

THE GOLD HILL CALAMITY.

The Fire in the Comstock Mines—Detailed Account of the Disaster—Efforts to Save the Victims—Heroic Conduct of Firemen and Miners—Women Begging to be Permitted to Go Down the Shafts—Heartrending Scenes.

From the San Francisco Bulletin.

VIRGINIA, Friday, April 9—12:30 P. M.

At 7 o'clock Wednesday morning the Crown Point man, forty-five in number, went down to their work. Twenty-five of them are dead. Immediately after, the Kentucky men began going down the same shaft. The Crown Point foreman went down in a cage with the Kentucky men, and at the 700-foot level remarked a smell more than common. He gave a signal to lower the cage to the 800-foot level; found the men there who had gone down a few minutes before all in confusion. The smoke was increasing and the gas asphyxiating the laborers. He gave a signal to hoist and bring up the men. There was great confusion and loss of time occasioned through the men crowding the cage. The engine worked at the greatest speed in bringing up the men. Only twenty-five seconds were spent in bringing them from the 100-foot level to the surface. Men climbed up to the top of the cage to come up. The last men who came up the shaft alive, except BICKEL, say they heard men left behind jump down the shaft and fall on the dump. The cage went down again, and was brought up after the signal was given as rapidly as possible. It contained GEORGE BICKEL, who was insensible, bearing the dead body of his brother RICHARD, whom he had dragged into the cage, but could not support him. GEORGE never regained consciousness, though every remedy was tried, and died last evening. It was not known at the Yellow Jacket works that anything was wrong, until they were informed by the men from the Crown Point. The smoke soon became so dense in the hoisting works of the latter that the engineers could not see the marks on the ropes. All the windows and skylights had to be taken out to enable the men in the house to live in the wind and shoots. Smoke and gas filled the Kentucky 700-foot level, and came up that shaft in a dense volume. No smoke came up the Yellow Jacket, but so much gas was at the bottom that the men could not get below the 500-foot level for some hours. No man in the Crown Point 1,000, 900 or 240-foot levels escaped. Some men on the 1,000-foot level climbed up to the 900-foot level. One was found dead half way up to the 800-foot level, clasping the timber. Another reached the 900-foot level, and then groped 360 feet toward the Yellow Jacket and died. Another 150 feet would have carried him to the fresh air coming down the Yellow Jacket.

AN EXPLOSION.

The men say that soon after discovering the fire, and before they reached the 800 station, an explosion occurred. This is so. It lifted the cage in the mouth of the shaft two feet. Superintendent JONES, of the Crown Point, says there was no powder in the mine. The cause of the explosion is not known. It being supposed that the men on the 1,000-foot level were below the reach of fire, a message was sent down the Crown Point shaft, written on a cardboard, also a light, candles and water, as the men below would be quite ignorant of what had occurred; seeing the falling clinders, they might think the shaft afire. There were continual caves occurring. The rock was so heated that the firemen could not stand in the drifts, and the water, two inches deep, boiled on the floor. Other men, when the fire was subdued, went by the lower drifts to the foot of the Crown Point shaft and sent up the dead. They found in different places those who had fallen down the shafts so much mangled as not to be recognizable but by the clothing. Nearly all showed signs of great agony. Some are much cut and bruised about the face by striking against jagged rocks or through running in the dark. All was done to encourage them and to warn them not to come up. The cage came back as it went down. There was no response and the light was out. These men were got out by yesterday, dead.

VAIN ATTEMPTS TO DESCEND.

As soon as it was safe a descent was made by the Yellow Jacket people, with hose and firemen, who played on the burning timbers in the 800-foot level, but were much incommoded by the lights being extinguished for want of air or by explosion. The men could not find their way. One man, who escaped, hearing a shriek of some one falling, groped on his hands and knees to the shaft. WEICH, one of the searching party, became asphyxiated, and being brought to the surface, it was some hours before he was restored. The gas at the Crown Point hoisting works was stifling; the engineers were blinded, and the cage went up to the sheaves. The men sent up to clear it fainted, and others behind them had to drag them away from the fumes. The scenes were terrible. Many men would have risked their lives by going down uselessly, but they were wisely restrained by the Superintendent, or more lives would have been lost. Distracted wives begged to be allowed to go down on the cage for their husbands. Ladies even sought to go down the Crown Point and Kentucky shafts where men could not live thirty seconds below the surface.

A PARTIAL EXPLORATION.

