately bought experimental knowledge will make it available to him in denuding himself and some of his assinine friends of the Lion's skin they have been wearing, and, instead of this, wear a "CALF'S skin on their recreant limbs."

†Then, in the name of common humanity, why did you allow Mr. Dixon to attend in this case, and jeopardise the life of an honest, industrious man, upon whom the hopes of a mother and family depended? For shame sir! We know not whether the hollowness of your heart or the emptiness of your head is more worthy of being held up to public reprobation!

sleeping and making him walk for a considerable time ; but, that the dysentery still continued. We met in consultation at two o'clock. The patient was a stout made man, to appearance he was about 60 years of age. He was lying in bed on his right side, his body bent, his knees drawn up ; on pressure over the abdomen he complained of severe pain ; on requesting him to turn on his back so that we would have a better opportunity of making an examination, he did so with ease. His countenance appeared in every way natural, tongue red and dry, had occasional slight hiccough. Pulse quick and weak, extremities rather cold ; very frequently had stools bloody and watery, which were passed involuntarily in bed. Took some nourishing drinks with wine ; we ordered an injection of laudanum, a blister over the abdomen, and to continue the nourishment with the wine. We visited him again at eight o'clock, we found a great change, occasional delirium, his legs tossing about the bed, with severe hiccough, great anxiety of countenance ; no hope of recovery, treatment continued.

(Signed)

WALTER TELFER.

Sworn and acknowledged before me the 30th day of July, 1855.

(Signed)

JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner.

Dr. Telfer further states upon authority, that larger quantities of morphia can be taken than of opium with impunity ; 15 grains is a dose of morphia which would be generally fatal, 15 grains of opium is an over dose. In proportion a third of the dose morphia is prescribed to opium. From what Dr. Aitkin told me and from what I have seen myself I think the deceased died of dysentery.

(Signed)

WALTER TELFER.

Sworn and acknowledged before me the 30th day of July, 1855.

(Signed)

JOHN KING, Coroner

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NOTE.—The Dr., upon ordinary occasions, evinces a pretty large share of discernment ; but, upon this one occasion he has, most assuredly, allowed sand to be thrown in his eyes to a most alarming extent. The basis upon which he forms his opinion, as to the cause of Job Broom's death, is, to say the very least of it, exceedingly flimsy and superficial, being the mere *ipse dixit* of interested parties (Drs. Rolph and Aitkins) who tell the unsuspecting Dr. that it is a case of dysentery upon which he is called to consult. Again, his own examination of the case appears to us to have been lamentably deficient, and to have elicited symptoms of a paradoxical nature ; he says that " on

POST MORTEM EXAMINATION OF THE BODY OF JOB BROOK,  
ELM-ST., TORONTO, MADE JULY 26th, 1855, BY ORDER OF  
CORONER KING AND JURY.

The deceased was apparently about 60 years of age, body well formed and well nourished. It was lying on back, on a plank, in a bed-room. The face was bloated, countenance of pale ashy hue, and signs of decomposition were about the mouth and other parts of body. Muscles and limbs flaccid; no marks of violence about the head or face. On the neck, shoulders, arms, fore-arms, chest and body generally, there was extensive vesication. On the right side over the lower ribs and extending downwards towards flank, was the effect of an ordinary blister, as we judge from the definite outline and general appearance of the part. Proceeding to examine the body internally, we cut through a layer of fat from an inch to an inch and a half in thickness. The muscles of the abdomen were red and healthy. Omentum large and full of fat. External surface of stomach and intestines healthy. No effusion into the peritoneum; no

pressure over the abdomen he complained of severe pain," and yet "on requesting him to turn on his back he did so *with ease*." Even for the benefit of the non-professional reader this requires no comment; but, as to the "stools bloody and watery," did it not occur to an experienced man like Dr. Telfer that there might be some other cause than the alleged one for those appearances? and had he made a thorough and searching examination *per anum* would he not have discovered (as the post mortem examiners *certainly* did) the existence of internal bleeding piles, and there upon have arrived at a widely different conclusion as to the origin of the "stools bloody and watery." The Dr. says notwithstanding the "knees drawn up" and the severe pain over the abdomen upon pressure; that the "countenance appeared in every way natural!" In justice to Dr. Telfer, we must not omit to mention that he was kept in *total ignorance* of the existence of *extensive vesications by means of boiling water*, and therefore not being aware of so grave a source of irritation, it is not to be wondered at that he sought to explain the *origo mali* by other means. We are, nevertheless, of opinion that the Dr. should have been a *little more particular*. We should like very much to know what authority Dr. Telfer has for stating "that larger quantities of morphia can be taken than of opium with impunity." We are quite convinced either that the Dr. has egregiously misapprehended the meaning of the author to whom he alludes, or that his mental optics have been dimmed to a greater extent than we could have anticipated from the flattering confidence reposed in him by his friends Drs. Rolph and Aitkin. If the Dr. will allow us to put him right in the matter, we are certain that he will at once acknowledge the fallacy into which (for his own sake we trust (he has been *unintentionally* led. Dr. Guy in his work on medical jurisprudence, states in effect that *RELATIVELY SPEAKING a larger dose of morphia can be taken than of opium*, that is to say, taking for granted that the chemical proportion between opium and morphia is as six to one (and not three to one as the Dr. erroneously states) the *relative strength or physiological effect on the system* will be in favor of a larger proportionate dose of morphia than of opium, in other words you might prescribe one grain of morphia where you would not be justified in giving more than three or four grains of opium.

adhesions. Kidneys and liver healthy ; Spleen soft. The Stomach and bowels were carefully removed, and the respective parts having been secured by ligature before severance. The Stomach was first put into a clean basin, its contents—in quantity, from one to two drachms of dark colored fluid—were placed on a filter and reserved for analysis, the Stomach itself was washed in clean water, and the washing kept for similar scrutiny. This organ, the duodenum jejunam and ileum presented not the slightest trace of disease. The colon throughout its extent was likewise healthy, the rectum alone exhibited some traces of disease, in the shape of hæmorrhoids which were ulcerated in some spots in the neighborhood of the muscle closing the intestine ; there was some congealed blood on the inner surface of the rectum. The mucous membrane was smooth, unbroken and free from signs of inflammation.

From the well nourished condition of the body and the absence of evidence of *material internal* disease, natural or induced, we cannot infer the cause of death.

The unusual and extensive vesications upon the external parts of the body, we presume will be explained by some collateral evidence, as we have none to adduce in explanation. We deem it our duty, however, to direct attention to this condition of the body, as we consider the surface involved in vesication sufficient to cause very grave consequences.

WILLIAM HALLOWELL, M. D., M. R. C. S., EDIN.

CORNELIAS JAS. PHILBRICK, F. R. C. S., ENG.

JAMES McILMURRAY, M. R. C. S., ENG.

JOHN GRANT.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, the 30th day of July,  
1855. JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner.

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POST MORTEM APPEARANCE OF STOMACH AND CHEMICAL  
ANALYSIS OF ITS CONTENTS.

Internal or mucous coat was found slightly congested, especially towards its cardiac orifice, and more toward the pylorus, it was otherwise healthy ; the organ contained from *one to two* drachms of dark grumous fluid, which was removed for the purpose of analysis. The contents being submitted to a careful examination, were not found to con-

tain the slightest trace of any animal, mineral, or vegetable poison.

WILLIAM HALLOWELL, M. D., M. R. C. S., EDIN.  
CORNELIAS JAS. PHILBRICK, F. R. C. S., ENG.

Toronto, 26th July, 1855. Sworn and acknowledged before me the 30th day of July, 1855.

JOHN KING, M. D. Coroner.

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Cornelius James Philbrick being sworn, in addition to the report states, that from what I have heard of the evidence and seen, I consider the death directly occasioned by the external injuries, as I have seen death follow from smaller scalds. The throwing of the cold water and the slapping and pinching of the hands, would produce nervous exhaustion and promote diarrhœa. The only evidence of disease we saw was ulceration on the hæmorrhoids outside and in. Ulcerations are common in cases of hæmorrhoids. We are of opinion that it was from the combined effects of the morphia, and the subsequent treatment, that Job Broom came to his death.

The other medical gentleman engaged in the post mortem examination, having listened attentively to the collateral evidence throughout, after mature deliberation, handed the following to the Coroner.

We are of opinion, individually and collectively, that the late Job Broom, came to his death from the combined effects of an over-dose of Morphia and the means subsequently resorted to in the treatment.

WILLIAM HALLOWELL, M. D., M. R. C. S., EDIN.  
(Signed) JAMES McILMURRAY, M. R. C. S. E.  
JOHN GRANT,  
CORNELIUS JAS. PHILBRICK, F. R. C. S. E.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, the 30th day of July, 1855.

(Signed) JOHN KING, M., D. Coroner.

