

MINERS' GRIEFS AND HEROISM.

Some Touching Instances of the Devotion and Bravery of the Men Who Work in Mines.

Small Pilsnow, writing in the Nineteenth Century, says: I remember seeing one poor woman a day or two after the explosion at the Edmunds or Swath Main pit.

Consider the men, their husbands, too. What like husbands are they? Remember the one whose body was found in the Hartley mine, after the accident to the engine beam.

Or that other husband who, going in the dark in early morning to the same colliery, in deep depression of spirit, which he could not account for but only felt, turned back to kiss once more with tenderness his wife and children.

Remember the man who, escaping with his boy and a comrade only this year (I think) from the Sullivan colliery after the explosion, found the boy unable to go any farther; I think he was insensible.

Volunteers offered themselves to go down the mine; but the number were selected of the three men; they took their lives in their hands as unconsciously of the heroism of their conduct because their moral attitude was simply that of so many others; they went down on their errand of mercy, and in a short time these men had been killed; there was a hope, very faint indeed but still hope, that there might be some men still alive in the pit; there was imminent risk of a second explosion which might occur at any moment, and the risk of going down was greatly increased.

Take another instance. When the last great explosion took place at the Oaks colliery, Hartley, which also killed two hundred men and boys, if I remember rightly, I went there immediately, and what had happened? My friend Parkin J. Block, mining engineer, had been sent for after the first explosion had occurred; it was one of extraordinary violence and had completely destroyed the head gear, and they were in momentary expectation of a second, as it is clear that the first had utterly destroyed all ventilations; but here also the hope was coming to those of the men might still be alive in the pit and, after most anxious consideration, it was decided to incur the awful peril of descending the other shaft to see if it were possible to rescue a couple of men's lives have been saved by these heroic darlings of peril.

In order to convey a more definite idea of our theory we choose a concrete example which may serve the purpose of a diagram or our demonstration, and this diagram shall be the region of West Virginia. This river takes its rise among the forests near the summit of the Green Mountains, in the heart of some 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and, flowing southerly forty or fifty miles, empties into the Connecticut river about two miles north of the southern boundary of the State.

Threshing a Conductor. James Stephenson, sometimes called "Moder" Jim, is a member of the Omaha council, who, on account of his power in certain city sewer contracts, declined by the supreme court of Nebraska to be illegal, he secured for him a sound threshing. Stephenson got up in morning and all returned to members of the supreme court. When confronted with by the president, James E. Boyd, Stephenson applied vice epithets to him and charged that he had been bribed. Mr. Boyd threw off his coat, saying, "I will charge me with dishonesty or doubt my veracity and live," and advanced on Stephenson, whom he threw to the floor. Stephenson said he wanted to explain. Mr. Boyd yelled: "I want no explanation. I will charge me with dishonesty? Yes or no is all I want." Stephenson, thoroughly scared, cried: "No," when Boyd released him and appointed to the council for his part in the affair.

Mad Dogs. A writer on "Modern Cynology" in the Journal of Science gives the following startling figures of mad dogs. Taking the official statistics of hydrophobia in England and Wales he finds the number of cases, or, in other words, of deaths, for the eleven years—1856 to 1866 inclusive—is given at 387, or an average thirty-five yearly. Now, as the population of South Britain does not greatly exceed 25,000,000, we have here one person done to death out of every 70,000. During the past year no fewer than 103 persons were bitten by mad dogs in Paris and its suburbs. Of these thirty are known to have died of hydrophobia. If the population of the French capital is estimated at 2,000,000 this gives a death-rate of four in 60,000. Five hundred dogs and weasels of mad dogs were destroyed in the course of the year by the police in the "fourriere," and the result has been a reduction in the number of persons bitten and of the hydrophobia death-rate.

Waking Up the Wrong Passenger.

A good story is told of that gallant Irish soldier, General Bigh, of Sepoy fame, which is altogether too good to be lost. While holding the commission of captain in a dashing marching regiment he was on a trip of pleasure with his wife, in the north of England, and having come, one day, to a small Yorkshire inn, the jester of which was well high up, he ordered all the host had on hand, in the shape of food, to be served up for his dinner, after which he joined his wife in an upper room.

While the host was preparing the meal for his guest a party of sporting gentlemen of the country entered the inn, and called for refreshment. The landlord was sorry to inform them that all his larder contained of food had been bespoken by a gentleman who was at that moment waiting upstairs, with his wife to have it served.