Yesterday morning, by going down the Yellow Jacket, along the 900 level, and up the Crown Point shaft, the men succeeded in reaching the 800 feet level and groped about. At Station No. 1 men penetrated in the dark 30 feet into a drift and found a man sitting on a log, his head resting on his hand. Again last evening, the gas and smoke being less dense in the Crown Point shaft, the foreman and two others tried to get into the 800 feet level from below, and arranged with the Crown Point engineer, when a signal came from below to send the cage to them. It was done, and then the signal made to hoist slowly, then to lower, then to try again. At last they reached the level sought, but the lights went out, and they could not go six feet from the car. The signal to lower was responded to quickly; when they got back safely to the 900-feet level they sent a written message up by the empty cage, reporting their failure, to the great disappointment of the anxious crowd. Shortly afterward the men came to the surface by the Yellow Jacket shaft. To avoid accident from their losing consciousness before the time to signal, it was arranged to lower whenever they ceased signalling. At midnight last night, nothing more being possible until the mine was clear of gas, and there being no smell of burning wood, only steamy vapor, operations were suspended.

THE THIRD DAY—FUNERALS.

At 6 o'clock this morning the Crown Point and Kentuck shafts were clearer than they have yet been, but immediately after the smoke in the Crown Point began thickening and continued so, the fire having broken out again. At 8:30 a black, dense smoke had filled the house, and was pouring out of every aperture. The fire was evidently worse than ever. Some feared that the shaft itself would take fire. Superintendent JONES says that 200 feet of the drift is solid rock, with no timber between the fire and the shaft. PATRICK BUCKLEY's body was sent to Grass Valley. The remainder were taken charge of by various societies for burial. One large funeral passed through Virginia City this morning, under charge of 100 of the Miners' Union. Yesterday hundreds of people followed the various processions to the churches and cemeteries. Every flag in town is at half-mast. Most of the mills have partially resumed work to-day, though many men are absent attending funerals. The Coroner has summoned three juries, who have viewed the bodies. One will begin taking evidence this afternoon. So far, no charge of negligence is made against any one.

From the moment of the first alarm until BICKEL, the last man who came up with life in him, reached the surface, was only a few minutes. A cage capable of containing twice the number of men would have been the only chance. Had the Crown Point been employing the full number, or had the Kentuck men have been all down instead of many being stopped at the top by alarm, the loss would have been much greater. RICHARD BICKEL, JOSEPH MATHEWS and Wm. MITCHELL were buried yesterday in the Gold Hill Cemetery, under the auspices of the Odd Fellows. ANTHONY TOY was buried by the Miners' Union in the forenoon. Nine others were buried by the Miners' Union in the afternoon. HOGAN's body was sent to San Francisco last night.

The New-York Times, Friday, April 9, 1869.

AWFUL CATASTROPHE

**Vast Fires in the Nevada Gold Mines—
Thirty-six Persons Killed—The Subter-
ranean Fires Still Raging.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Wednesday, April 7.

A fire broke out this morning in the Yellow Jacket Mine at Gold Hill, Nevada, which soon communicated with the Kentuck and Crown Point Mines. Thus far (1 P. M.) eleven bodies have been taken from the shafts of the three mines. Other bodies can be seen at the bottom of the Kentuck shaft, but it is impossible to remove them on account of the heat. It is uncertain how many persons there were in the mines. The excitement and confusion were so great that it was impossible to call the roll of those at work. Sixty men were at work in the two levels of the Crown Point Mine. It is not known how many escaped. The distress is fearful. The wives and children of the miners have congregated at the entrance of the mines, and are calling for their missing husbands and fathers.

The latest reports from Gold Hill state that the number known to be dead is thirty six—five in the Yellow Jacket, eight in the Kentuck, and twenty-three in the Crown Point Mine. The fire originated in the Kentuck Mine, and is reported now to be spreading toward the Yellow Jacket shaft. The firemen have succeeded in getting hose down the Yellow Jacket shaft to the level of the fire, and hopes are entertained that the flames will soon be subdued. If not, when all expectation of saving more lives is abandoned, the mouth of the shaft will be closed and ventilation stopped, and the fire thereby smothered. The Yellow Jacket, Crown Point and Kentuck Mines are unconnected with other mines underground, hence there is no probability of the fires extending beyond them.

Virginia City is almost deserted, the people having gone to the scene of the disaster to render assistance.

The San Francisco Stock and Exchange Board have subscribed \$1,000, and sent the money by telegraph to Gold Hill for the relief of the families suffering by the conflagration.

This catastrophe is the most terrible that has ever occurred in the mining district of this coast. There is general sympathy expressed for the distressed.

The conflagration at the Gold Hill Mines is still raging. It appears to be confined principally to the Yellow Jacket drift, owing to the care which has been taken to prevent its spreading. The firemen are unable to reach the flames, but efforts are being made to clear the drift, which will probably occupy all day. Eighteen bodies have been taken from the burning mines; nine of them from one drift. The Yellow Jacket Company have rescinded the dividend for March. The fire has had the effect to injure the stock of the Yellow Jacket, Crown Point and Kentuck, and transactions in them are at reduced values.