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ANNE DAWSON, sworn, deposeth and saith as follows:—the deceased Job Broom and his son worked at my house on Friday and Saturday. On Monday, after dinner, he said he had been poorly in the morning with his bowels; I think



he worked there all day, on Tuesday he made no complaint ; on Tuesday evening he asked for a cup of tea, which I gave him.

(Signed) ANNE DAWSON.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, this 30th day of July 1855.

(Signed) JOHN KING, M. D., Coroner.

UZZIEL OGDEN, Doctor of Medicine, being sworn saith, was present at part of the post mortem examination ; I saw part of the surface of the body, the head, neck, part of the chest and one arm. I did not see the whole body. I saw a *large amount of vesication on the body, which vesication I then attributed to decomposition* ; and not the effects of stimulants of any kind ; and that is still my opinion as regards the vesication I saw. I do not swear positively, but my belief is that it was. The body was in that state of *decomposition which would cause the cuticle to rise and cause vesicles.\** During the process of decomposition a separation of the cuticle took place ; and, it appeared to me that there was a collection of fluid underneath the cuticle *which hung in bags*, but from the insufficient light in the

\*Here the indulgent reader must bear with us if we pull up our jaded Pegasus and take a comprehensive view of the *grand discovery* developed in this part of the evidence. But for the courtesy of the medical gentlemen appointed to superintend the post mortem examination of poor Broom, this astounding phenomenon of POST MORTEM VESICATION would, like other scientific "gems of purest ray serene" still lie buried in its dark, unfathomed caves of ocean ; and Dr. Ogden, the discoverer, left to waste his sweetness on the desert air." The fates have been propitious however, and we are not, as we might have been, left to mourn our loss in accents of unavailing regret !

It was an artful dodge of the Rolphites to put forth their new *shqu-professor* just before the medical term commenced with the *prestige* of a new discovery ! to his name, cunning dogs ! they knew what an effect it must have in bringing students to the school ! ! But joking apart, when we heard this part of the evidence we did not know whether to enact the laughing or the crying philosopher ; as to the learned Coroner he bent his head forward, in his own peculiar way, looked daggers at him, from under his left eye, and exclaimed, "what's *that* sir ?" You certainly don't mean to swear to *that* ? Shall I put *that* down sir ? The witness assented ; and one could read in the Coroner's look an intensity of disgust and contempt. Like some of our learned Batrachian Esculapii who have to puff themselves up so as to appear like two oxen the bewilderment-stricken Coroner seemed to be impressed with the same horror that Aeneas was at meeting the ghost of Creusa (there being the ghost of a Dr. before him and not the reality,) while he coned over the line of Virgil, *sotto voce*, "Obstupui, steteruntque comae, et vox faucibus haesit ! ! !" True genius is always ingenious, for the most part magnanimous, and the Dr. might well (after this) afford to say that "the Drs. who conducted the examination were perfectly competent."

room, at the time the examination was conducted, I would say that it was utterly impossible to state what the true appearances were. I was present at the examination of the small intestines : when I went in I heard Dr. Phillbrick say, as he held up a small intestine, d——n it, is not that a healthy gut ? that man died of nothing but piles and the doctors ! From the manner in which the examination was conducted during my presence it was impossible to detect the morbid appearances, if there had been any. I could not say I saw any morbid appearances. I did not see the large intestines. The colon and rectum are the parts generally affected in dysentery. I heard some of the Drs. say that there were small patches of congestion on the mucous membrane of the rectum. My opinion is that the doctors who conducted the examination were perfectly competent. I cannot say whether the congestion was from gravitation or otherwise. From the evidence I have heard I think the man died of dysentery.

(Signed) U. OGDEN, M. D.

Sworn and acknowledged before me the 30th day of July 1855.

(Signed) JOHN KING, M. D. Coroner.

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Drs. Hallowell and Grant further state, that the condition of the blood in Typhoid Fever and consequent passive hæmorrhage, may be to such an extent from the bowels as to produce death. In the majority of cases there would be visible appearances on the bleeding surface.

(Signed) JOHN GRANT.  
WILLIAM HALLOWELL, M. D.

Sworn and acknowledged before me, the 30th day of July, 1855.

(Signed) JOHN KING, M. D. Coroner.

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EDWIN PRICE'S statement.—I am a senior Student of Medicine. On Friday morning, 20th inst, was asked, by Mr. Dixon, to see a patient on Elm Street, by the name of Broom, who was laboring under a severe attack of dysentery. Mr. Broom was, at the time I saw him, viz, Sunday morning, perfectly sensible, could converse rationally and correctly,

answering the various questions put to him by Mr. Dixon concerning his disease. The motion from his bowels, according to his son's statement, were very frequent and copious, so much so as to run through the clothes of the bed in SPIGHT\* of all they could do to prevent it. I saw some of the evacuations from his bowels, which they had kept in a pot to show Mr. Dixon, they were thin, slimy, somewhat bloody and very *offensive*† mixed with small lumps of *fecal*‡ matter.

(Signed) EDWIN PRICE.

### MR. DIXON'S STATEMENT.

On Wednesday evening, the 18th July, about half past nine o'clock, P. M., I was in the surgery conversing with Dr. Rolph, the bell being rung I opened the door, near which Dr. Rolph stood, when I was accosted by a person of the name of Broom, who requested me to go with him to see his father, who, he said, was ill with dysentery. As he did not ask Dr. Rolph to go, who as is usual with him, did not therefore offer to go; I asked Dr. Rolph if I might go, to which he replied it is a matter in which you must do as you please. The messenger informed me (Dr. Rolph having gone into the house) that his father suffered from evacuations from his bowels every four or five minutes. I then went with him, and he told me, as we went along, the passages were mixed with blood, and that he had vomiting; that he had been complaining for a few days, and that all day Wednesday he was very low, vomiting and passing bloody stools. Upon reaching the house I found the pulse 120 in a minute, the face flushed, the skin hot and the tongue furred. Mrs. Broom told me the passages were so numerous that it kept her constantly attending him. Upon pressure I found pain in the abdomen, he complained of great thirst; he had been more or less unwell from Sunday, and on Tuesday although he had been at work, he had from ten to twelve passages. I left him four or six powders, each containing one grain of opium, with directions to take one every two hours until he was relieved. On the following morning (Thursday) I visited him about seven, and found the symptoms unabated, the pulse 132 in a minute, the fever high, the tongue coated with

\*This is one specimen, among others, of the advancement Dr. Rolph's senior Students have made in orthography.

†Specimen No. 2!

‡Specimen No. 3!

a dark brown appearance, the thirst unabated, the skin still hot, and tenderness over the bowels still great, the bloody stools still continued. Mrs. Broom showed me some evacuations collected in a vessel, the greater part of which appeared to me to be blood and slime. I left him, and returning home consulted Dr. Aitkin, who recommended me to give him a quarter of a grain of morphia every half hour; and, supposing the preparation from which I prepared the powders, to contain a quarter of a grain, in every fifteen I administered one that strength. I subsequently found that the only diluted preparation in the office was in the form of solution—one grain of morphia to a drachm of water; and that there was no powdered preparation of a corresponding strength, I discovered my error. I took up with me an emetic of the sulphate of zinc and administered it to him; observing that he was beginning to get under the influence of the morphia, and fearing that the emetic might not be sufficient I hastened back to Dr. Aitkin to beg his assistance with the stomach pump, he immediately proceeded with me and applied the stomach pump; and completely and repeatedly emptied and washed out the stomach. Somewhat less than an hour elapsed between the administration of the medicines and the application of the stomach pump, after the use of the stomach pump he could at any time be roused so as to speak; and, by direction of Dr. Aitkin he was roused so as to prevent his passing into a comatose state, for this purpose Dr. Aitkin advised the use of hot water which was very effectual, cold water was also used, and pinching and slapping him. About noon the *Hon. Dr. Rolph* was paying a visit to Mr. Joseph Leslie's family, immediately opposite, and I told the family that I would try and get him to come and see him. Dr. Aitkin having already left, I called Dr. Rolph over and mentioned to the family who he was, and made remarks previous to Dr. Rolph's entry, that rendered it impossible for them to be mistaken as to who he was. Dr. Rolph gave me suggestions upon the further proceeding, and then went away. At my request Dr. Rolph called again in the evening; and being informed that he was taking pure brandy of of the strongest kind, and which had, without my consent, been administered to the extent of nearly a pint, he condemned it, and observed that the excitement under which he then labored was from that cause; Dr. Rolph recommended, in the place of it, the carbonate of ammonia. About four o'clock he went to sleep and slept until six. At

seven o'clock Friday morning I found him awake, free to converse, and only complaining that the laxity of the bowels had returned; whilst under the influence of the morphia the dysentery was arrested. He looked well and lively, and seemed refreshed by his sleep. On Friday morning Dr. Rolph saw him, and after that I had no special charge of him. Dr. Rolph entertaining an opinion that they might choose to call other medical advice; but as they expressed their entire confidence in him, he continued his attendance. I visited him frequently during Friday and Saturday, and repeatedly stated to the family that if the dysentery could be arrested I entertained no doubts of his recovery. During all the time the evacuations were very numerous. On Friday morning Mrs. Broom asked me to see some of the evacuations which she had kept for me to look at, I asked Mr. Price a senior Medical Student, who was with me to see them. They were mostly slime, but slightly tinged with blood, and exceedingly offensive.

