

# **THE DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD, A PLEA FOR CREMATION**

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The Disposal of the dead, a plea for cremation by Edward J. Bermingham

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**EDWARD J. BERMINGHAM**

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DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD,

A PLEA FOR CREMATION.



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## P R E F A C E .

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The subject of cremation has, of late years, awakened much interest in the minds of those studying the wise provisions of sanitary laws, and has been discussed before medical societies, and indeed even in the semi-medical, semi-popular literature of the day.

The present volume is given to the public as an exposition of the present state of the subject. Its mission is to point out the evils of inhumation, to assist in removing the prejudice against cremation, and to secure new advocates for this system of disposal of the dead.





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## *Chapter I.*

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### DIFFERENT METHODS OF DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

Placing the Body on the Surface of the Earth — In Trees and in the Air — In Natural Caves in the Rocks — In Artificial Earth Caves — In the Sea — In the Earth *directly* — Cremation - Smoking and Exposure — Mummification — Encasement in Solids (cements, etc.) — Burial in Coffins.

In beginning the consideration of the question of the disposal of the dead it may not be uninteresting to briefly record some of the various methods resorted to by savage, as well as by civilized nations, for the disposal of human remains.

Some of the plans adopted seem to have had for their object simply the honoring of the dead, without regard to the effects on the living of the disposition of bodies undergoing more or less speedy decomposition. Such were those con-