SAN FRANCISCO, Thursday, April 8—Evening.

Later advices from Gold Hill are to the effect that the fire has been fairly subdued, and the victims are being removed from the different shafts. Seventeen men are yet missing, and are supposed to have perished in the flames. The total number of lives destroyed is 36. It is impossible to estimate the damages to property.

The Superintendents of the Crown Point and Kentuck Mines report them uninjured. The stock of the Yellow Jacket Company has declined to \$10 per share, the Crown Point to \$12, and the Kentuck to \$14.

Burning of the Gold Hill Mines in Nevada.

THIRTY-SIX PERSONS KILLED

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.

**Conflagration in the Gold Hill Mines, Nevada—
Thirty-six Miners Burned to Death.**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7, 1869.

A fire broke out this morning in the Yellow Jacket mine at Gold Hill, Nevada, which soon communicated with the Kentucky and Crown Point mines. Thus far (one P. M.) eleven bodies have been taken from the shafts of the three mines. Other bodies can be seen at the bottom of the Kentucky shaft, but it is impossible to remove them on account of the heat. It is uncertain how many persons there were in the mines. The excitement and confusion were so great that it was impossible to call the roll of those at work. Sixty men were at work in the two levels of the Crown Point mine. It is not known how many escaped. The distress is fearful. The wives and children of the miners have congregated at the entrance of the mines and are calling for their missing husbands and fathers.

Additional Particulars.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7—8 P. M.

The latest reports from Gold Hill state that the number known to be dead is thirty-six—five in the Yellow Jacket, eight in the Kentucky, and twenty-three in the Crown Point mine. The fire originated in the Kentucky mine and is reported now to be spreading toward the Yellow Jacket shaft. The firemen have succeeded in getting hose down the Yellow Jacket shaft to the level of the fire, and hopes are entertained that the flames will soon be subdued. If not, when all expectation of saving more lives are abandoned, the mouth of the shaft will be closed and ventilation stopped and the fire thereby smothered. The Yellow Jacket, Crown Point and Kentucky mines are unconnected with other mines underground; hence there is no probability of the fires extending beyond them.

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**The Conflagration Still Raging—Eighteen
Bodies Recovered—More Bodies Known to
be in the Burning Mines.**

SAN FRANCISCO April 8, 1869

The conflagration at the Gold Hill mines is still raging. It appears to be confined principally to the Yellow Jacket drift, owing to the care which has been taken to prevent its spreading. The firemen are unable to reach the flames, but efforts are being made to clear the drift, which will probably occupy all day. Eighteen bodies have been taken from the burning mines, nine of them from one drift. The Yellow Jacket Company have rescinded the dividend for March. The fire has had the effect to render the stocks of the Yellow Jacket, Crown Point and Kentucky panic and transactions in them are at reduced values.

**The Fire in the Mines Subdued—Seventeen
Victims Still Missing.**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 8—P. M.

Later advices from Gold Hill are to the effect that the fire has been fairly subdued and the victims are being removed from the different shafts. Seventeen men are yet missing and are supposed to have perished in the flames. The total number of lives destroyed is thirty-six. It is impossible to estimate the damages to property.

The superintendents of the Crown Point and Kentucky Mines report them uninjured. The stock of the Yellow Jacket Company has declined to ten dollars per share, the Crown Point to twelve dollars and the Kentucky to fourteen dollars.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

Terrible Fires in the Mines—Death of Thirty-six Persons Underground.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7. A fire broke out this morning at the Yellow Jacket mines at Gold Hill, Nevada. It soon communicated to the Kentuck and Crown Point mines. Thus far (1 o'clock this afternoon) eleven bodies have been taken from the shafts of three mines. Other bodies are seen at the bottom of the Kentuck shaft, but it is impossible to remove them on account of the heat. It is uncertain how many persons are in the mines. The excitement and confusion are so great, it is impossible to call the roll of those at work. Sixty men were at work on the two levels of Crown Point. It is unknown how many escaped. The distress is fearful. The wives and children of miners are congregated at the entrance of the mines, calling for missing husbands and fathers.

8 P. M.—The latest report from Gold Hill says the number known to be dead is thirty-six—five in Yellow Jacket, eight in Kentuck and twenty-three in Crown Point.

The fire originated in the Kentuck mine. It is reported now spreading toward the Yellow Jacket shop. The firemen succeeded in getting the hose down the Yellow Jacket shaft. Hopes are entertained that the flames will soon be subdued. If not, and when all expectation of saving more lives is abandoned, the mouth of the shaft will be closed, the ventilation stopped, and the fire thereby smothered.

