

A PASSING INCIDENT.

SUDDENLY there burst in upon us at the Prospect Colliery office, at Wilkesbarre, on October 30, 1898, a miner who gasped out to our head clerk, "Gus, the Midvale Slope's on fire."

"What," exclaimed Gus, starting back and turning pale.

"Yes, it's all afire. I just came from there" repeated the miner between the gasps. He was out of breath from running.

Gus turned to our messenger boy and said, "Dennis, hunt up Shoemaker and tell him." Dennis was out in no time, and Gus was ringing for the main office of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. He notified the manager at the general office, telling him all that he had heard. At that time Mr. Shoemaker, the outside Foreman came in.

"Tell him, he'd better get out the city Fire Department," excitedly exclaimed Mr. Shoemaker.

Gus did as directed, but the general manager decided that it would be less expensive to use all the fire hose and iron pipe from the supply store instead, and that we should borrow all the fire hose from the Dorrance colliery, which was another mine owned by the Lehigh Valley company situated about a mile away.

Soon hose and pipe were coming in by the wagon load. The officials in charge of the mines also came as quickly as possible. The news had already somehow reached "Duckpond," the little city suburb where many of our foreign miners lived. Women, children and some idlers from thence, hastily passed the office on their way to the Midvale opening.

At the opening a considerable number of anxious people were already gathered, for it was known that the men were working beyond the fire. A line of pipe and hose had been