

ADVENTURES
IN THE MINES,
OR
PERILS UNDERGROUND.

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The Great Mining Disasters of the World
from 1812 to the present time,
Recorded and Described
in Vivid Pictures.



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altogether dismembered, though charred, and the knowledge of who worked in those places gave a clue to who they were. Funeral services were held over all, and they were put into the ground as found to await the resurrection at the call of the last trump of the Angel Gabriel. And Pocahontas will ever remain in the memory of the miners of this country connected with the most horrible mining catastrophe its history has ever recorded, and it is likely that the number of lives lost will ever stand at the head of the list as the largest ever known caused by an explosion, and second only to the ill-fated Avondale in calling public attention to the dangerous calling of miners, even where easy access is had to the coal in the mountains and hillsides of our land.

WEST LEISENRING, YOUNGSTOWN MINE, MOCANAQUA, OTTO, AND PHENIX PARK COLLIERY, PA.

On the morning of February 20th, 1884, a fatal explosion occurred in shaft No. 2, of the Connellsville Coke and Iron Company, at **West Leisenring, Pennsylvania**, by which nineteen men lost their lives.

It appears that gas had accumulated in one of the entries during the night, and the men had just started to work on the morning of the twentieth, without the mine having been examined by the pit boss, or some other competent person. It is supposed that one of the unfortunate men went into an old worked-out room, to look for rails to put down in his own room, and lit the gas with his naked light, which exploded, burning and killing some of them, and the others were suffocated by the after-damp. Several men, who were old and practical miners, and

who knew the effects of the deadly fire-damp after the explosion, escaped by going around to another entry. One man through careful foresight escaped the explosion by a very narrow margin. He worked in a room near where the explosion took place, and on going to the mouth of it, he heard the roof cracking and working from what he considered to be gas in the roof; and he would not venture past it, but returned to the bottom of the shaft to wait for the pit boss to either examine his place or give him another. He had just got out of the reach of the powerful blast when the explosion occurred. Several of the men who were killed were found convenient to his room.

YOUNGSTOWN MINE.

Shortly after noon on the 27th of October, 1884, another gas explosion caused the loss of fourteen lives at the Youngstown Mine, near Uniontown, Pa. This mine had two main entries and an air course running from the bottom of the slope. From these entries were driven what were called flats. Out of the flats were driven butt entries from which the rooms were turned. Number three butt was turned from number seven flat, and ran across number six towards the old works. In one of the rooms in the butt entry it was known that there was gas, which was examined by a man who knew nothing of the nature of gas, and only knew from what he had been told by the pit boss, who first took him to show him how to test it, when he gave him the position. That when the lamp was in gas the flame would be drawn up in the gauze of the safety lamp. When he saw that, then he knew there was gas. The mine had

been examined about half past two in the morning, when the night shift had quit, and the explosion took place in the afternoon, just as the day turn were about to quit and the night turn start to work.

The Mine Inspector, being in Uniontown at the time of the explosion, hurried out to the mine, and promptly took steps to explore it. He got five or six men to volunteer to follow him, and they commenced the work of searching the mine. This promptness saved a number of lives, as they found men still living but overcome with the after-damp; these were assisted to the outside and were brought to consciousness and recovered. No one knew who fired the gas, or how it was fired; but on investigation it was found that the door on number three butt entry had no one to attend it, and was left open nearly all day for the convenience of the driver. On making the trip before the explosion occurred he had shut it, and, as there had been an accumulation of gas in number six flat, while the door was open, the air, on being driven around, drove the gas into number seven, where the driver, on coming for his trip with the naked light, exploded it, and snuffed out his own life and the lives of thirteen others, three of whom were young boys, and left seven or eight more men at the mercy of the deadly after-damp who were fortunately saved.

MOCANAQUA.

On August 10th, 1885, the fan of the West End Colliery, Mocanaqua, Pa., was stopped for repairs. The night shift went to work, but had to quit, because of the gas from the fires under the boilers that furnished