THE DAVENPORT DAILY GAZETTE

DAVENPORT, IOWA, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 9, 1869.

Terrible Mining Catastrophe.

FIRE IN THE NEVADA MINES.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7.—A fire broke out this a. m. in the Yellow Jacket Mines, Gold Hill, Nevada, and soon communicated with Kentuck and Crown Point Mines. There were at 1 o'clock p. m., eleven bodies taken from the shafts of the three mines. *Other bodies were seen at the bottom of the Kentuck shaft;* but it was impossible to remove them on account of the heat. It is uncertain how many persons are in the mines. The excitement and confusion is so great as to be unable to call the roll of those at work. There were sixty men at work on the two levels at Crown Point. It is unknown how many escaped. The wives and children of the miners congregated at the place of disaster calling for missing husbands and fathers.

8 p. m.—The latest report from Gold Hill states that the number known to be dead is thirty-six, five in Yellow Jacket, eight in Kentucky and twenty-three in Crown Point. The fire originated in the Kentuck. It is reported now that it is spreading toward Jacket shaft. The firemen succeeded in putting down the Jacket shaft level fire, and hopes were entertained that the flames would soon be subdued. If not, then all expectation of saving more lives are abandoned, the mouth of the shaft will be closed, ventilation stopped and the fire thereby smothered. Yellow Jacket, Crown Point and Kentuck are unconnected with the other mines underground. There is no probability of the fire extending beyond them. Virginia City is almost deserted. The people are going to render assistance at the scene of disaster.

The San Francisco Stock and Exchange Board subscribed a thousand dollars and sent a draft by telegraph to Gold Hill for the relief of families suffering by the conflagration. The catastrophe is the most terrible that has ever occurred in mining experience on this coast. General sympathy is expressed for the distressed.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 8.—The conflagration of the Gold Hill Mines is still raging. It appears to be confined principally to Yellow Jacket. Owing to the cave which is filled up, the firemen are unable to reach the flames. Every effort is being made to clear the shaft, but it will perhaps take all day to reach the fire. Eighteen bodies was taken out of the burning ruins, nine of them from one shaft. The Yellow Jacket Company has rescinded the dividend for March. The fire has had the effect to render the stocks of Yellow Jacket and Crown Point Companies panicky. Transactions show reduced values.

LATEST.—Latest news from Gold Hill: Fire nearly subdued and the bodies of the victims are being removed from the different shafts. Seventeen men are yet missing and are supposed to be burned to death. The total number of lives destroyed is thirty-six. It is impossible to estimate the damage to property. The superintendents of Crown Point and Kentuck mines report them uninjured.

THE GOLD HILL CALAMITY.

The Fire in the Comstock Mines—Detailed Account of the Disaster—Efforts to Save the Victims—Heroic Conduct of Firemen and Miners—Women Begging to be Permitted to Go Down the Shafts—Heartrending Scenes.

From the San Francisco Bulletin.

VIRGINIA, Friday, April 9—12:30 P. M.

At 7 o'clock Wednesday morning the Crown Point men, forty-five in number, went down to their work. Twenty-five of them are dead. Immediately after, the Kentuck men began going down the same shaft. The Crown Point foreman went down in a cage with the Kentuck men, and at the 700-foot level remarked a smell more than common. He gave a signal to lower the cage to the 800-foot level; found the men there who had gone down a few minutes before all in confusion. The smoke was increasing and the gas asphyxiating the laborers. He gave a signal to hoist and bring up the men. There was great confusion and loss of time occasioned through the men crowding the cage. The engine worked at the greatest speed in bringing up the men. Only twenty-five seconds were spent in bringing them from the 100-foot level to the surface. Men climbed up to the top of the cage to come up. The last men who came up the shaft alive, except Bickel, say they heard men left behind jump down the shaft and fall on the dump. The cage went down again, and was brought up after the signal was given as rapidly as possible. It contained GEORGE BICKEL, who was insensible, bearing the dead body of his brother RICHARD, whom he had dragged into the cage, but could not support him. GEORGE never regained consciousness, though every remedy was tried, and died last evening. It was not known at the Yellow Jacket works that anything was wrong, until they were informed by the men from the Crown Point. The smoke soon became so dense in the hoisting works of the latter that the engineers could not see the marks on the ropes. All the windows and skylights had to be taken out to enable the men in the house to live in the winter and shoot. Smoke and gas filled the Kentuck 700-foot level, and came up that shaft in a dense volume. No smoke came up the Yellow Jacket, but so much gas was at the bottom that the men could not get below the 500-foot level for some hours. No man in the Crown Point 1,000, 900 or 200-foot levels escaped. Some men on the 1,000-foot level climbed up to the 900-foot level. One was found dead half way up to the 800-foot level, clasping the timber. Another reached the 900-foot level, and then groped 250 feet toward the Yellow Jacket and died. Another 150 feet would have carried him to the fresh air coming down the Yellow Jacket.

