HIGH BLANTYRE.

Over 200 Lives Lost in the Terrible Mining Disaster in the Glasgow Coal Region.

[From the London Telegraph.]

The little colliery village of High Blantyre, near Hamilton, recently was the scene of a most terrible colliery disaster. By this catastrophe, unparalleled in the history of Scotch mining, it is reckoned that fully 200 lives have been lost, though the number that perished can only be approximately determined. This morning, about 6 o'clock, the men employed at Messrs. Dixon's collieries, High Blantyre, departed to their usual work, 126 men descending the shaft of the pit known as No. 2, while 107 entered pit No. 3. Statutory communication exists between these pits, and it seems that before the disaster occurred a number of men were engaged removing stoops in the splint of the lower seam of No. 2 pit. This operation is always regarded as hazardous, and it appears that, with culpable and almost inexplicable recklessness, the hands employed made use of naked lamps. While the men were engaged in blasting in the splint of No. 2 pit, about 9 o'clock, an appalling explosion of fire-damp occurred, which spent itself in the shaft of No. 3 pit. The explosion was attended by a sound resembling the loudest thunder, flames burst forth at the head of shaft No. 3, and dense volumes of smoke rolled up from the entrance to pit No. 2. Fragments of coal and timber and clouds of dust were then scattered around the heads of the shafts, large quantities of debris being shot for a great height into the air.

The deafening sound of the explosion immediately attracted a large crowd to the scene of the calamity, and with all possible celerity relief gangs were organized, and every effort was made to restore ventilation to the mines. An hour, however, elapsed before air could again be admitted to the pits, and all efforts to descend the shaft of No. 3 was found to be impracticable. Four men then strove to enter No. 2 pit, but were unable to proceed along the splint seam from the damp, and, after persevering at the imminent risk of their lives, were brought up in a fainting condition to the surface, one of them, named Thomas Laidlaw, being, it is feared, very seriously injured. Notwithstanding this, however, another relief gang was immediately formed, and the new party of volunteers, after advancing a short way from the foot of the shaft, found the bodies of six men, dreadfully charred and disfigured, which were at once drawn up to the bank. Although a constant stream of water was poured down the shaft that the reserve party might be in a measure relieved from the noxious effects of the damp, the new relief gang were finally forced to desist from their perilous mission, and so seriously were several of them affected by the deadly atmosphere which they had been inhaling that they had, on returning to the surface, to be covered with earth to free them from the influence of the choke-damp. Fresh bands of volunteers at once took up the task of exploring the workings, and several other bodies, mostly mutilated beyond recognition, were recovered. The black cloud of smoke which at first floated over the scene of the catastrophe cleared away, and as the news of the disaster spread like wildfire through the surrounding districts a vast concourse gathered round the pit-heads, the wives and children of the men who were in the pits exhibiting heartrending emotion. Very faint hopes are entertained that any of the men in the pits have escaped, and the choke-damp was at first so strong that it is feared that all of the 233 men who descended the shafts in the morning must have perished.

The terror and agony exhibited among the wives and children of the imprisoned miners were of the most heartrending character. Efforts were made to restore communications with those below, and at length these were so far successful that one man was brought up alive to the surface. This survivor, who escaped from No. 2 pit, stated that he was working at the face when he heard an explosion. Not, however, suspecting anything unusual he made his way leisurely to the bottom, when the sight of dead bodies all around opened his eyes to the appalling extent of the catastrophe. Every effort was made to restore the ventilation which the explosion had stagnated, but more than an hour elapsed before a current of air would flow as it should do from No. 3 pit to No. 2.

Six several times the reserves returned at great risk to themselves, and on each occasion they managed to bring up a dead body, each of which was dreadfully burned and mutilated. The choke damp eventually became so bad that they were forced to desist.

The most heartrending scenes were witnessed in the neighborhood of both pits and along the row of houses situated 100 yards from No. 2 pit, for it was near these buildings that the dead bodies recovered from the pit were conveyed. There were women with children in their arms, and with swollen eyes, hurrying frantically about, asking the latest news from the exploring parties. As one body after another was taken to the joiners' shed, there was a rush of the relatives of the men, and an eager scanning of the bodies to see whether they were those of their beloved ones. Daughters and sisters, too, of the unfortunate miners went about wringing their hands and exclaiming that they would never see their fathers or brothers more. Little children who were too young to know the loss they had sustained gazed into the faces of their mothers or sisters, and at the great crowd, with feelings of wonder at the commotion around them.

Retributive Justice.

