

THE PRIMROSE HORROR

**DOLBIN, WHO WAS MOURNED A
DEAD, RESCUED ALIVE.**

TAKEN OUT ON A RAFT

**The Number of Lives Lost is Now
Placed at Ten—An Un-
known Gangway.**

When the MINERS' JOURNAL reporter left the scene of the Primrose mine horror, at 11 o'clock, Wednesday night, only one man had been taken out alive. It was then understood that all the others had perished in the flooded mine. Eleven of the unfortunate men were still in the mine and those familiar with the workings gave them up as lost.

The rescue of Bell led to the discovery that another man was still alive in the ill-fated colliery. During his lonely and thrilling experience of six hours in the mine, Bell plainly heard a smothered cry for help. The man must have heard Bell's cries, as he frequently broke the deathly silence by answering him.

Bell communicated this fact to the men who rescued him and they at once set to work to find him. The water in the upper Primrose levels rapidly receded after the flood had spent itself. It found escape through an old water course which has its outlet at the Delaware, about two miles to the east. The work of driving a heading was abandoned when it was found that Bell could be rescued through the gangway. The water was about four feet deep in the gangway when this plan was adopted and planks were lowered into the shaft and constructed into a raft. This was mounted by one of the men and he slowly navigated to a point immediately beneath the "saddle" where Bell was known to be in safety. Bell at once realized that succor was at hand and slowly descended to where the man was in waiting. It was an affecting meeting when both men shook hands and neither for a while could find words to express the ineffable joy they experienced. A faint cry reached both their ears. It issued from a new heading some distance away. It at once gave hope that another human life had been spared the horrible fate of drowning in an underground trap. Bell was rowed back from where the raft had put out and here another touching scene took place when the little band of rescuers beheld him. He was hoisted to the surface and the work of rescue resumed.

The unknown occupant of the heading was only a short distance from No. 4 breast, through which the deluge entered. The rescuing band called to him and received a faint answer. Whoever he was he realized that help was at hand and began making a perilous descent to the gangway. The poor fellow found his way shut off by a deep hole, over which he found it impossible to cross. He was now only a few feet from the gangway and could see the glimmer of lights. He called to the men and told them of the new danger that confronted him. This was bridged over and a rope was thrown to the man. He tied this to his waist and was safely drawn to the raft.

The unknown was James Dolbin, the pump man. The meeting between the men was an affecting one, and Dolbin was soon restored to the arms of his mother and sister who awaited him on the top. The ladies wept with joy, and their feelings frequently found vent in outbursts of thanks for his deliverance. He had been mourned as dead, and the meeting therefore can be better imagined than described.

Young Dolbin says he tried to escape with Adams, the foreman, but he found that he could never reach the slope in advance of the mad torrent which was thundering towards him. He was in the upper lift at the time and the water had almost engulfed him when a powerful wave dashed him to the chute. The fearful pressure of air forced him up to a heading at a safe distance from the water. He could hear a cataract of sounds as the mounting waters hurled themselves against the sides of the mine and then all became as still as the grave. His light went out and this added to the horrors of his situation. He thought of the bright skies, the happy home so far away and his mind was tortured with horrible forebodings. The black damp was making him sick and the solitude of the black caverns was intensified by an ominous noise caused by heavy falls of rock. The lonely chambers answered back his lusty cries for help and seemed to mock his efforts to escape.

Bell returned to work yesterday morning and seemed to have forgotten his terrible experience of the day before.

Zerbey was in a mine wagon when the flood struck him. The signal had been given to hoist, but his companions realized that safety lay in taking to their heels, and they deserted him. Zerbey would have escaped but the front of the car pulled out and he went to the bottom.

Foreman Adams entered the workings from which the water escaped, yesterday, and found an old gangway with well preserved timbers. It ended near breast 4 and he explored it for a short distance west. The maps of the colliery make no mention of it and it was never heard of. It runs parallel with the upper Primrose gangway in the Lytle mine and both are separated by a 35 foot pillar.

Thomas R. Jones, who was engaged in driving a chute toward it, in breast No. 4, told a representative of this paper yesterday, that the opening had penetrated to within a foot or two of the old gangway when he quit work about an hour before the flood. The water was gushing into the chute and he and his buttty were wet to the skin when they were compelled to quit.

A double action Worthington pump with a 20-foot tail pipe, commenced pumping the water from the lower levels last night. The officials expect to have the water removed within 48 hours. When this is accomplished the ten bodies which are still in the mine will be found. The water will be emptied into the Primrose water-level.