AN EXPLOSION.

The men say that soon after discovering the fire, and before they reached the 800 station, an explosion occurred. This is so. It lifted the cage in the mouth of the shaft two feet. Superintendent JONES, of the Crown Point, says there was no powder in the mine. The cause of the explosion is not known. It being supposed that the men on the 1,000-foot level were below the reach of fire, a message was sent down the Crown Point shaft, written on a card-board, also a light, candles and water, as the men below would be quite ignorant of what had occurred; seeing the falling clouds, they might think the shaft afire. There were continual caves occurring. The rock was so heated that the firemen could not stand in the drifts, and the water, two inches deep, boiled on the floor. Other men, when the fire was subdued, went by the lower drifts to the foot of the Crown Point shaft and sent up the dead. They found in different places those who had fallen down the shafts so much mangled as not to be recognizable but by the clothing. Nearly all showed signs of great agony. Some are much cut and bruised about the face by striking against jagged rocks or through running in the dark. All was done to encourage them and to warn them not to come up. The cage came back as it went down. There was no response and the light was out. These men were got out by yesterday, dead.

VAIN ATTEMPTS TO DESCEND.

As soon as it was safe a descent was made by the Yellow Jacket people, with hose and firemen, who played on the burning timbers in the 800-foot level, but were much incommoded by the lights being extinguished for want of air or by explosion. The men could not find their way. One man, who escaped, hearing a shriek of some one falling, groped on his hands and knees to the shaft. WEICHER, one of the searching party, became asphyxiated, and being brought to the surface, it was some hours before he was restored. The gas at the Crown Point hoisting works was stifling; the engineers were blinded, and the cage went up to the sheaves. The men sent up to clear it faintly, and others behind them had to drag them away from the fumes. The scenes were terrible. Many men would have risked their lives by going down uselessly, but they were wisely restrained by the Superintendent, or more lives would have been lost. Distracted wives begged to be allowed to go down on the cage for their husbands. Ladies even sought to go down the Crown Point and Kentuck shafts where men could not live thirty seconds below the surface.

A PARTIAL EXPLORATION.

Yesterday morning, by going down the Yellow Jacket, along the 900 level, and up the Crown Point shaft, the men succeeded in reaching the 800 foot level and groped about. At Station No. 1 men penetrated in the dark 30 feet into a drift and found a man sitting on a log, his head resting on his hand. Again last evening, the gas and smoke being less dense in the Crown Point shaft, the foreman and two others tried to get into the 800 foot level from below, and arranged with the Crown Point engineer, when a signal came from below to send the cage to them. It was done, and then the signal made to hoist slowly, then to lower, then to try again. At last they reached the level sought, but the lights went out, and they could not go six feet from the car. The signal to lower was responded to quickly; when they got back safely to the 900-foot level they sent a written message up by the empty cage, reporting their failure, to the great disappointment of the anxious crowd. Shortly afterward the men came to the surface by the Yellow Jacket shaft. To avoid accident from their losing consciousness before the time to sig-

nal, it was arranged to lower whenever they ceased signalling. At midnight last night, nothing more being possible until the mine was clear of gas, and there being no smell of burning wood, only steamy vapor, operations were suspended.

THE THIRD DAY—FUNERALS.

At 6 o'clock this morning the Crown Point and Kentuck shafts were clearer than they have yet been, but immediately after the smoke in the Crown Point began thickening and continued so, the fire having broken out again. At 8:30 a black, dense smoke had filled the house, and was pouring out of every aperture. The fire was evidently worse than ever. Some feared that the shaft itself would take fire. Superintendent JONES says that 200 feet of the drift is solid rock, with no timber between the fire and the shaft. PATRICK BUCKLEY's body was sent to Grass Valley. The remainder were taken charge of by various societies for burial. One large funeral passed through Virginia City this morning, under charge of 100 of the Miners' Union. Yesterday hundreds of people followed the various processions to the churches and cemeteries. Every flag in town is at half-mast. Most of the mills have partially resumed work to-day, though many men are absent attending funerals. The Coroner has summoned three juries, who have viewed the bodies. One will begin taking evidence this afternoon. So far, no charge of negligence is made against any one.

From the moment of the first alarm until BICKEL, the last man who came up with life in him, reached the surface, was only a few minutes. A cage capable of containing twice the number of men would have been the only chance. Had the Crown Point been employing the full number, or had the Kentuck men have been all down instead of many being stopped at the top by alarm, the loss would have been much greater. RICHARD BICKEL, JOSEPH MATHEWS and WM. MITCHELL were buried yesterday in the Gold Hill Cemetery, under the auspices of the Odd Fellows. ANTHONY TOY was buried by the Miners' Union in the forenoon. Nine others were buried by the Miners' Union in the afternoon. HOGAN's body was sent to San Francisco last night.

