

## THE LOW VALUATION ON LIFE

The explosion in the Gayton mine a few days ago resulting in the death of several miners was said to have been due to carelessness on the part of the boss.

We believe we are safe in saying that all mine explosions are due to the carelessness of some one or more persons. The greater prevalence of mine disasters in the United States over other countries indicates very clearly that either our laws regulating inspection and designating what precautions are to be taken, come short of what they should be, or they are not enforced. We should not be surprised if we fail to enact the very best laws, and fail to enforce the laws we have. Life is held pretty cheap in our country, sad to say, and until we are educated up to placing a higher value on it, we may expect mine disasters and railroad wrecks to continue to be of frequent occurrence.

Virginia has recently adopted a good law regulating mining in this State, and it was given out that the Commissioner of Labor, who looks

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after the execution of the law, was going to see that the law is rigidly enforced, but that he would give the mine operators time in which to conform to the requirements of the law. We suppose the Gayton accident came just a little ahead of the time at which he was going to begin to put on the screws. Let us hope he will hereafter insist on a rigid enforcement of the law.

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