

### Criminal Disregard of Life.

We yesterday published a piece of melancholy news, recounting the fearful fate of five men, who were descending into the Consolidated Amador mine, near Sutter city, Amador county. While the cage was being lowered, the machinery of the drum, from which the cable payed out, broke, and the car descended with unimpeded velocity a distance of 1,700 feet, killing the five poor men who were on it. There is no excuse for such an accident. Indeed, the owners of a mine in which it could happen ought to be indicted for murder. One of the very first inventions of American genius, when the lower levels of the Comstock exposed descending workmen to such accidents, was what is known as the "safety cage." This cage is armed at the bottom with strong iron prongs which are held in from the wooden slide of the shaft when the cable is taut; but when loosened, they project outward and downward, and entering the slide render it impossible for the cage to descend further. To protect the occupants of a cage from being killed by the falling coil of cable from above when it accidentally parts, a strong sheet iron roof covers it. Had the Consolidated Amador mine been provided with such a cage, the five poor men who were hurried into eternity, the other day, would now be living, and five humble families would not be bewailing the loss of their protectors and providers. Is it not an outrage on humanity that such negligence should go unwhipt of justice? It fills us with disgust to think that the money-grasping greed of a company should so far ignore the dictates of humane precaution as to hurl these five poor men into eternity rather than spend a few paltry dollars to give them the protection which invention and art have placed at their service. The rule is that where life is sacrificed through negligence to provide the best known means for its safety, the parties responsible for that negligence are answerable criminally for all the consequences. We say "the rule is," but perhaps it would be nearer the actual fact to say "it ought to be."

Evening Express  
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## SUTTER CREEK, May 30th.

A fearful accident occurred this A. M. in the Consolidated Amador Mine. The last cage was being hoisted at 6 o'clock with five men on it, when the bolts which were holding reel, broke, detaching the drum from the reel, and letting the cage and wire rope fall into the mine, a distance of 1,700 feet, killing all the men on it. Names of the victims: James Moyle, who leaves a wife and three children; Luke Glenavich, a wife and six children; Samuel James, family in States; A. A. Cortiss, leaves a wife, Frank Fallon, single.

Stockton Leader  
June 6, 1874