

# GRAVE ROBBERS AT WORK.

## Theft of a Body Which Was Buried Only Two Feet Deep.

There was a good deal of excitement in Camden about two weeks ago when it was learned that for about two years bodies of colored persons had been placed so near the surface of the earth in the Butler Cemetery that dogs often scratched away the few inches of gravel and exposed the coffins. This excitement is nothing to that which was caused yesterday when it was discovered that the violations of burial laws had not only left the way open for grave robbers, but that in at least one case "body snatchers" had made the best of their opportunities.

When it was found that the bodies had been placed dangerously near the surface of the earth Dempsey Butler, the proprietor of the cemetery, promised the Board of Health that such corpses as were not interred at a reasonable depth would be reburied. Mr. Butler and two assistants yesterday started out on this mission and they made a discovery which will undoubtedly lead to a postponement of the reinterment of at least one body.

### THE BODY WAS MISSING.

Work was begun at one end of the cemetery and in a very short time a coffin box was found peeping through the gravel, and Superintendent William Purnell proceeded to dig it out. When he lifted this particular coffin from the grave he noticed a crack in the lid which looked as if it had been pried open by some blunt instrument. This aroused the suspicions of the superintendent, and he decided to make an examination.

Much to his horror when he pulled off the lid he discovered that both the coffin and the corpse were missing. The only thing left to show that a corpse had ever been in the box was a winding sheet, such as is usually wrapped around the dead. There were a number of bricks in the box which, with the aid of mortar, had been shaped to look like a human body, and over this the sheet had been thrown.

### THE COLORED POPULATION EXCITED.

All of the colored population of South Camden are alarmed, especially those who have relatives buried in the Butler Plot, owing to the fact that no record can be found as to who was buried in this particular grave.

Mrs. Rose, who lives near the cemetery, says that early in February she noticed one evening just before dark an undertaker's wagon standing near the cemetery and four persons working around one of the graves. These circumstances were reported to Mr. Butler. The latter says he visited the graveyard the next day and found footprints in the snow, which partly covered the ground. He is of the opinion that the pathway made by these four unknown visitors led to the grave where the discovery was made yesterday. Alexander Lopen corroborates Mrs. Rose's story.