

ENTOMBED.

FURTHER FROM THE MINE EXPLOSION AT MIDLOTHIAN.

Thirty-two Persons Buried Alive—No Prospect of Rescue—Lamentations of Friends and Relatives—Their Rescue Being Attempted.

23 WIDOWS AND 108 ORPHANS.

COALFIELD, VA., February 4.—An explosion occurred at the Grove shaft of Midlothian coal mines, about one and a half miles from here, about 1 o'clock yesterday. Thirty-two men were caught in the shaft, and there is little or no hope that any of them will be gotten out alive. Gas testers went down nearly to the bottom of the pit three times, but were forced to return on account of the smoke and gas, which was suffocating. They report the pit afire, but will try again to-day to reach the unfortunates.

The news of the disaster rapidly spread, and soon a crowd had gathered at the shaft and the scene was most distressing; as nearly every one had some relative or friend among the buried miners.

The cause of the disaster is not positively known. Some attribute it to gas, others say the boiler in the pit exploded.

George M. Dodds, superintendent, states that the gas testers made examination yesterday morning and reported that there was no gas to burn. There is no doubt, however, that those not killed by the explosion will be suffocated by black damp and smoke, with which the pit is choked, and through which no fresh air can penetrate.

The following is a list of the victims:
White—Wm. H. Marshall, bottom boss, James E. Hall, Thomas M. Hall, George Jewett, jr., A. W. Jewett, James Brown, Joseph Coarnow, John Morris, James Shields and Richard Coghill.

Colored—Richard Morgan, Robt. Binford, Samuel Cox, Pleasant Stewart, Joseph Cunlupp, Benjamin Brooks, Alex. Logan, Peter Hopper, Major Pollard, Solomon Laylar, Squire Bright, John Greer, Lewis Hobbs, Daniel Hammonds, Isham Groves, Ed. Ross, Robert Brooks, Thomas Sammells, Albert Hughes, James Mills, Jeff. Coleman, Fred. Anderson.

The shaft in which the explosion occurred is nearly six hundred feet deep, running about three-fourths of a mile in a lateral direction.

The Midlothian coal mines belong to the estate of the late H. H. Burrows, of New York, and cost twelve years ago between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

RICHMOND, VA., February 4—Information received here this morning from the Midlothian mines disaster is of the most discouraging nature. There is no earthly hope that any of the entombed are now alive. Every effort is being made to enter the pit, but it will be impossible to reach the point where the men were for days, and perhaps weeks. The explosion destroyed all the apparatus, including that used for ventilation, and this will have to be replaced before successful operations can be resumed. As may be supposed, this frightful calamity has cast the deepest gloom over the village of Midlothian, where most of the miners have their homes. The majority of the victims were married men, and in many cases their families are left without support and dependant upon charity. William H. Marshall, the bottom boss, was a son of an old English miner brought here by the English company operating the mines fifty years ago. He was aged forty-five, and had a wife and four children. James E. Hall, deputy bottom boss, was a native of Chesterfield county, and was about forty years of age. There were many other men and sons of English miners. Joseph Cournieu was of Welch extraction. His father was killed in an explosion in same shaft in 1876. John Morris, aged 20, was the son of a blind Englishman, who lost his eyes in the pits.

LATER.

RICHMOND, February 4.—A telegram from Coalfield in relation to the mine disaster at Midlothian says that Superintendent Dobbs and two others went down into the shaft about noon, but returned before reaching the bottom. They found no indications of fire.

Another party of five went down this afternoon to repair the brattice and restore ventilation, which was cut off by the brattice being tumbled in by the force of the explosion. This party remained below until after 4 o'clock, when they came up and reported that there was slight prospect of reaching that portion of the mine where the men were entombed to-night.

The miners are still at work, however, and ventilation at 8 p. m. had been restored to the bottom of the shaft.

The sorrow-stricken relatives and friends of the victims and many people from the surrounding country are about the mouth of the shaft, anxiously waiting and watching.

The disaster left twenty-three widows and one hundred and eight orphan children. Subscriptions have been started in this city for the benefit of the stricken families.