

#### THE ROSLYN MINE DISASTER.

The coroner's jury has found that the explosion in the Roslyn coal mine was caused by fire damp, produced by defective ventilation. This places the blame upon the coal company, the members of which should be at once prosecuted for criminal negligence and made to pay ample damages to the families of the deceased miners. Human life is too precious to be wantonly endangered by carelessness on the part of those responsible for its safety, and it is high time that a salutary example should be made of those who persist in ignoring this fact. There are some accidents that are unavoidable, but they are few in number compared with those which would never have occurred had ordinary precautions been taken. Familiarity with daily danger breeds, if not contempt, a frequent indifference. Often these disasters are precipitated by the workmen themselves, through reckless disregard of danger, and then they pay the penalty with their lives along with their unfortunate fellows. Again, the corporation by whom the workman is employed, with equal recklessness neglect common safeguards, and death crimson the tunnels and slopes of their property with the blood of those who untimely perished by violence almost as criminal as murder. In this case the killer escapes with his own life, and usually nothing is done to remind him that he is responsible for the awful calamity, should suffer for it and should make such amends as lies within his power. Now is a good time to impress this lesson upon the understanding of those guilty of such gross carelessness. The courts should definitely fix the responsibility for the Roslyn disaster if it is possible to be done, and certainly it is if the coroner's jury rendered a true verdict, and administer the full punishment contemplated by the law in such cases.