(Signed)

JAMES DIXON.

At the termination of the evidence the learned Coroner addressed the jury to the following effect:—

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you all for the patient hearing which you have given during the whole course of this painful investigation; and I feel, from your intelligence and respectability, that my task in summing up the evidence will be very much lightened, in fact that it will only be necessary to direct your attention to a very few points, that appear of importance. Permit me to explain to you that my reason for selecting this part of the city for the purpose of holding *this* investigation was to avoid the excitement which prevails in the locality where the unfortunate man Broom died; and to prevent any expression of prejudice or feeling that might be exhibited towards those parties that may be implicated in the result of your enquiry. You have had precisely the same opportunity with myself of listening to the statement of the numerous witnesses; and where these have appeared to be deficient in any particular, the want has been supplied by the cross examination of eminent counsel. Both the professional and lay evidence have been full and comprehensive, and your character for intelligence and discrimination will no doubt enable you, without much hesitation, to arrive at a conclu-

sion. Should, however, there be any medical or medico-legal terms which have been made use of in the course of this inquest, which you do not quite comprehend, I shall be happy to afford you any explanation before you retire.

There is one point which more particularly addresses itself to me personally, and which cannot have escaped you, viz : that Dr. Rolph frequently, in the course of the cross examination, *quoted me as an authority for the use of boiling water!* against this I loudly protested at the time; and I am now happy in being able to fulfil my promise of affording a brief though satisfactory explanation of the whole circumstance. I deem this course incumbent, for, although to a certain extent personal to myself, it might warp your judgment in arriving at a proper conclusion.

The case to which Dr. Rolph has alluded occurred as far back as 1832, during the prevalence of Asiatic Cholera, which then raged for the first time epidemically in this city. The individual attacked was a daughter of Mr. Calumbus Gun. Smith, or, as Dr. Rolph facetiously called him "Old Vulcan," and the wife of Mr. Paul Bishop. The attack of Cholera had, in her case, run so rapidly that in five minutes after my arrival respiration and the heart's action were suspended, and it became necessary to resort to immediate steps for their restoration; on the impulse of the moment I seized a flint glass tumbler, filled it with boiling hot water, covering it *with six folds of course towelling* and applied it carefully along the insertions of the Diaphragm and over the region of the heart, this was immediately followed by the heaving of a sigh; the application was persevered in for about two hours, until a complete restoration of the function was the result. I must tell you gentlemen, however, that, in this case, *no vesication was produced*; and the constitutional treatment for cholera was persevered in until the patient finally recovered. She is now alive, healthy and the mother of a large family. Without wishing to impugn the veracity of Dr. Rolph, if my memory serves me right, *he was not present* on the occasion, although he stated to you *that he was*.

I shall not, at this late hour of the evening, trespass upon your valuable time, but request you to retire and deliberate carefully upon your verdict; and, as I before intimated to you call upon me for any explanation which you may deem necessary for the elucidation of your case and satisfying the ends of justice.

The jury then retired, and after deliberating for about half an hour, returned the following verdict:—

We, the jurors, who have enquired how, when, where, and in what manner Job Broom came to his death, beg leave to present our verdict:

That Job Broom came to his death by an over dose of Morphine, administered to him by Mr. Dixon, a student of Dr. Rolph & Aitkin, as well as the treatment afterwards received by the patient; and that Dr. Rolph and Aitkin are censurable for allowing (as Dr. Rolph stated they are in the habit of doing,) the indiscriminate use of their medicines to inexperienced students; and that the said Dixon was practising an unlawful act in administering medicine and receiving a fee, and consequently *find him guilty of manslaughter.*

(Signed)

T. McCONKEY, *Foreman.*

M. B. HORNIBROOK.

THOMAS MCGUFFIE.

J. R. MOUNTJOY.

JOHN PLATT.

PATRICK GRAHAM.

GEORGE DUFFY.

JOHN CURRUTHERS.

CHARLES FRELIGH.

DANIEL KEHEE.

JOHN HIGGINS.

JOHN WELLCOCK.

WILLIAM WALLIS.

MICHAEL RIELY.

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Counsel for the family of the late Job Broom,  
JAMES HALLINAN, Esq.

Counsel for Mr. Dickson,  
WILLIAM MacMICHAEL, Esquire.

## SUMMARY.

In this Province charges of mala-praxis seldom occur, it is not, therefore, to be wondered at, that the public mind should have been much agitated by the revelations made at the Coroner's Inquisition, held on the body of Job Broom, in Toronto, July 26th, under the direction of Coroner King. Besides the novelty of the case, other causes transpired to lend interest to the trial, viz—the fact that Dr. Rolph, who has been in turn Lawyer, Preacher, Politician, Soldier, Medical Practitioner and Commissioner of Crown Lands, was implicated; and again, his partner, Dr. Aitkin, who assisted in bringing a charge of cruelty against an Orderly of the General Hospital, for throwing cold water over the body of a fainting man, was directly mixed up in the alleged ill-treatment of Broom. When a charge of so serious a nature is made against a Practitioner, it is but justice to demand that the evidence be clear and explicit, there must be no link deficient; and, unless it can be shown that there was malice or gross and inexcusable ignorance, a jury should not be required to return a condemnatory verdict. The object of the following Summary is to point out the nature of the evidence given to the jury, and to show how correctly they came to a conclusion, under the able and lucid direction of Dr. King. There are many portions of the evidence which require a full and searching exposition in order to show how utterly at fault some of the witnesses were, in interpreting facts. Thus, it will be seen that Dr. Ogden's evidence is strongly in favour of the Medical Report on the condition of Broom's body, and corroborates the statement made by the examiners even in stronger language than they ventured or thought it expedient to use. Indeed, as Dr. Telfer remarked, "the Report was temperate;" in Dr. Telfer's evidence also, some statements are made so singularly inconsistent with after statements made by the Dr. that we are at a loss to understand his meaning.

The evidence of John Broom is as full and circumstantial as possible, and gives in detail the whole history of the last hours of his father. It will be unnecessary, just now, to enter on the question first raised by Mr. J. Broom, as to the liability of Drs. Rolph and Aitkin for the acts of their pupil, Mr. Dixon. We prefer to enter here on the evidence as to treatment employed by Dr. Aitkin, who comes on the stage in consequence of some revelation made by Dixon, which induces Dr. Aitkin "to be very angry, to order Dixon about, and to use the stomach pump." It will be noticed, by reference to the evidence, that at half-past nine P. M., John Broom (the son) went to call Dr. Rolph and Aitkin to his father. He saw Dixon, a pupil, who, after obtaining Dr. Rolph's quasi sanction consumed twenty minutes



in making up some medicine to take with him—six powders—*thus prescribing for a patient whom he had not seen, and of whose actual condition he knew absolutely nothing.* The medicine given at night having produced no good effect, Dixon visits Broom next morning, again *taking* with him “some white powders,” *one of which was to be given every half hour.* After the first, says J. Broom, “my father in *five minutes* went off in a stupor, while Dixon was in the room, who raised Mr. Broom’s eye lids and said, “*you are weak sir,* I expect we shall have to BLEED you,” fortunately, we do not learn that such an atonic mode of treatment was carried out—the more legitimate alternative was adopted, and Dr. Aitkin was brought.—This gentleman was evidently well informed as to what had occurred, for he very properly made instant use of the stomach pump, completely washing out the stomach with copious injections of cold water, occupying, according to J. Broom, one hour. “After the stomach pump was removed” Dr. Aitkin called for hot water, which was brought to him by the neighbors. He then dipped a rag in the hot water and applied it to my father’s feet and legs. The effect was to rouse him a little. My father cried out “DON’T SCALD ME !!” Dr. Aitkin then stripped him entirely naked. Some more hot water was brought, which Dr. Aitkin said was not hot enough, and the neighbors brought more, *which they said was boiling.* This the Doctor applied to his arms and back. My father appeared to be DREADFULLY TORTURED.”

The very first question that may be asked, after hearing such a revelation, is, can it be true? has not John Broom, under the excitement of grief, and, acting under an unfavorable impression, used language stronger than is justifiable? But for Dr. Ogden’s evidence, and that of the four medical examiners, we should certainly give Dr. Aitkin the benefit of the doubt; but after “the bags of serum” seen by Dr. Ogden, notwithstanding his perfectly unwarrantable way of accounting for their presence, we must let John Broom’s evidence be taken in the full sense which he gives to the words—what then, has Dr. Aitkin to offer in excuse for his precipitancy; as a Practitioner entrusted with the life of a fellow being, he should have been ready for any emergency; and, above all, in the midst of danger should have been cool and considerate—when the neighbors, who brought in the hot water on his demanding it, said “it was boiling,” surely common prudence ought to have induced him to test its temperature before applying it to Broom. As such an expedient was not adopted, no doubt the poor man repeatedly cried “DON’T SCALD ME TO DEATH,” particularly when the water was applied to fresh parts.” In the whole history of Medical Jurisprudence we know not of a parallel to this. Where, and from whom did Dr. Aitkin derive his authority for such outrageous measures? On what principle did he proceed when he employed such extensive scalding, to a man poisoned by morphia? but, for the present, we shall leave Dr. Aitkin till we hear his own story.