THE FIRE BREAKS OUT ANEW.

GOLD HILL, Friday, April 9—3 P. M.

About 9 o'clock this morning matters—life excepted—looked more serious than they yet had. Thick black smoke, very hot and charged with large embers, was coming up the Crown Point shaft, and up the Kentuck steam and poisonous vapor. Men went down in both cages of the Yellow Jacket, but soon had to come back. Either the old fire had broken out afresh and was burning more fiercely than ever, or the Kentuck itself was on fire. Both theories had their supporters, but on the one thing all agreed—there was a fire raging below which endangered all three of the mines. In a few hours at most it was expected the Crown Point shaft would be in flames. The engineers, with every precaution, could only stand at their places a few minutes at a time.

THE SHAFTS SEALED.

As soon as the men who were in the Yellow Jacket could be recalled, it was determined to seal all three shafts and inject steam. The Yellow Jacket shaft is now floored over under the hoisting house. The air tube is cut off at the mouth, the apertures filled air-tight, and a three-inch gas pipe introduced. This runs several lengths down the air pipe, and conveys steam into it at as high a pressure as the air tube will bear. The air tube goes direct to the place where the first fire was. The Kentuck shaft is also floored over, and men are piling on more dirt wherever a puff of vapor appears. This mine has no air tube, and steam is introduced by a large-sized gas pipe thirty feet down the shaft. The Crown Point shaft is sealed, and twenty men are piling dirt on the covering. The steam is also sent down a large pipe into the air tube, as that goes to the 1,100 foot shaft, and much would condense before reaching the fire. The Superintendents and the Chief Engineer of the Gold Hill Fire Department are satisfied that these measures will check the fire, but look upon its reduction as the work of time.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

Until this morning, no one thought there was much danger of the mines being seriously injured, but the danger at 9 o'clock could hardly be overrated. It is thought there is fire in the Kentuck 800-foot level. If so, the explosion must have carried the fire fifty feet through a drift in which there was no timber. The explosion causes many strange surmises. The origin of the fire is doubtful. It could not have been burning long, because three hours before the men had passed through every part, and the earthen were down all the time. It is very possible some vapor hitherto unknown, at least in gold mines, ignited. There certainly was a severe explosion felt both above and below. Men's hats were blown off by it, who afterward escaped. Some were probably killed outright, as in the fire-dump explosions. Others think the fire broke out from a candle, and the rocky sides of the drift becoming heated, acted as retorts to distilled gas from the pine timbers, a large body of which ignited and so spread the fire over a great space. All sorts of theories are afloat. It is evident that something for which there is no precedent has happened. It is a very serious affair for Gold Hill as well as for the stockholders, as some two or three weeks must elapse before work can be resumed; and there will be much crying in the levels where the fire is. No bodies have been got out since yesterday morning.

NUMBER AND NAMES OF KILLED.

GOLD HILL, Friday, April 9—2 P. M.
The known loss of life is as follows: In the Yellow Jacket, 5; Kentuck, 7; Crown Point, 25. The bodies of GEO. EDWARDS, THOMAS L. VINT, DANIEL O'NEIL and A. REINAY, Crown Point men, are lying in the 600-foot level. JOHN O'BRIEN and K. RYAN are in the 200-foot level. The bodies of three men from the Kentuck—JOSEPH GLASSCOX, MATTHEW TOOLEY and M. CROSLY—are on the 800-foot level of the Kentuck. COX, killed in the Yellow Jacket, had only been at work a few days. HALLIS, killed in the Yellow Jacket, went to work last Monday. He had a wife and family in San Francisco. Three men, PATRICK BUCKLEY, GEORGE FOURMAY and JAMES PHILLIPS, were recovered from the bottom of the shaft. They had fallen from the 600-foot level.

Another Account of the Excitement at the Mines—Grief of the Wives and Children of the Lost.

From the Virginia (Nevada) Enterprise, April 9.