In passing through a train on the New York Central railroad to collect tickets, the conductor encountered, east of Utica, a colored man who had neither ticket nor medium of exchange, and, after a desultory discussion, stopped the cars and kicked him off the platform. A few weeks afterward the conductor took a chair in a barber-shop in Albany, under the ministration of a colored man. The barber covered his customer's face with lather, whipped out a glittering razor, and, while he was improving its edge by means of a strop that dangled from the wall, remarked to the gentleman in the chair: "Say, boss, you doesn't know me, does you? Does you remember the fellow you lambed from your train up at Tribes Hill? Dat was a bad thing for you to do, sah, an' I remembers it well." Right here the conductor bounded from his chair and danced around the room with the lather dropping from his chin, and his hair standing on end. He was finally induced to resume his seat, on the barber's pledging himself to do no mischief, but he did not enjoy the shave, and breathed more freely when he was outside of the shop.

How to Cook and Serve the Canvas-Back.

Upon the table, the canvas-back makes a royal dish, though few can distinguish between it and the red-head when both are in season. Only those very familiar with the birds can tell which is which when alive, and, when served, it becomes almost an impossibility. The celery flavor is more marked in the canvas-back in the best of the season. It is seldom served precisely as it should be anywhere out of Maryland. If allowed to remain in the oven five minutes too long, it is unfit for the table. A good deal depends upon the carving. A good quick oven will cook a full-sized duck in twenty-two minutes. It should never remain in over twenty-five. After a duck is picked and drawn, it should be simply wiped dry. Water should never touch it, and it should be fairly seasoned before going to the fire. When done, the birds should be placed in pairs in hot, dry dishes. There is no need to prepare a gravy; immediately they are cut, they will fill the dish with the richest gravy that ever was tasted. One canvas-back to each "cover," is considered a fair allowance at a Maryland table, but, when the bird is only an incident of the dinner or supper, of course half a bird is sufficient for each person. Slicing the bird is unheard of. The two-pronged fork is inserted diagonally astride the breastbone, and the knife lays half of the bird on each side, leaving the "carcass" on the fork between. The triangle of meat an inch thick comprised between the leg and the wing, with its apex at the back and its base at the breast, is considered the most delicious morsel of meat that exists. The canvas-back in Maryland is served with large hominy fried in cakes, celery, and a dry champagne, or a bottle of Burgundy that is Burgundy.—*Scribner for November.*

An Experiment for Boys.

Take two empty oyster cans and a stout, smooth string. Let a small hole be made in the bottom of each can, through which the string, say fifty or 100 feet in length, is passed and secured. Then let the experimenters set up their talking telegraph by choosing their stations as far apart as the tightly-stretched string will permit, and while one of the operators holds his ear to one of the cans and his companion his mouth to the can of the other end of the line, they will find that a conversation can be carried on, so that low tones, and even a whisper, will be distinctly perceptible. What usually most astonishes those who make this experiment for the first time is that the sound of the voice does not seem to come from the person speaking at the other end of the string, but to issue from the can itself, which is held to the ear of the listener. This at first appears to be a deception, but it is really not so. The ear tells the exact truth. The voice that is heard really comes from the can that is held to the ear of hearer. The voice of the speaker communicates sound-producing vibrations to the walls of the can with which his voice is in immediate contact. These vibrations are communicated to the string, but so changed that they no longer affect the ear. A person may stand by the string while the sound is passing, and yet hear nothing. At the other end of the string, however, these hidden vibrations reproduce themselves as sound.

A Message to a Runaway Boy.

On the 11th of last August Edwin Rock Taber, a lad fourteen years of age, five feet high, square built, large blue eyes, freckled face, uneven teeth, and of polite and manly bearing, left his father's home in this city. He was afterward seen at Lafayette, Ind., but before his father could reach there he had taken his departure. Paul Taber, Esq., the father of the boy, is a worthy and highly-respected citizen of this city. While he and his excellent wife were mourning over the boy who had causelessly strayed from his comfortable home, a still greater affliction was visited upon them. In one week four of their remaining children died of diphtheria, three of whom were buried in one day. It is believed that if the affliction that has fallen upon his fond parents was known to the absent Eddie, he would return at once to his home, and it is in that hope that we respectfully ask our exchanges to copy this notice.—*Logansport (Ind.) Pharos.*

The Fate of a Spy.

One of the Russian proverbs runs: "An owl can not be hid in a sack." The fate of Goronovitch, of Odessa, shows that a treacherous police tool can not be long concealed in a loose and baggy association, such as a Socialist society. He was a student in one of the Government Gymnasia, and was induced to join a secret society. His associates suspected that he was disloyal to the cause, and in the pay of the police. Spies were set to dog his footsteps, and eventually the society, convinced of his guilt, resolved to put him out of the way. One evening, while he was taking a lonely walk near the city, a band of conspirators beat his head almost to jelly and then drenched it with vitriol, leaving the wretched lad on the highway horribly disfigured and nearly dead. He was rescued by the police and conveyed to a hospital, where he lingered long enough to make a clean breast of his connection with the society, and named his associates.

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