

CATASTROPHE IN A VIRGINIA COAL MINE.

Full Particulars of the Terrible Explosion at the Clover Hill Coal Pits—List of the Killed—Scenes and Incidents, &c. &c.

From the Richmond Times of Saturday. About 8 o'clock yesterday morning Messrs. William H. Haxall, (President), William H. Haxall, and John Freeland, of the Board of Directors of the Clover Hill Coal Mining Company, D. S. Woodruff, Treasurer of the Company, and others of the Company, left by a special train for the scene of the occurrence.

On the morning of the explosion young Marshall went down first, and he stated he did not see the fire. At 10 o'clock he was relieved by John Weale. Just previous to the explosion, one of the men who came out of the pit asked Weale, as was the custom, "How's everything?" Weale, who was on his way to the shaft to get his dinner, at once responded to the question, "Everything's all right."

The part of the pit where the explosion is supposed to have occurred is eight hundred and sixty feet below the surface of the earth, and about nine hundred feet from the mouth of the pit. The pit is 5500 feet deep. At the time of the explosion the miners were at work in both the northern and southern portions of it. The report of the explosion is represented as being tremendous, and was heard ten and fifteen miles off. It was heard in the city of Richmond, and was heard in the city of Washington, D. C.

The explosion occurred at half-past 2 o'clock last Wednesday afternoon. The first intimation that the workmen at the mouth of the pit had of it was a tremendous report, apparently from the main level of the mine, which was followed by a cloud of dust and smoke issuing from the mouths of both the up-cast and down-cast shafts. (The miners descend by one shaft and ascend by the other, hence the names "up-cast" shaft and "down-cast" shaft.) Before the workmen had recovered from their surprise, another explosion took place, and in five minutes was followed by another. By these explosions the wood work around the mouth of the shaft was blown away, and the shaft was as wide as were the portions of the shafts. The large iron bucket, in which at the time of the explosion was a load of coal, was being drawn up, and was nearly at the top, when it was blown to pieces, and only a few particles could be found.

The explosion at first caused a perfect panic among the workmen around the mouth of the pit, but they soon recovered and set to work to help down the shaft. The first man to go down was Mr. Owens, superintendent of the pits, and Mr. Cox, with the assistance of Mr. Thomas Marshall, Sr., went to work to replace the ropes, which were broken by the explosion, and to ascend by the shaft after the ropes were put in place, they succeeded in doing so. While fixing these ropes an hour and a half elapsed, and it was about 5 o'clock when the first descent was made by Messrs. Thomas Marshall, Sr., John Strong, and Mr. Haxall. They were in the bucket, with two Davy lamps for a light. They descended to within one hundred feet of the bottom, and found that they had gotten to the end of the telegraph wire which connected with the engine-room at the top of the shaft. After calling to ascertain if any one was alive in hearing, they ascended to procure more wire. Wire was obtained, and in an hour after ascending, they again descended to the bottom of the pit. At the bottom of the shaft, they found water forty feet below the level of the pit. This they found to be entirely choked up with broken timber, bricks, sand dirt. They got out of the bucket, and Mr. Marshall attempted to go to the south shaft, but he was unable to do so, and returned to the north shaft. He was killed by the explosion, but found no dead human bodies could be seen, nor were there any traces to show that any of the miners who were in the pit had survived. The party, after satisfying themselves that nothing was left to be done, returned to the surface, and there they found that the ropes were stopped up immediately, but they had to desist from stopping up the south shaft on account of the smoke and impure air which arose from it. A pipe was afterwards put down it, and on yesterday the work was completed.

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RECONSTRUCTION.

First Military District. GENERAL SCHOFIELD'S ORDER PROVIDING FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN VIRGINIA, &c. RICHMOND, Va., April 6.—The following has been issued, providing for the recommendation for appointment of persons to form Boards of Registration, in pursuance of the act supplementary to the "Act to provide for the more efficient government of the Rebel States."