As soon as it was known that the mines were on fire, and that a large number of miners were imprisoned below, the most intense excitement prevailed, both in Gold Hill and this city. The wives, children and relatives of the lost flocked to the various hoisting works, and the grief was such as to cause tears to course down the cheeks of the most stout-hearted. Father MCGOYRE and several other Catholic clergymen did all that could be done to comfort the weeping women and children, but even the reverend fathers could find but little to say upon such an occasion. The poor women, with their weeping children clinging about them, stood about with hands clasped, rocking themselves to and fro, yet scarcely uttering an audible sob—they seemed perfectly astounded and overwhelmed at the suddenness and awfulness of the calamity. Turn where they would there was no comfort for them. At the Yellow Jacket, all but one man known to be below, had been brought up dead, yet no smoke issued from the shaft, while at the Kentuck and Crown Point shafts there arose a thick and stifling column of smoke, mingled with the pungent gases generated from the burning wood and heated ores below. No person who stood at the mouth of either of these shafts and experienced the choking effect of the smoke and gases issuing from below could for a moment entertain the slightest hope that any one of those in the mine could be alive, yet wives and relatives would still hope, against everything, and in every direction almost superhuman exertions were made to extinguish the fire. By closing up the shafts and turning down into them the steam from the several hoisting works, the fire could have been extinguished almost immediately, but to do this was almost equivalent to say that all are dead below—and would, indeed, have been death to any that might have been living—besides, the order would have drawn from all present at all interested in the fate of those below such a wall as no one would wish to bear.

PERILOUS WORK.

No one could have lived to descend twenty feet into either the Crown Point or Kentuck shafts, but the Yellow Jacket shaft being cooler, the gallant firemen and equally gallant miners descended it and bravely began the battle with the fire. A long string of hose was attached to a hydrant on Main-street and carried down to the 800 foot level, when the work began. The firemen would advance as far as possible, extinguishing the burning timber, and when a cave occurred or the timbers seemed about to give way, the water would be shut off and the miners would go to the front and make all secure. The walls of the tunnels were so heated that it was very frequently found necessary to fall back even after the burning timbers had been extinguished and play the stream upon the rock in order to cool it down, and in places water nearly boiling hot stood to the depth of two or three inches on the floor of the tunnel. Then the air was bad, and with the steam and gases almost suffocating, it was found necessary to lead an air-pipe from the main pipe of the blower in order to enable the men to continue work. During this fight several caves occurred; when the miners came to the rescue, and when the ground was made secure the firemen would again go forward with their stream. It was such work as few firemen in the United States have ever undertaken, and such as none but the firemen of a mining country could have done.

SCENES BELOW THE SURFACE.

Some of those who were below, and who were fortunate enough to escape, give most thrilling descriptions of the scenes which occurred far down in the drifts of the lower levels. All agree in saying that the smoke and stifling gas came upon them suddenly, and that, although they rushed at once for the shaft, there were many who sank down on the way. At the Crown Point the men so crowded upon the cage that it was detained nearly five minutes, the station-man fearing to give the signal to hoist while so many men were in danger of being torn to pieces. A young man who came up on that cage told us it was the most fearful moment of his life. One man, unable to find room to stand upright, crawled upon the cage, and thrusting his head between our informant's legs, begged to be allowed to remain there and go up. He was allowed to remain and his life was saved. As the cage ascended, those left behind were heard to throw

themselves into the shaft, and some were heard falling back on the floors. Another young man told us that in rushing for the shaft it suddenly occurred to him that he might fall into it, when he got down and crawled up on his hands and knees, feeling his way, till he knew he had reached the shaft. While lying at the shaft he says that three or four men came stumbling from behind, and pitched headlong into the shaft. At one lowering of the cage a man, who went down to rescue the sufferers, finding that there were more persons below than could be brought up that trip, himself got off into the drift and put on board a young man who was so suffocated that he was hardly able to stand. We were unable to learn the name of this man, but were happy to hear that he was afterward brought up safe and sound.

FIREMEN UNDERGROUND.

This is a strange country, and strange things occur here, giving rise to strange necessities; but our people are equal to all the requirements of the "situation," as was well proven yesterday. We have above given it as our opinion that few firemen in any part of the United States would have had the heart to "tackle" a fire 800 or 1,000 feet below the surface of the earth, and we now wish to state that all did their duty most cheerfully, even striving to be allowed to go below. It was comical to see the "shifts"—for they frequently changed—of five laddies with their big hats on going down on the cage—a new way of going to a fire. A stream was kept on in the 800-foot level all day, and about 9 o'clock at night, as it was found the fire was rising, a second stream was put on at the 700-foot level. The fire was finally so far subdued, as we learned about 12 o'clock last night, that the workmen were able to reach the bodies of some of the unfortunates who lost their lives by this terrible accident. We understand that a number of bodies were brought to the surface about 11 o'clock, and that nine others were lying at the station of the 800-foot level. The fire was not yet out, though almost conquered. This is the greatest mining calamity that has ever occurred on the Pacific Coast, or in any mines in the United States.

The Herald.

DUBUQUE:

TUESDAY, MAY 4 1889.

PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY.

GOLD HILL DISASTER.

The Details by Mail—Heartrending Scenes—Perilous Work.

