

ELEVEN MINERS IN PERIL.

OVERCOME BY FIRE-DAMP—LIVES SAVED BY
A RESCUING PARTY.

PHILADELPHIA, March 21.—A special to the *Times* from Pottsville says that this afternoon at Miller, Hach & Co.'s Stanton Colliery, Mahanoy Plane, a large force of miners and several driver boys were at work in the east gangway when a loud humming noise, such as always precedes the approach of black damp, was heard. This was immediately followed by a strong current of air, which blew out all the miners' lights, leaving them in total darkness, and before they could realize their position they were overcome with the deadly damp. A driver boy and door boy were less seriously affected. The brave little fellows crawled through the darkness to where their mule was standing. Taking a good hold of his harness, they urged him forward in the direction of the foot of the slope, when the mule succumbed to the black damp and fell over and on top of the little driver, Patrick Moore, of St. Clair, pinning him to the spot. Moore cried for his companion to come to his aid, which he did, but before Moore was released from under the mule he, too, fell a victim to the damp.

Meantime the wind forced its way into the gangway, while the damp rushed toward the mouth of the slope with terrible force, and upon reaching the surface threw the cages off the track, tearing some of the boards off the shed covering the mouth of the pit. This gave the alarm to the men on top, and immediately a rescuing party descended the slope. The bodies of the two boys and the mule were the first found. A short distance further on the bodies of nine miners were found lying in the east gangway, which was still heavily charged with the black damp. The 11 victims were soon brought to the surface more dead than alive. Many of them had to be buried in clay for a short time and thence removed to their homes. None of them as yet are dead, but their condition is serious, though they may recover. The timely arrival of the rescuing party prevented a terrible disaster, and their escape is considered almost miraculous. The rush of damp was caused by the falling in of an old breast, which forced the black damp into the gangway.

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