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DISTRICT, STATE OF VIRGINIA, RICHMOND, Va., April 5, 1867.—A Board of Officers is hereby appointed to select and recommend to the commanding General, for appointment, persons to form Boards of Registration throughout this District, as required by the act of March 23, 1867. The persons so appointed will be one registering officer for each magisterial district of a county, or ward of a city, and two, four, or six for the county or city, at large, according to the size of the county or city, so as to form with the registering office of the several districts or wards, one or three Boards of Registration for the county or city.

An officer of the army or Freedmen's Bureau will, if possible, be selected as the registering officer, and the other two will be selected from the following classes of persons, viz.—1st, Officers of the United States army or of volunteers who have been honorably discharged after meritorious services during the late war; 2d, Loyal citizens of the county or ward in which they are respectively acting as registering officers having the proper qualifications.

Those Boards composed of men who not only are now, but always have been loyal to the Government of the United States; men of high character and sound judgment; men who are graduates, men who have the confidence of all classes of citizens.

No registering officer shall be a candidate for any elective office while holding the office of registering officer.

With their recommendations for appointment the Board will report to the commanding General a brief list of the names of the persons recommended, with their selections as based.

The Board will report from time to time their selections for the several districts or wards, without waiting to complete the list.

DETAILS FOR THE BOARD. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel George Gibson, Jr., Captain 11th United States Infantry. Brevet Major C. R. Layton, Captain 11th United States Infantry. Brevet Major D. M. Vance, Captain 11th United States Infantry. Captain G. M. Mallory, 41st United States Infantry. Captain J. A. Bates, 5th United States Infantry. By command of Brigadier and Brevet Major-General J. M. Schofield. (Signed) L. F. CHALFINS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Enforcement of the Military Bill in Alabama. Major-General Wager Swayne has issued the following order: HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 6, 1867. The undersigned is charged with the administration of the Military Reconstruction bill of this State.

The principles which will control its execution have already been announced. The requirements of the Civil Rights bill will be exacted. All payments in accordance with the provisions rendered during the war to the pretended State organization, or any of its branches, are preemptorily forbidden. WAGER S. WAGNER, Major-General.

Elections in the Second District—Order from General Sickles. HEADQUARTERS SECOND MILITARY DISTRICT (NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINA), CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 6, 1867. The undersigned is charged with the administration of the Military Reconstruction bill of this State.

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Proposed Conference Between the Governors of North and South Carolina and the Military Authorities. CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 7.—Governor Worth, of North Carolina, in compliance with a summons from General Sickles, arrived here yesterday for the purpose of holding a conference, in connection with Governor Orr, as to the necessary steps to be taken for the purpose of carrying into effect the recent acts of Congress, also as to what orders may be general and what requisite for the respective States.

The utmost accord exists between the General and the Governor, and an earnest purpose is manifested on the part of all to heartily cooperate in trying to execute the law of Congress. Governor Orr gave a dinner to-day at the Mills House to a large number of civil and military functionaries. Among others present were Generals Sickles, Scott, Burns, Tyler; Clitz; Colonel H. Smith, Governors Orr and Worth, ex-Governor Magrath, Lieutenant-Governor W. D. Porter, Colonel Simonton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, General General W. H. Bayne, C. C. Leary, Theodore D. Wagner, General A. C. Carlinton, and A. Simonds.

General Lee and the Military Reconstruction Bill. From the Richmond Enquirer, April 6. We took occasion to say recently, in view of General Lee's well-known rule of keeping out of the political quarrels of the country, that he would not be parading his assumed opinions for partisan purposes.

The report was tossed from one newspaper to another that General Lee had said this and so, in connection with the reconstruction legislation—that he had certainly said even more than that—that he had undoubtedly declared himself to be the most unreserved manner—that he was assuredly very emphatic—and so forth, and so forth; the story widening and the emphasis intensifying as it proceeded. But while thus made to speak through a dozen tongues, no one did or could show his language or produce his authority.