Who was the gentleman? The host could only tell them that he was an Irishman, and seemed to be a very quiet, good-natured and harmless body. ("The captain was traveling in citizen's costume.")

"An Irish gentleman! A potato, with pepper and salt, will answer for him. Go up and tell him so." But Boniface preferred not to do so. "Squire," cried one of the party—a squire of the neighborhood, with more money than sense—"take up this watch to the gentleman, and ask him if he will send us word what's the time of day, for we can't tell."

It was a habit in that section, when one would intimate to another that he didn't have much faith in his good sense, or in his judgment, to show him a watch, and ask him to tell what's the time of day. "I will," said the watchman, and he went upstairs and did the errand.

"By my liege it's beauty." Tell the gentleman I'll be down presently, and shall take pleasure in expounding to them the mystery of time-telling by the watch. And I'll fetch the watch with me. The host returned with the answer, and shortly afterward carried up his guest's dinner. The squire was, for a little time, furious with the landlord for having sent his watch to answer for him, but he finally cooled off, and having called for a gallon of beer he sat down with his friends to wait.

After he had finished his meal Captain Bigh opened his portmanteau and took out a great horse watch, and placing them under his arm, he took the watch in hand and went down into the barroom, where the sporting gentry still waited.

"Ah, gentlemen, I give you a good deal of time now, who is the man that wants the time of day? I shall be delighted to enlighten him." They didn't like the looks of the man at all. He carried the soldier in his very coat, and, just now, there was a good deal of the tiger manifest. "Come, come, gentlemen—I am Captain Bigh, at your service. A short time since the landlord brought to me this watch, accompanied by a message which was to the effect that the watch was richly deserved." And he significantly tapped his finger upon the pistol.

Source of Thunder Showers. In order to convey a more definite idea of our theory we choose a concrete example which may serve the purpose of a diagram or our demonstration, and this diagram shall be the region of West Virginia. This river takes its rise among the forests near the summit of the Green Mountains, in the heart of some 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and, flowing southerly forty or fifty miles, empties into the Connecticut river about two miles north of the southern boundary of the State.

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He Had Been to a Fair. A gentleman was going home at a late hour recently when he was suddenly confronted by a footpad, who, with pistol pointed at his head, demanded his money. The gentleman assured the fellow that he had no money—that he had "been to a fair." Before he could say more the rascol dropped his pistol, put it in his pocket, and presently took out his wallet, and crushing something into the citizen's hand, said, in a grateful accent, as he turned on his heel: "Been to a fair? Poor fellow! take that money and go home, for you were out in the night. Upon approaching street-lamp the gentleman found a dead body floating down the river, and a fax crossing one's path.

DESTRUCTION OF TIMBER.

In his evidence before the agricultural commission of Canada, says the Toronto Globe, Mr. Brown, of Port Elgin, expressed the opinion that as far as should be re-located with forests, he recommended the removal of large tracts of timber, from which the people could obtain trees at a low price, and, also, that the government should replant the crown lands, as is done in Australia and other countries.

The pine forests of Maine fifty years ago were thought to be inexhaustible. Thousands of men were employed during the winter months felling and cutting trees, and in the summer rafting and floating down the streams or cutting them out to lumber in the mills. Bangor, on the Penobscot, was once the busiest town in the United States. The river was lined with sawmills for miles, and 2,000 men were engaged in the lumber trade. The forests for 200 miles up the river, and for many miles on either side, have been laid waste, and no new mills are built or old ones repaired.

Michigan and Wisconsin the same reckoning is being made. The Saginaw valley, which formerly contained the largest and finest forests in Michigan, is being rapidly denuded. Its mills have a capacity of 600,000,000 feet of lumber per year, and the owners of the land are cutting out trees, not only as far as 100 miles distant, to supplement the stock of the Saginaw, but new mills are built or old ones repaired.

Very few probably understand the nutritive value and medicinal properties of good apples. To have them the most valuable they must be eaten as food, as part of the meals—not at night, or between meals.

His Last Meal. Hugo Grundel, a young Viennese shopman, is fairly entitled to a prominent position as one of the more eccentric suicides of later days. Worlthy matters had, in the past, been his usual pursuit for some time past, and it would appear that, about a week ago, he found himself without employment.