The following details of the Gold Hill calamity are from the Virginia Enterprise:

The fire was discovered about seven o'clock, though it had doubtless been burning longer. Some of the miners say they detected the smell of burning timber as early as three o'clock in the morning, and the day shift began work at seven o'clock; and, doubtless, the fire originated from a candle left carelessly sticking against a timber by some one belonging to the night shift. During the interval between four and seven o'clock there were no workmen in the mine except carpenter, but before the danger had been discovered many men belonging on the day shift had been lowered into the Yellow Jacket, Crown Point, and Kentuck mines. The first work after the fire was discovered was to try to get the men up from the levels below, and it was not until after John B. Winters, superintendent of the Yellow Jacket, arrived at the mine from this city, that the alarm was sounded. As soon as the alarm was given, the fire companies of Gold Hill, and Nos. 6, 3, and 4, of this city, brought out their machines and were soon on the ground. Meantime, those about the several mines were doing all in their power to save those underground. At first the smoke was so dense that no one dared to venture into either one of the shafts, but about nine o'clock it seemed to draw away from the Kentuck, and Mr. Thomas Smith and another man, whose name we did not learn, descended to the seven hundred foot station, where they found the dead bodies of Anthony Poy and Patrick E. Quinn.

As soon as it was known that the mines were on fire, and that a large number of miners were imprisoned below, the most intense excitement prevailed both in Gold Hill and this city. The wives, children and relatives of the lost, flocked to the various hoisting wards, and their grief was such as to cause tears to course down the cheeks of the most stout-hearted. Father Monogue and several other Catholic clergymen did all that could be done to comfort the weeping women and children, but even the reverend fathers could find but little to say on such an occasion. The poor women with their weeping children clinging about them, stood about with hands clasped, rocking themselves to and fro, yet scarcely uttering an audible sob—they seemed perfectly astonished and overwhelmed at the suddenness and awfulness of the calamity. Turn where they would, there was no comfort for them. At the Yellow Jacket all but one man known to be below had been brought up dead, yet no smoke issued from the shaft, while at the Kentuck and Crown Point shafts there steadily arose thick and stifling columns of smoke, mingled with the pungent gases, generated from the burning wood and heated ores below. No person who stood at the mouth of either of these shafts but experienced the choking effect of the smoke and gases issuing from below, or could for a moment entertain the slightest hope that any one of those in the mine could be alive, yet wives and relatives would still hope against everything, and in every direction almost superhuman exertions were made to extinguish the fire. By closing up the shafts and turning down into them the steam from the several hoisting works the fire could have been extinguished almost immediately, but to do this was equivalent to say that all are dead below—and would indeed have been death to any that might have been living—besides, the order would have drawn from all interested in the fate of those below such a wail as no one would wish to hear.

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Some of those who were below, and who were fortunate enough to escape, give most thrilling descriptions of the scenes which occurred far down in the drifts of the lower levels. All agree in saying that the smoke and stifling gas came upon them suddenly, and that although they rushed at once for the shaft, there were many who sank down on the way. At the Crown Point the men so crowded upon the cage that it was detained five minutes, the station man fearing to give the signal to hoist while so many men were in danger of being torn to pieces. A young man who came up on the cage told us it was the most fearful moment of his life.—One man, unable to find room to stand upright, crawled upon the cage, and thrusting his head between our informant's legs, begged to be allowed to remain there and go up. He was allowed to remain, and his life was saved. As the cage ascended, those left behind were heard to throw themselves in the shaft, and some were falling back on the floors. Another young man told us that in rushing for the shaft it suddenly occurred to him that he might fall into it, when he got down and crawled upon his hands and knees, feeling his way till he knew he had reached the shaft. While lying at the shaft he says that three or four men came running from behind and pitched headlong into the shaft. At the lowering of the cage a man who went down to rescue the sufferers, finding that there were more persons below than could be brought up that trip, himself got off into the drift and put on board a young man who was so suffocated that he was hardly able to stand. We were unable to learn the name of this man, but were happy to hear that he was afterwards brought up safe and sound.

Partial list of victims on the Yellow Jacket Mine Disaster
April 7, 1869

J. McDonald
A.G. Grant
Anthony Toy
Archie McDougalin
Edward Jewell
George Bickle
George Tompkins
George Peters
Harry Stevens
James Bickle
James Matthews
James Peters
Jeremiah Shanet
John Rohan
Jonathan Jones
John Hallisey
Matt Turner
Michael McCormick
Patrick Buckley
Patrick Hogan
Patrick Hogan
Patrick Quinn
Peter Blowin
Richard Bickle
Thomas McCoy
Thomas McLellan
Thomas Toland
William Jewell
William Mitchell