We have full information for saying that General Lee has not, in the case referred to, departed from his uniform rule of reticence on political matters; and that no one has been authorized, or is authorized, to deliver his opinions either pro or con. While we know thus much, we do not know his views on the matter in question; but if we did know, and if they accorded with our own, we would not publish them.

We think General Lee is entitled to have his wishes respected in reference to such publications; and we think further, that the reticence which he has imposed upon himself—under all the circumstances of his position, and from his dedication of himself to duties and pursuits the least congenial with politics—is dignified, becoming, and wise. We hope no journalist will hereafter, under any stress of difficulty in the newspapers, except when official duty requires, or is authorized, to drag out General Lee, and other kindly, or, in the late case, unknowingly, declare his opinion.

BRIILLIANT DESCRIPTIVE POWERS.—Young Spoker has engaged the lovely Miss Rufus for the next waltz. What would she say if she knew that he (being so bad at catching names, you know) is putting her down on his card as "turn-up nose and carrots?"

TYPOGRAPHICAL.—How does a mother obtain a first impression of her baby?—By setting it up in "small caps."

MOTTO FOR BILLIARD-PLAYERS.—"To the Best, &c."

SECOND EDITION

FROM EUROPE TO-DAY

Financial and Commercial Advices.

Decline in U. S. Five-Twenties.

By the Atlantic Cable. LONDON, April 8.—Consols for money, 90; U. S. 5-20s, 74; Illinois Central Railroad, 77; Erie Railroad, 37.

LIVERPOOL, April 8.—Cotton is easier and lower. Middling uplands, 12 1/2. Orleans middlings, 13d. Breadstuffs quiet. Wheat, 13s. 6d. Flour, 28s. 6d. Corn, 4s. 3d. Barley, 9s. 6d. Oats, 3s. 9d. Peas, 4s.

Provisions and produce unchanged.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Jefferson Davis Filling up his Leisure Hours by Taking Lessons in Painting—His Opinions Upon the Political Situation—The Chesapeake Hospital to be the Summer Headquarters of General Schofield, &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 6.—Professor Thomas Chenoweth, of Baltimore, has been giving lessons in painting to Mr. Davis and his sister-in-law, Miss Howell, in Fortress Monroe. During the progress of his lessons Professor Chenoweth has had an excellent opportunity of conversing with the Rebel ex-President. In the conversation Davis remarked that he had no reason of complaint in what appeared to be the unjust strict measures adopted by the Government to prevent his escape from confinement, and that he entertained towards the officers of the Fort the kindest feelings of respect. They had ever been ready and willing to promote his comfort, and he had always exhibited the sympathy and esteem for himself and family.

He spoke of Baltimore, and felt deeply obliged to many of her citizens for favors and assistance which he had received from them at various times. Baltimoreans had acted nobly during the war, and in them he reposed the most implicit confidence. As to his trial he expressed no opinion; he was in the hands of the Government, and patiently awaited that decision which would either set him at liberty or before the courts of justice. His continued imprisonment he characterized as unjust and brutal, and a stain on the Northern Government in thus singling out from his father's family a man who, by the will of the Southern people, had been elected to the chief office of the Confederacy. The Connecticut election was one, he said, which he could well be proud of, and which he felt it his duty to support. That political struggle which was causing so much suffering in the land, it would have a great effect upon the political balance of power, and a successful election in his favor would doubtless be energetically exercised, and proportionately preserved. He appeared in good spirits and health, and evinced a keen perception and interest in Professor Chenoweth's instructions and improvements in oil and water-color painting.

Davis conversed on various other topics, and shows a perfect acquaintance with all the great questions which are agitating the different portions of the globe. Although he considers the immediate prospects of his release or trial not definitely settled, yet he was not without hope that his counsel would be able to force the Government to more definite measures when the next term of the District Court was held in May. Alfred D. Sargent, the English lawyer, who occurred, which the Professor related to friends after his instructions to Davis had been completed.