The testimony of the first witness, John Broom, is corroborated by his brother James, and further, (as may naturally be supposed) more fully, and in stronger terms by the bereaved widow, whose agonized feelings, while giving her evidence, scarcely permitted her to give utterance to her thoughts, and had a powerful effect upon the court; indeed it was necessary for her to dictate her evidence have it written down and read by her legal adviser, Mr Hallinan. The most remarkable additional features contained in her statement, and elicited upon cross examination, were the fact of the *scalds upon Broom's back not being dressed until two days before his death*, but allowed to irritate, inflame and ulcerate to such a frightful extent that the cloths that covered the sores were adhering to the poor man's back, and were saturated and stiffened with blood and matter! this was considered by Dr. Rolph a *circumstance of minor importance*!! It appears from the evidence, that was further brought to light, that Mr. Dixon very properly applied *some sweet oil*, in order to soften and remove the dressing that had so shamefully been allowed to remain, (*a source of the most painful and dangerous irritation*) until a short time before Broom's decease. We now come to the testimony of Dr. Rolph.

The Dr. commences in his usual bland oily manner by saying, that he is a professor in the Toronto School of Medicine, of which Dr. Barrett, a school master in U. C. College, is President.\* It appears from this that the "*school master has been abroad*," and having wandered, among other goslings, into Dr. Rolph's Medical Kitchen, has been cooked after the simple process of walking through the *Medical School*, and having undergone sundry culinary processes is now ready to be served up to the Students in the shape of "*tete de veau*."

Dr. Rolph has in his evidence developed most graphically the policy and teaching of his School, first that persons on account of alleged "*inadequate circumstances*," (alias paupers) are to be turned over for the purpose of being experimented on, to the tender mercies of inexperienced Students of a few months standing. This the Dr. so plainly avowed in the commencement of his evidence that no one can gainsay it. He afterwards enlightens us with regard to the "*rousing*" effect of hot water: and very properly places a restriction upon its continuance, he says, "*if a patient was sufficiently roused to say 'do not scald me to death!*" I would desist!"

Dr. Rolph proceeds to tell "*his honor*," the Coroner, that he would think little of "*mere vesication*" in a "*difficult case*," such "*not being worse than the vesication from a blister*." The attentive reader will remark that *this* is Dr. Rolph's deliberate opinion as sworn to; and the enlightened observer must admit that the Dr. with all his adroit attempts to parry the searching examination of Coroner and

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\*Let the government look to this plurality of offices. A salaried teacher in U. C. College, and President of the Toronto School of Medicine!!! with a tin handle to his name from the "VICTORIA" curiosity shop!

Counsel, has come off second best. We would seriously recommend him to go back to his books, where he will find it laid down as a maxim in the pathology of burns with scalding water:—"that in consequence of liquids often flowing about with great rapidity, and being suddenly thrown in large quantities over the patient, *scalds are frequently dangerous on account of their extent.*" It is well worthy of remark, that the danger of the *effects of fire is more proportioned to the size than the degree*, of the injury. A burn that is so violent as to kill parts at once, may not be in the least dangerous, if not extensive; *while, a scald, which perhaps only raises the cuticle, may prove fatal, if very large.* The degree of danger, however, is to be rated from a consideration both of the size and violence of the injury."—(vide, Cooper's Surgical Dic.) Again, "When a large surface is burnt, mortification sometimes makes its appearance with great violence, and very quickly after the accident; but, in general, the symptom the most to be dreaded in such cases, is inflammation. The pain and irritation often run to such a pitch, that, notwithstanding every means, there is frequently immense trouble in keeping down the inflammation. When the burnt surface is very large, the effects of the burn are not confined to the part, which was first injured; but even cause a great deal of fever; and, in certain cases, a comatose state; which may end in death. We could, (did our space admit of it,) multiply testimony upon this part of our subject *ad infinitum*, taken from the works of Dupuytren, Fodere, Christison, Taylor, Beck, and a host of others, we shall however rest satisfied with the following from Orfila.—speaking of a burn he says:—

*"Lorsqu'elle est superficielle, elle presente peu de danger si elle est bornée, amoins que l'individue, ne soit douce d'une grande susceptibilité nerveuse; si Elle est superficielle et tres étendue, elle fait perir dans un court espace de temps, tandis qu'elle peut ne déterminer la mort que plusieurs jours apres la chute des eschares si elle est profonde et moyennement étendue."*

It would be extremely difficult even for the most attentive reader to follow the Dr. in his long, rambling and tortuous course, which reminds us more of the circuminations of a harlequin on the stage or the wriggling of a well-lubricated eel in a mud pond, than the straightforward, honest, fearless statement of a man who courts investigation by means of the broad noon-day glare of truth and justice, instead of the *ignis fatuus* of sophistry and unfairness. We therefore, take leave of this part of the evidence, under the full conviction that the impartial observer will award it the amount of credit to which it is entitled, in proportion *only* to the paucity of gross contradictions, inconsistencies and mis-statements with which it teems throughout. Before, however, taking final leave of Dr. Rolph, there is one part of his evidence which cannot be passed over in silence; and, since it exhibits so woeful a deficiency in clearness and precision, we feel compelled to ask, whether his incomprehensible answer to the

question proposed by the Coroner, is framed to distract the minds of the jury, by the employment of inflated unmeaning verbiage, or whether (as there is some reason to believe) this pseudo-philosopher, this remodeller of national constitutions, as well as tinker of human ones, is so utterly ignorant of the science he professes to teach as to be incapable of giving a *straight forward, categorical* answer to a simple question. The query put to Dr. Rolph was:—"As coma is produced by vesication as well as by morphia, can you state the difference, if any?" Here is a *plain* question which non-professional men may wish to have answered, they desire to know, from Dr. Rolph, the difference between *coma supervening upon vesication by a burn* and *that form of coma resulting from the employment of morphia*. Instead, however, of endeavoring to enlighten the jury by explaining to them that in the *coma* consequent upon taking too much morphia *the individual may be roused*, and for a moment made to answer, although quickly relapsing into the same state; while in the *coma of apoplexy, the last state of fever, or exhaustion from extensive injuries*, such a condition cannot even be temporarily induced. Dr. Rolph says, "in the first case the scald would explain the coma!" Now, in the name of common sense, what is the meaning of this sentence? How does the scald explain the coma? This answer is about as satisfactory as that given by a certain would-be philosopher, who was descanting on the properties of oxygen gas at a dinner table, a lady, anxious to know what oxygen meant, asked the pseudo-savant—"What sir is oxygen?" why madam (said the beclouded philosopher, looking sorely puzzled) "oxygen is an invisible *something* which *explodes*, and madame eh!—in short madam, oxygen is just oxygen!"

Surely such a beggarly display of knowledge never disgraced a man, who, like Dr. Rolph, passes current as "*clever*" and "*accomplished*."

The rest of the evidence that follows having already been remarked upon in the course of the report, requires very little further comment; the reader will, however, not fail to observe the strange incongruity and contradiction which pervade the exculpatory evidence and the entire absence of even a shadow of scientific reasoning to bear out the conclusions to which the witnesses on this behalf thought proper to arrive. One most important fact, among others, was either designedly left out of the question on the supposition that the post mortem examiners would slur it over in their investigation, or its existence was, by most culpable neglect entirely overlooked; we allude to the *internal bleeding hæmorrhoids* to which Broom, as was related by the family, had been subject for many years. This is a point of the utmost importance; and, in the absence of post mortem appearances to justify the diagnosis as to the presence of dysentery, would account very satisfactorily for the "*stools bloody and watery*," mentioned so frequently in the course of the evidence.

With reference to the post mortem report there was not a *single dissentient voice* as to the temperate manner in which it was drawn up, and nobody could fail to remark the clear, concise and cautious terms in which it was conceived. The medical examiners did not even condescend as to the probable cause of death in Broom's case until the collateral evidence had been heard ; and then they could have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that nervous exhaustion, induced by the mal administration of a subtle and powerful narcotic, together with the harsh and improper treatment afterwards resorted to, had produced the fatal termination—treatment indeed, which brings indistinct visions of *auto da fes* before our eyes, and might bear a favorable comparison with the palmiest days of the inquisition. !

