

**Tragic Romance.**

Some years ago I worked at the South Wales mine. Nothing but coal was hoisted from the shaft during the day. At night a gang of men was sent to clean up the timbers and debris scattered through the gangways during the day and impeding work. The mouth of the shaft was fenced in, the fence raising and lowering with the cage. In respect to the fence being always properly closed the mine's rules were always very strict, a public pathway leading near the mouth of the shaft, and people otherwise being in danger of falling into it. One night while Davy Bevan, the inside boss, was eating his lunch near the foot of the shaft, he was startled by a heavy, dull thud, a groan, and on looking up he saw an object, partly white, on the top of the cage. Unholy visions flashed through his mind, and, though a brave man usually, the scamping of the rats increased his terror, and it was some minutes before he could compose himself, and nearly an hour elapsed before his quaking heart permitted him to make a closer investigation. He found then the dead body of a man. The corpse was evidently that of a well-to-do person who had met his death by walking into the shaft in the darkness of the night. The men were summoned from all parts of the mine, but none recognized the dead man's features. The mystery surrounding him deepened when at daylight the remains were taken to the surface and viewed in vain by the gathering crowd for some familiar lineament. At last there pushed through the throng a blanched young woman, the daughter of a miner employed at a colliery not far away, but in the other valley. One glance at the corpse, and she swooned away. For days she was a raving maniac, and the story then came out. The strange unfortunate was the son of a land owner and her husband. Their marriage had been kept secret, and they had quarreled some weeks before. He was on his way back to ask forgiveness, and to claim his bride and take her to the home he intended for her. He was attracted by the light in the engine-room. The fence was out of repair, and the engineer whose duty it was to see to it had put off repairing it until the next day. The young woman, so cruelly bereft of the man she madly loved, lived but a short time.—*English paper.*

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