The following are the officers of the gunboat Florida, which has arrived at the Gosport Navy Yard, from Cape Haytien, with despatches for the Navy Department:—Commander, Henry Rolando; Lieutenant-Commander, Alfred Hopkins; Acting Lieutenant-Commander, W. W. Crownshead; Acting Master, William Hanson and R. B. Brown; Acting Ensign, J. O. Lochler; Paymaster, C. S. Cheney; Passed Assistant Surgeon, L. F. Shane; Acting Passed Assistant Engineer, Charles Cranston; Acting Second Assistant Engineer, W. S. Winton; John Moor, H. B. Swift, H. H. Arthur; Acting Third Assistant Engineers, L. G. Hart, P. White; Mate, A. B. Langworthy, W. H. Denkes, and E. T. Dexter; Captain's clerk, W. W. Griffin; Paymaster's clerk, G. E. Wilson.

The Chesapeake Hospital, possessing a beautiful location, fronting directly opposite Hampton Roads, about one and a half miles from the fort, is now being tenanted by an anticipated staff of military and naval officers. The headquarters of the hospital, at Richmond, is the point. The improvements making are so extensive as to lead to the belief that such a change is contemplated, and it will probably take place during the present month. In that case Richmond will be retained as the headquarters in name, and all official papers will be dated from there; but General Schofield, with all his officers, and probably a portion of the Quartermaster's department, will occupy the Chesapeake hospital, at least during the summer months.

The rents charged by the owners of the buildings in Richmond are enormous, and it is said this consideration has been the principal one which induces the change. One-half of the Chesapeake Hospital is owned by General Butler, and the other half by the Freedmen's Bureau, not having been yet restored to its Rebel owners. The rent of the Hospital will not exceed \$8000, but the repairs which the Government is making will cover several thousands alone.

FROM BALTIMORE TO-DAY.

The Sunday Car Question—Bishop Whittingham's Letter Thereon—Arrest of Swindlers—Fire on a Steamer.

[SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.] BALTIMORE, April 8.—Bishop Whittingham's letter against running cars on Sunday, and advising the people to vote against it, was read in all the Episcopal churches yesterday, exciting considerable interest, pro and con. There was, however, but a large vote in favor of the running cars.

Several parties here, women and men, connected with alleged Southern charitable presentation concerts, have been arrested for swindling.

The steamer George Luck, lying at her dock here, was considerably injured by fire on Saturday night.

Disturbance in Jersey City. NEW YORK, April 8.—A Methodist minister named Mattison has been delivering a course of philippic against the Catholic religion in Jersey City, and last evening a number of the latter persuasion gathered about the church, and commenced stoning it. The excitement soon threatened a general riot, but fortunately ended without any serious results, though considerable damage was done to the windows and doors of the church.

FROM WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.] WASHINGTON, April 8. The Movements of Senator Cameron, and the Visit of Senator Cameron to Harrisburg on Saturday is one of peculiar significance. It is believed he wished to counsel prominent Republicans there concerning the Philadelphia appointments yet to be made; and from what is known here, it is expected that a whole new slate will be arranged, and that no Democrat will be confirmed as Collector of the Port of Philadelphia.

Senator Cameron will insist upon a Republican being nominated for Collector of the Port, and if any arrangement is made by which Republicans and Democrats will be nominated for the vacant offices, the Republicans will insist upon having the Collectorship, and concede the Naval Officer and Surveyor to the Democrats. It is expected that the men will be named for all these positions, and neither Goodwin nor E. Reed Meyer will be among those considered available.

No action will be taken on Philadelphia appointments to-day; during the absence of Senator Cameron, as he requested that these cases should not be taken up until his return to-morrow.

Senators Anxious to Return Home. Senator Cattell has also gone home on a short visit, and will not return till to-morrow. Henry and persistent are these people that Republicans and Democrats will be nominated for the vacant offices, the Republicans will insist upon having the Collectorship, and