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NOTE—Notwithstanding the statement put forth by a scurrilous and mendacious print in this city, viz, the "*Daily Globe*" to the effect that it was by the recommendation of *Two Trinity Professors* who conducted the examination that Dixon was committed for manslaughter, we are sure that the gentlemen against whom this poisoned shaft was hurled, rose from the perusal of the paper that contained it, "more in sorrow than in anger" that there crawled betwixt heaven and earth a wretch so utterly devoid of feeling as to pen such a gratuitous and malicious falsehood ! We tell this viper, once for all, if he do not *cease*, we will give him something harder *than a file to bite*.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

### BUTCHERY AND QUACKERY.

(From the Hamilton Gazette, 2nd August.)

We never could understand why a certain portion of the Medical Profession opposed the enactment of Laws against Quackery, nor could we devise the determined opposition which the same parties gave to anything like rule for the regulation and control of Education. Now, however, the whole mystery is made manifest, and a Coroner's Inquisition in Toronto informs us that a system of legalised murder is permitted on innocent people, and families are exposed to death and ruin, to satisfy hungry wolves who gloat over the carcasses of their victims.

It is well known that Dr. John Rolph, the pseudo hero of Gallow's Hill, the adviser of the unfortunate Lount, has for some time pretended to keep a school for teaching Physic, and the better to accomplish his end destroyed the Faculty of Medicine in the Toronto University: and very lately thro' two of his ushers or second masters, made a wanton and wicked attack on two of the members of Trinity College connected with the Hospital; involving in the same accusations two poor servants of the Institution, Dr. Rolph and his party failed, and ever since, the press in their service has continued to yelp and cry over the discomfiture of the "great little Dr. Aitkin." Now, what we desire to exhibit to the people of Canada is, "the low degraded and mischievous state of the Medical Profession." Behold Dr. Aitkin aiding and abetting a man named "Dickson," in the month of April, in making violent charges against the Hospital for retaining in its service a person named Burns, for throwing *cold water* over a patient who had fainted after blood-letting—we say behold! this same Aitkin in company with the selfsame Dickson, first half poisoning a man with morphine, and then scalding him over the whole body, peeling off the poor wretches skin. A more revolting piece of cruelty never shocked a Jury—when the clothes of the man Job Broom, were exhibited to the Court, a thrill of horror ran through the crowd, and produced a deep and painful sensation. They could scarcely credit the evidence of their eyes, and as the blood dyed and blood stiffened garments were laid on the table the half muttered sentiment "cruel murder" passed through the room.

We ask whether such a state of things can last; is the medical profession, or rather the most respectable part, to be disgraced by the conduct of such atrocious men—are Messrs. Rolph & Aitkin to make use of a staff of ignorant young men to gain money; and are

they to inflict death blows on people in a manner disgraceful and perfectly unwarrantable. There is no excuse for them, the whole party knew what they were about, they had minds keenly awake to what was or was not cruelty. Cold water in one case they themselves declared to be brutal—they need not that an indignant and out raged public should tell them that ‘scalding water,’ thrown on a man is refined wickedness.

We shall now see what steps the Government will take in this matter.

The Coroner’s Jury, which sat on the investigation, have very properly brought in the following

VERDICT.

“That Job Broom came to his death by an overdose of morphia, administered to him by Mr Dixon, a student of Drs. Rolph and Aitkin, as well as the treatment afterwards received by the patient; and that Drs. Rolph and Aitkin are censurable for allowing (as Dr. Rolph stated that they are in the habit of doing) the indiscriminate use of their medicine by inexperienced students, and that the said Dixon was practising an unlawful act in administering medicine and receiving a fee, and consequently, find him guilty of “MANSLAUGHTER.”

After the verdict had been rendered, the Coroner stated that he could no longer accept bail for the accused, that being alone granted by the Judges could be procured. He was accordingly placed in the custody of a constable and sent to jail.

THE DEGENERACY OF THE TIMES.

(From the Daily Colonist, 6th August.)

*To the Editor of the Colonist.*

DEAR SIR,—It is an undisputed fact, that every measure has its consequence, be they good or be they bad; some people have foresight enough to tell the tendency of these results in the infancy of the measure. And that one which swept the faculties of law and medicine from the University of Toronto, was ushered in by the foreboding croaks of multitudes of wise human ravens, who could perceive nothing but ultimate confusion, in the policy of those, who under the pretence of reform, abolished those facilities for thorough and requisite courses of study, in these two ancient professions, held by an institution which was just beginning to show what it could and would accomplish under a new and sufficiently reformed system, even for the go-ahead times which we live in.

Selfishness and self-interest, spite, revenge and jealousy, are motives, which all the world over ought to be put down with an iron hand, and it must be with indignation that people now see, from the shameful facts developed by the late Coroner’s Inquest, held over the body of a *human being*, who, by the verdict of twelve respectable men, aid-

ed by the most talented of our medical profession, is said to have lost his life, from the treatment of an inexperienced youth, a Heaven-born and inspired physician, of one long year's study, under the direct encouragement of the Medical School of Toronto, begin to feel, that if their lives are worth a Doctor's fee, if their property and character are worth a Lawyer's fee, they had better employ men, who do and must from a long laborious course of study, under the tuition of talented and experienced men, understand the profession which they profess to practice.

If a man can be a Doctor in a year, why should we all not study for a year, and by this small sacrifice of time, escape the fear and anxieties felt by all fathers of families and others, both from want of confidence in their medical advisers, and sometimes from the unavoidable absence of medical advice in times of great diseases, when more than ever there is an urgent necessity for their assistance. Take a student, let him be ever so clever, after *one*, nay give *two* years study at the law, and where will you find men foolish enough to entrust their property, or even trifling business matters to him. And yet, oh! most curious fact, here are we all expected to trust our mortal lives in the hands of ignoramuses of half two years' standing.

But some people are fools, and others act like fools, shutting their eyes to facts like these of the most vital importance, while on things of a twentieth part of their weight they bestow double the attention. What is property and standing without life? who can take his property with him to the grave; but we are willing to risk our lives, without a reason for such a risk in the hands of a sect and class of men, who have and are daily shewing themselves to be most unscrupulous in the use of advantages which, by right, they have no reason to hold.

And therefore, it is generally to be hoped, that there will soon be found men of sound sense and fair dealing, who will shew themselves sufficiently untrammelled by party, to rectify these abuses, and by re-establishing the faculties of law and medicine in an institution which is acknowledged to be one of the greatest ornaments to our city and our Province, temper the spirit of reform, if reform it can be called which threaten soon to overwhelm us in such a vortex of confusion.

I am, &c.,

A LOOKER ON.

#### PSEUDO—MEDICAL MANSLAUGHTER.

(From the Quebec Mercury August 7th.)

We find in the Toronto papers the evidence taken at an inquest held by Dr. King, Coroner, on the body of one Mr. Broom, which resulted in a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. James Dixon, a student in medicine.

On reading the evidence taken on the first day's inquest, as reported in the "Patriot," and meeting with the names of James Dix



on and Dr. Aitkin, the Toronto General Hospital rose up before our senses ; and we must admit it,—we were fearful (knowing the infirmity of man) that the Trinity College influence was “pitted” against the “Rolphites,” and resolved to watch the results closely. We have done so, and we now owe it to the Trinitarians to confess that even in thought we have done them injustice. The Coroner and Jurors have done themselves honor, and the country justice, by their unbounded patience and strict impartiality.

We regret that our columns cannot afford space for the evidence entire, and we will therefore confine ourselves to a review of the circumstances connected with the case.

Having expressed doubts that some unworthy influence might have been at work, it is proper to inform our readers at this distance from the scene of slaughter, that Mr. Dixon is the same gentleman that assumed the character of a Medical reformer, and opened his career of agitation by publishing a letter in the Toronto Colonist of the 24th of March last, over the signature of “A Medical Student;” and put forth charges of the most serious nature and character against the Toronto General Hospital and its officers and servants, the charges against the latter only, (Burns and Donnelly,) in our opinion, having been clearly proved. The result was a public investigation before the Trustees, which commenced on the 29th of the same month ; and ended in Drs. Aitkin and Wright falling into the pit that their hero had dug for others. At the time Mr. Dixon became the reform champion, he had been *only eight months* a student in medicine.

The facts are briefly these :—The son of Broom went to the surgery of Drs. Rolph and Aitkin, and supposing he was addressing one of the firm, asked Mr. Dixon to accompany him to see his father, who was labouring under dysentery. *The Doctor*, a twelve months student, having visited the patient, administered a “poisonous dose” of *fifteen grains* of morphia, and the results may be imagined. By way of antidote, in addition to the stomach pump and the usual remedies, extensive blistering with boiling water was resorted to, and to such an extent as nearly to produce sloughing ;—in fact, so near, that the valorous Dr. Ogden in justification declared, that the vesication was “the result of decomposition” ! To this the gentle treatment of beating, slapping, pinching, and jumping on the toes was added, and in the face of it Dr. Rolph declares—“I am perfectly satisfied that the dose of morphia had no relation to the dysenteric disease of *which Mr. Broom died*,” and Dr. Aitkin, says “he died from dysentery.” Is there, we will ask, one sane man in Toronto, or elsewhere, that believes the declaration of either of them ? We heartily approve the delicacy evinced by the medical gentlemen retained on the inquest on behalf of the Crown, and contrast it with the partial and unblushing testimony of Dr Ogden, of whom Mr Dixon might well say,—“Save me from my friends.”