An Improvement in Speaking Tubes. They have a speaking tube in Germany, but not the telephone as yet. One day a tenant waited on his landlord to pay his rent. The landlord, seeing that the tenant intended to stay, thought to hurry up the rent by the telephone, and said: "Gretchen, bring up my lunch." The peasant declared that the instrument was a wonderful invention, and asked permission to speak through it, which was granted.

How Sickles Saved His Life. The way to stop the flow of blood from a bad wound has been so often pointed out that it is generally known, but it is best illustrated by an actual example. When people injured and bleeding are able to help themselves by a simple process, they should certainly help their lives well enough to do so.

The British Ministry. The members who ex-officio constitute the cabinet are the prime minister (or first lord of the treasury), the lord high chancellor, the lord president of the council, the lord privy seal, the chancellor of the exchequer, the secretary of state for foreign affairs, the secretary of state for home department, the secretary of state for colonies, the secretary of state for war, the secretary of state for India, the first lord of the admiralty, the president of the board of trade, the secretary of state for the Duchy of Lancaster, the first commissioner of works, the president of the local government board, the postmaster general and the chief secretary for Ireland.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

The Women of Calcutta. The women of Calcutta are, as a rule, very beautiful, in so far as we can judge, but fade rapidly after reaching the age of maturity. It is not infrequently that we see women at the age of twenty-five with furrowed brows and crow's feet, and with the corners of her eyes, and the large, lustrous black eyes, and the nose of thirty many have a decided stoop and decrepit gait.

Minds which never rest are subject to many digestions. The greatest works are performed, not by force, but by perseverance. There is, in all this cold and hollow world, no fount of deep, strong, deathless love, save that within a mother's heart.

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A Long Lost Lover.

One rarely meets a bit of more touching romance than is found in the following story that comes from Wales: Years ago some Welsh miners, in exploring an old pit that had long been closed, found the body of a young man lying in a fashioning out of date. The peculiar action of the air of the mine had been such as to preserve the body so perfectly that it appeared asleep rather than dead. The miners were puzzled at the circumstance. No one in the district had been missed within their remembrance, and at last it was resolved to bring the oldest inhabitant—an old lady past her eightieth year, who had lived single in the village the whole of her life.

On being brought into the presence of the body a strange scene occurred. The old lady fell on the corpse, kissed and addressed it by every term of loving endearment, couched in the language of a bygone generation. He had her only love. She had waited for him during her long life. She knew that he had not forsaken her. The old woman and the young man had been betrothed sixty years before.

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The Tidy Housewife.

The careful, tidy housewife, when she is giving her house its spring cleaning, should bear in mind that the most precious part of her systems need cleaning by purifying the blood, regulating the stomach and bowels to prevent and cure the disease arising from spring malarial and miasmata, and she should know that there is nothing that will do so perfectly and surely as Hop Bitters, the purest and best of all medicines. See other column.

A section of land a quarter of a mile long slid down into the Thompson river, British Columbia, during the storm and forming a lake three miles long. Many houses and farms were submerged. The bed of the river below the landslide was dry, except in little pools, where salmon were caught in great numbers. In the course of two days the river made a channel around the slide and gradually wore it away.

A Physician of Great Prominence in Thirty-third street, New York City, was once even helped by Mr. McKee, of Patterson N. J., suffering the agonies of an attack of cholera, which he treated with pain-killers, but to no purpose. As an honest man and practitioner he prescribed and cured him by using one bottle of Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure.

The harvest of pine on the Clippewa river and its tributaries in Wisconsin is estimated at 150,000,000 feet. The rapid decay of these immense pine forests is a matter of concern to the people of Wisconsin and the neighboring States who depend upon them for lumber supplies.

Germany's minister of the interior has ordered the local authorities throughout the country to prepare detailed annual reports of the number of persons arrested for drunkenness.

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St Jacob's Oil. THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Backache, Soreness of the Chest, Gout, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Swellings and Sprains, Burns and Scalds, General Bodily Pains, Tooth, Ear and Headache, Frosted Feet and Ears, and all other Pains and Aches.

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Hop Bitters. (A Medicine, not a Drink.) CONTAINS HOPS, RICH, MANDRAKE, DANDELION, AND THE PUREST AND BEST MEDICAL QUALITIES OF THE PUREST AND BEST MEDICAL QUALITIES. THEY CURE ALL Diseases of the Stomach, Bowels, Blood, Liver, Kidneys, and Urinary Organs. Nervous Debility, Rheumatism, and all other Diseases. S1000 IN GOLD.

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