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In conclusion we are of opinion, that twelve months spent in the

common gaol will be by no means commensurate punishment for his offence ; but, that it will be the most valuable twelve months of his apprenticeship. We congratulate Drs. Rolph and Aitkin on their escape from more than the censure conveyed in the verdict of a highly intelligent jury ; as persons who have deserved it less than either of them have often been arraigned and compelled to "hold up the right hand."

#### HORRID CASE OF CRUELTY.

From the Toronto Correspondent of the Montreal Gazette, August 4th.

A case of great interest to the Medical profession has occurred in this city ; and in all its bearings, it is one of the most revolting cases that has come under my observation for many a day. On the 22d or 23d July last, a laboring man named Broom, who resided on Elm Street, in this city, was taken very ill with dysentery. His friends agreed to apply to the firm of Drs. Rolph and Aitkin for medical assistance. Accordingly Broom's son was despatched to their office to get either of them to attend his father. On arriving at the office, he saw a Medical Student named Dixon, and supposing him to be one of the two doctors already named, he stated his case to him, and asked him to come and see his father. The Medical Student accompanied him to his father's house, and gave the sick man a white powder. Immediately after swallowing it the poor man became greatly worse, and soon sunk into a state of torpor. He had every symptom of a person poisoned ; and, in truth, he *was* poisoned, the powder given him having been pure *morphia*, *fifteen grains*, although it was stated by the doctors in evidence at the inquest that seldom is there more than one grain of this deadly poison given to a patient as medicine. The student, alarmed at the state of affairs, hurried back to the office for the assistance of his principals. Dr. Aitkin returned with him to Broom's house, and having administered a strong emetic to the patient without effect, Dr. Aitkin then commenced to use the stomach pump on him, and the contents of the poor man's stomach were soon pumped out, but still he continued to sink. It appears that if he were permitted to sleep death would immediately ensue, and to prevent this, the doctors (for by this time Drs. Rolph and Aitkin had both seen him) resorted to every possible expedient, some of them of the most cruel nature, such as tramping on his feet, pinching him, pulling his hair, dashing cold water over his body, and finally applying *boiling* water to various parts of his person until the skin absolutely peeled off. The poor man begged of them not to scald him to death. But his friends, at this time, not knowing the object of these application submitted to them, on being told by the doctors that they were necessary to save his life. But every application failed ; after suffering the most harrowing and incredible tortures, poor Broom died on the 24th of July. His friends then began to feel dissatisfied at the treatment he had received, and communicated

the facts to Dr. King, who is coroner for this city, and who certainly deserves every praise for the honest and faithful manner in which he performs the important duties of that office. Dr. King summoned a jury, and after due examination of the body, several witnesses were examined, from whose testimony the foregoing facts are gleaned. Drs. Rolph and Aitkin were examined, and they showed themselves guilty of the bad taste of endeavoring to screen Dixon as much as possible. But Dixon himself admitted that he had given deceased fifteen grains of morphia in a mistake, and expressed great sorrow for his fatal error. In the present stage of the case, I will not remark on Dixon's conduct in visiting a patient and taking a fee, when not being duly qualified to practice, he was acting illegally; neither will I undertake to say which of the doctors is blameable for the horrid cruelties practised on Broom previous to his death. But I will let the following verdict which the jury of inquest returned, after several days investigation, speak for itself:—

“That Job Broom came to his death by an over dose of morphia, administered to him by Mr. Dixon, a student of Drs. Rolph and Aitkin, as well as the treatment afterwards received by the patient; and that Drs. Rolph and Aitkin are censurable for allowing (as Dr. Rolph stated they are in the habit of doing) the indiscriminate use of their medicines to inexperienced students; and that the said Dixon was practising an unlawful act in administering medicine, and receiving a fee; and consequently find him guilty of manslaughter.”

Dixon is now in jail, having been refused to be admitted to bail. The public here feel strongly on this matter, and they feel very thankful to Dr. King for the ability and impartiality with which he has conducted the investigation. The result seems to give much satisfaction.

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## THE BLACKIE INQUEST.

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### AN INQUEST—MEDICAL PROFESSORS.

(From the Daily Colonist, August 18th.)

Before that jealous discord and factious rivalry had destroyed its faith, the public held belief, that the practice of medicine was one of those liberal and gentlemanly professions, the members of which were, from education and intercourse, necessarily removed from the meanness of unworthy influences. Recent revelations, and more ancient antecedents, however, have cleansed the film from off the public eye, and clear to its astonished gaze is the unseemly strife of political faction brought to the bed side of a dying patient, legal enquiry distorted is made subservient to crush a dreaded rival.

Our readers will not have forgotten Mr. Dixon, the unfortunate pupil of Doctor Rolph. It will be remembered, that this young gentleman was the party who made the charges against the manage-

ment of the Hospital. As the enquiry into the charges was proceeded with the ostensible accuser fell into the shade, and the real and responsible principals came upon the scene. It remained no longer a question concerning a pupil's dignity and the sobriety of a nurse:—it was *Victoria versus Trinity*. At the revelations then made, and at the mode of the enquiry, the public were very naturally scandalized. Scarcely had the citizens of Toronto, whose feelings and whose honour were most concerned, recovered from the surprise and chagrin consequent upon this unnecessary and fruitless investigation, when to their horror and amazement an exposition of circumstances attending the death of a citizen gave ample proof, that the practice of medicine was no longer confined to the discretion and matured judgment of skilful and experienced men, but that the merest tyros were allowed to trifle with human life, and ignorantly administer powerful drugs, which in the hands of inexperience become a deadly poison.

We are led to these considerations by the report of an enquiry now going on, before Coroner Duggan, concerning the death of John Blackie. It appears from the evidence adduced, that the deceased had received a severe injury of the head some years since, and that he was warned against the danger of excess;—notwithstanding he was occasionally given to "spreeing," and was continually drunk for four or five days immediately proceeding an attack of *delirium tremens*. Doctor Philbrick of Yorkville, was called in, and found the man raving,—bled him and subsequently gave morphia. The man died, and a jury has been empaneled to investigate the facts attending his death.

Now, what we and the public are mostly interested in is not whether this man's death was caused by the ignorance and unskilfulness of the medical practitioner, but, first, with the animus promoting the enquiry; and secondly, with the mode of conducting it, as a means conducive to the ends of justice, and to the elimination of truth. From all that we can learn, both the investigation of the inquest, and the composition of the jury, are on public grounds, highly exceptionable. As motives have their most just and ample commentary in the facts to which they lead, our readers will form their own estimation of those, which animated the promoters of this enquiry; but of the facts as they stand we have a word or two to say, believing they intimately concern the welfare of the community in which we have the happiness to live. It will be needless to state, further than the mere allusion, that Dr. Rolph is the head of the Toronto School of Medicine—that the unfortunate Mr. Dixon, who figured in the Hospital enquiry, and more recently in the case of Broom's death, was a resident pupil of Doctor Rolph. It has been stated that Dr. Philbrick attended Blackie—and it may also be stated, because part of the jury have publicly admitted, that there is a desire to affix a charge of malpractice against Dr. Philbrick. This latter gentleman is, as we un-

derstand it, the Professor of Surgery in Trinity College, and hence the rivalry that has on the present occasion been so conspicuously manifested. On the occasion of the inquest at McClure's Tavern, Dr. Rolph was present, and, as we are informed, personally retained Mr. Barrett. Two young men, Messrs. Riley and Agnew, pupils of Dr. Rolph, were, in opposition to some remonstrance upon the impropriety, retained, if not forced, upon the jury. The more intelligent portion of the neighbourhood, in which the deceased had resided, were not upon the jury. The chances of a fair and dispassionate enquiry may be collected from the expressions of certain jurors, who were desirous that Dr. Philbrick should be arrested at once, before the shadow of the slightest criminality had been adduced.

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*To the Editor of the Globe.*

SIR,—In an article headed "DRS. DIFFERING," contained in your issue of the 17th inst., you have done me the honor to make allusion to me as one of the "two Trinity Professors" who conducted the "*post mortem*" examination in the case of the unfortunate Broom.

In order to give full effect to my gratitude for your honourable notice of myself, I have delayed until this late period making any acknowledgement.

Had your allusions been of a strictly personal nature, and had your niggardly economy of truth been less intimately blended with the deepest malignity of purpose, my task would have been easy, nay, it might probably have resolved itself into "the negative infliction of contemptuous silence." But you have wantonly attacked men in their public and private capacity, you have distorted facts, you have poured (as is your favourite custom), the pitiful chalice of your contumely upon every thing that is high principled, honorable and intelligent, and the culminating point having been arrived at, it is time that some counteracting influence should be set in motion, to neutralize the slanders, which you are disseminating broadcast over the country. The public, especially that portion of them that has partaken so largely of these injuries, will judge how far the above assertions are borne out by facts; to these alone is it my intention to appeal on the present occasion.

First then you say; "by the machinations of the two new schools, the University Medical faculty was broken up."

The kind and cordial intercourse that always existed between the late faculty of the Toronto University and Trinity College, and the determination so often mutually expressed to pursue our respective courses, guided by an open, honorable, and generous rivalry, at once gives the lie to so base an insinuation. The consummation of that unjust act is due to John Rolph, and to him alone. There were none who deprecated the thing more loudly than the medical faculty of Trinity College; they rejoiced in having a body of "learned" men,

with whom, (although belonging to another school,) they might meet from time to time on the arena of scientific controversy, and by an interchange of opinions prove mutually beneficial to each other. They felt that when such a staff of "enlightened" professors was broken up, instead of having matured intelligence to cope with, they would have nothing (intellectually speaking), but a dwarfish race, who, in proportion to their ignorance and presumption, were subtle, unscrupulous and treacherous! The principal being in an evil hour unfortunately admitted by an honorable and learned trustee, of representing the different schools in the hospital, ignorance and arrogance armed with a little brief authority, stalked abroad through its wards; a certain so-called "medical school," threw her inspiring mantle around a parcel of half-fledged, half-educated alumni, innocent of the very first principles of their own vernacular, and like so many pigmy Cincinnatus's they were dragged from the plough, or some other honorable occupation, which they relinquished with alacrity, when they beheld the gilded apples of Victoria Degrees hanging intempting prospective, and many of the infatuated youths will soon find, to their cost, that like the apples on the shores of the Dead Sea, they will crumble to ashes neath their touch. The next instance of your parsimony in dealing with facts, is, where, in allusion to the late hospital investigation, you say that "Trinity commenced the attack." Yes! indeed, they *did* commence the attack—oh, most veracious *Globe!* but not in the sense intended to be conveyed to your wondering patrons. They commenced the attack of "truth" versus "falsehood," "intelligence" versus "ignorance," of "deep experimental research and observation" versus "shallow notions, hastily adopted from ill-digested reading," and what was the consequence? Why, no sooner did the tread of the Trinity Professor's footsteps echo through the wards of the hospital, than every student, Rolphite as well as Trinitarian, eager to catch some inspiration from their clinical teaching, flocked to their standard, and left their quondam teachers talking to a beggarly account of empty benches! (Vide the *Globe's* own account.)

*Hinc illæ lacrymæ.* Here's where the shoe pinched: they withered with chagrin at the success which attended the teaching of the Trinity school, and "hating" that excellence they could not reach, they determined to inflict an injury upon the hospital deep as their revenge, in short, the Rolph school were the real commencers, abettors, and promoters of the attack in which they so signally failed. (Vide the Dickson Letter.)

You proceed, in the course of your remarks, to state that "the resident surgeon, who was also an adherent of Trinity, used every effort to depreciate the other school, and underlings were encouraged to throw obstacles in the way of its students." It required no effort on the part of the resident surgeon "to depreciate the other school"; for he felt himself in an entirely new position, as soon as the medical re-

representatives of the Rolph school obtained a footing in the hospital, viz : that of indoctrinating them in diagnosing the simplest diseases ! Could a man of common discernment, far less a man of acute perceptions like Dr. Clarke, under such circumstances, fail to distinguish the sterling metal from the brummagem, and evince, as he had a perfect right to do, his bias accordingly ?

In furtherance of your design to make the worse appear the better cause, you say,—“two Trinity professors conducted the *post mortem* examination, and, acting on their advice, Mr. Dixon was committed to take his trial for manslaughter, and Drs. Rolph and Aitkin were severely blamed for even permitting him to have the use of medicine. So far was the matter pressed that Dr. King, (another doctor) the Coroner, refused to take bail for him, and he lay in gaol until an application was made for his liberation to the Court of Queen's Bench.” The flimsy and contemptible manner in which you endeavor to make it appear that the responsibility of performing the *post mortem* examination rested with two Trinity Professors, is too transparent not to be at once perceived by the most casual observer, especially when viewed in connection with the fact of your having stated in the paper which pretends to give a report of the “Broom inquest,” that these very Trinity Professors had declined acting in the matter unless associated with one or more medical men in the city, entirely unconnected with any school ; the jury consented to this proposition, and two highly respectable and experienced gentlemen were appointed to assist in making the examination. Besides the gross insult conveyed to the intelligence and integrity of the Coroner and Jury, by an assertion so utterly devoid of truth, as “acting on their advice, Mr. Dixon was committed to take his trial for manslaughter,” you have shown a depth of malice towards the “two Trinity Professors” which nothing can extenuate. I, for one, distinctly expressed my opinion as to the responsibility of students, stating most clearly in my evidence, that I considered medical men responsible for the acts of their students, and that no pupils of Trinity College were allowed to attend, prescribe for patients, or dispense medicines, except under proper direction and superintendence.

You appear, moreover, to be ignorant that Mr. Dixon never was in gaol, but by the humane act of Coroner King, was permitted to remain under the comfortable roof of Mr. Geo. Platt, until bail was procured three days after.

With regard to Mr. Dixon, I believe he shared the sympathy alike of Coroner, jury, and witnesses, and not the less so that his youth and inexperience had on this as on a former occasion, made him the dupe of others.

The evident end and object of your article fully develops itself towards the end, where you say :—

The case of Dr. Philbrick differs from that of Mr. Dixon, in that, if any overdose of morphia was given to John Blackie so as to cause

his death, it was given designedly, not by mistake. Dr. Philbrick either mistook the disease, or else recognising it, he gave too strong a remedy."

Thereby instituting a comparison between cases that are not susceptible of it, and do not possess a *single* feature in common prejudging a case, and thus forestalling the decision of the jury to the prejudice of a gentleman, engaged in a lawful calling, and making yourself, as you have done all along where you could hurl your envenomed shafts, a violent and unmitigated partizan. But Sir, you have singularly failed—all the thunder of your artillery and that of your employers has been silenced by the voice of truth, and by a species of instinctive obliquity, has missed its deadly aim!

Whenever you attempt in future to overstep the bounds of truth and justice, or strive to gain an object by a *tortuous* course, adopt and act upon the motto of the celebrated Guizot—" *Linæ rectæ, brevissima,*"—otherwise all your attempts to oppose wrong to right, or pull down truth by the propagation of falsehood, will, like their author—

"Sink down to the vile earth from whence they sprung,  
Unwept, unhonor'd and unsung."

I am, Sir yours, &c.,

OCTO JUNCTÆ IN UNO

Below we give the statement which Dr. Philbrick was prepared to give as his evidence, upon oath, at the recent Blackie Inquest, but which the Coroner refused to receive, upon the ground, that he considered that the evidence then already taken had justified him in ordering the arrest of Dr. Philbrick. Had the inquest been conducted with common decency, and this evidence take at the commencement of it, the true nature of the case would have been seen at once, and the public would have been spared the infliction of proceedings, which have reflected little credit upon some members of the medical profession in this city.

DR. PHILBRICK'S STATEMENT.

On Tuesday night, July 31st, about half-past ten o'clock, I was requested to attend John Blackie—the messenger stating that he had drank a large quantity of cold water in the harvest field when he was hot, and that he was insensible and could hardly get his breath. I prepared such things as I thought likely to be useful under the circumstances, and started forthwith to Nathaniel Davies's brewery, where I



found John Blackie in his bed. Mrs. Davies was there. I asked her what was the matter—she said Blackie was smothering, and she was afraid he would die. I examined Blackie, who was insensible and unable to speak; he was in a stupor, and his muscles were set. I bled him—when the tea-cup was half-full of blood, he heaved a deep sigh—turned round on his side, and asked what we were doing; but although he had known me more than three years, did not recognize me. Mustard plasters, which had been applied to him by Mrs. Davies before my arrival, were ordered to be repeated and an additional one applied down the spine. Knowing the habits and constitution of the man, for I had previously attended him in two attacks of *delirium tremens*. I was on the look out for another. I therefore gave him two grains of muriat. of morphia and five grains of calomel—and left a mixture composed of epsom salts and magnesia, and eight drops of hydrocyanic acid, a quarter to be taken every two hours, till it purged. As I was leaving, Mrs. Davies asked me what I thought of him. I told her I thought he would not get over it, for he had congestion of the brain and stomach. I ordered him cold tea to drink. On Wednesday morning I again saw him—he was labouring under *delirium tremens*. I found him irritable and restless, and was informed that he had hardly lain still all night, and was delirious. The bowels had acted. I ordered him to stop taking the mixture (which had purged), and to keep quite. I directed the room to be darkened, and soup and toast for diet; also fifteen grains of Dover's powder at bed time, to be given if restless and awake. On Thursday morning I found he had not slept, and he had vomited the fluid he had drank. I ordered three grains of opium to be given at night if the bowels had acted and he did not sleep. On Friday I found that the opium had not produced sleep. I ordered him to drink beer and to take three grains of opium every four hours—if awake and restless. On Saturday afternoon about four o'clock, I found Blackie at Mr. Davies's house, he was sitting in a chair playing with the children. He was rational at times, but wild looking and uncollected in his speech. I went out of the house and beckoned Mrs. Davies, who was with him, to come to me. I then told her, she ought to have a man with him, as it was not safe for her to be alone, as Blackie might do her a mischief any moment. Finding he had no sleep. I gave him five grains of powdered opium and left six pow-

ders of the same—and same quantity—and ordered one to be taken every hour till he was quiet and drowsy. When I made the powders, Mrs. Davies said—you have not given him half as much as you gave Mrs. Fishburn. I replied, Blackie's constitution is not so strong. I ordered him to eat any plain food. On Saturday morning my servant brought me a message stating, that a man had called to say, that they were going to take John Blackie to the Asylum, and that I need not go up to see him in my morning rounds on Sunday. About three o'clock on Sunday afternoon, Thomas Allan came to request me to go and see Blackie, who he said was at MacClure's tavern, and was raving mad—and they could do nothing with him; he urged me to make haste, as they thought he would be dead before I got there. My servant being gone to church I requested Allen to put my horse to—he did so, and I drove him up to MacClure's tavern, where he said Blackie then was. As we were driving along, Allen told me Blackie had been drinking very much of late, and that he was scarcely ever sober—that on Saturday night he had got away from his bed and out of the brewery—and run about the fields in his shirt with a candle in his hands—that he ran into Davies's orchard at the top of the hill—pelted the apple trees with stones, stating that there were people in them—that he ran straight ahead through all the bushes, and jumped over the fence and down a bank 20 feet deep—that when they found him laying at the bottom, they at first thought he was dead. Allan asked me if I thought Blackie would get over it. I told him I had all along said that I thought he would die. We reached MacClures about twenty minutes to four o'clock, where I found Blackie sitting—he was wild looking, answered some questions correctly—others incorrectly—he was incoherent—I asked him to put out the tongue, after considerable effort he did so—he could not keep it thrust out of his mouth—his tongue was very tremulous, as also were his hands and arms—he had twitching of the muscles which doctors call subsultus tendinum—his pulse was about hundred—weak and intermitted every third beat—finding that he had had six of the powders I left on Saturday evening, and that he had no sleep—I gave him three and a half grains of muriate of morphia, which I took out of a bottle with my pocket knife—put it into a paper and apportioned seven lots to contain a half grain in each—I reunited these, placed the powder in a tea-spoon on a layer of sugar below,

the powder in the middle on the top of the sugar, and a layer of sugar over the morphia, so as to cover it—at this time I ordered a large dose of brandy—there was difficulty in getting John Blackie to take it. I withdrew from the room, thinking that if he did not see me he would forget he was taking medicine. I withdrew to another room. Blackie's room was small, and there were several in it, and many going to and from it. I had not been long in the room when MacClure came and told me that Blackie had taken the powder into his mouth—but that he had spit most of it out with a mouthful of brandy and water. He requested me to give Blackie another dose immediately, from what I was preparing, as he was sure he had not got much of it, and that if he did not get more Blackie would never go to sleep. When in the other room I prepared a solution of muriate of morphia in the proportion of one grain of morphia to an ounce of water. I made twenty-four ounces of the solution. In about three quarters of an hour after giving the powder, finding it produced no effect, I poured a wineglass full of the solution into a tumbler, and ordered it to be given with gin and water—this wineglass was small and tapered to the bottom. I considered it when filled to hold an ounce and a half. Bread and cheese were ordered and I saw him eat some. I then ordered a wineglassful of the solution to be continued every hour, with gin and water, and bread and cheese if he would eat it, till he became quiet and drowsy. I warned the people of the poisonous character of the medicine—and told them to be careful in its administration—and that as soon as they found Blackie getting dull they were to stop giving it. They asked me what I thought of him. I said sleep was his only chance, but I thought he would not recover. I ordered two men to stay with him, as he was likely to hurt himself or others. About nine o'clock on Sunday night the first messenger came to take me back again. He said the man was raving, unmanageable and could not be got to sleep. I went, reaching MacClure's about half past nine. They informed me that Blackie had just gone to sleep. I said let him sleep, it is his last chance. I asked how much medicine they had given, they said three wine glass fulls out of the bottle. MacClure asked me to prepare more—and said, if he wakes and has not enough to quiet him we shall never manage him. I prepared more by making a stronger solution, of morphia, and adding it to the former. On Monday morning I saw him. He was stiff—the

eyes were upturned, and he was in a state of epileptic apoplexy. I raised him in bed, found his back rigid, and the condition called opisthotonos was present. Pulse stronger than on Sunday afternoon. I attempted to give him brandy in milk—when I put it to the mouth he did not swallow it. I received a message in the evening to say he was dead. MacClure asked me to meet Dr. Winstanley, on John Blackie's case. I agreed to meet the Dr. on the Monday morning at ten o'clock. I was at MacClure's appointment—but the Dr. was not there. I am of opinion that the deceased died of apoplexy of the brain, induced by long continued want of sleep, as it usually occurs in delirium tremens.

C. J. PHILBRICK.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

To those who have attentively perused the evidence adduced in the case of Broom; and weighed it carefully, in their own minds, from the commencement to the finding of the verdict, several considerations of a highly important nature must suggest themselves. Whether we regard the respectable character of the jury summoned to inquire into this painful case, the talent, research and experience which the learned Coroner brought to bear upon it in the course of the investigation, or the patience, impartiality and intelligence evinced both by Coroner and jury, together with the thrilling interest of the case itself, we deem it not unworthy of being handed down among the records of medical jurisprudence, as an instructive practical lesson alike to coroners, jurors, and members of the medical and legal profession generally.

Our Legislators might, with infinite advantage to the community, act upon the advice so often urged for their consideration, viz, *appointing all future Coroners from the intelligent ranks of the medical profession*, for we hold it to be a settled point that no other class of men is capable of judging in those intricate cases requiring deep professional research and acumen; so long as an opposite course is pursued, the ends of justice will be frustrated, and the cause of humanity endangered by the flounderings of ignorance and the subtle machinations of prejudice and vindictiveness. We make these remarks in no carping or captious spirit, and we feel satisfied that they will meet with a responsive echo in every unprejudiced mind that has watched the proceedings of the last few weeks, and observed the striking contrast exhibited

between the ability, dignified bearing and straightforward course pursued by the gentlemen who sat upon the "*Broom*" inquest; and the ignorance, low-minded ribaldry and double-dealing displayed at the "*Blackie*" inquest, and it must be patent to every honest man, whose better judgement has not been warped by malice or spite, and also has been made thoroughly conversant with the facts of the case, that the last affair was a *deeply laid plot*, a second "*GALLOWS HILL CONSPIRACY*". The *author* of which has, by some strange coincidence and fatality, chosen the spot within hail of the very place where his treachery and craven cowardice were consummated in 1837! Thrusting forward the young and unsuspecting into the breach, while, like a despicable poltroon, he himself retires to some place of shelter and safety! Those who may desire some circumstantial proof of this will find it in the *fact*, (rendered almost incontrovertible by what has since transpired) that the whole scheme was concocted by some *minions* from the Toronto School of Medicine, (two of whom were placed upon the jury) at the instigation of their teachers, as in the hospital affair, fostered and encouraged by the suppression of evidence at the inquest; and, but for the determination of nine honest jurors, this foul conspiracy would have deprived an honorable, upright and enlightened member of society of his liberty! for the *alleged crime* of manslaughter. There is no remedy for such a state of things as this, but a *direct interference of the Legislature*; and unless it interposes its authority the liberty and even the life of medical men is placed in jeopardy. Think of a staff of medical professors with their students, a partizan coroner and barrister, (as counsel), hurrying out like so many blood hounds for the purpose of hunting down a rival! the thing is monstrous and must be finally and effectually crushed! §

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§Since the termination of the "*Blackie*" inquest one of the jury who held out for the non-committal of Dr. Philbrick, states that he is ready to make affidavit that a brother juror, a student of Dr. Rolph, tried all in his power to influence the jury to bring in a verdict of MANSLAUGHTER against Dr. Philbrick upon the ground that if they did not succeed THE TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE MUST GO DOWN!!! The straightforward and indignant remonstrance of nine honest men prevailed, however, and the verdict amounted to a *total* exoneration and triumphant acquittal!—(Does the above look like a *conspiracy* or not? Let an outraged public answer, "YES" or "NO!"



