

A LIVING TOMB.

A Colorado Miner Rescued From a Horrible Fate.

Richard Swan, a mining speculator of Leadville, Colorado, was rescued from a horrible fate recently, being found in the bottom of a deserted mine shaft, into which he had fallen six days before, and which had been his living tomb. His rescue was by the merest accident. James Barry and Charles A. Dean, two miners, while on their way to work heard the groans of some one in distress. For some time they were unable to locate the sounds, but finally found the opening of the shaft which had almost been closed by the snow and ice. They then could more plainly hear the distant cries, and knew that the person who uttered them must be lying at the bottom of the shaft. How deep the shaft was they could not tell, for the depths were black as midnight. Ropes and mining timbers were procured and Barry was let down the shaft. On reaching the bottom and striking a match he found a man lying face downward just in the entrance of a drift leading from the shaft. The man was unconscious, and his face unmistakably depicted the agonies of death by starvation. The unfortunate man was raised to the surface and carried to the city, where, after restoratives had been applied, he recovered consciousness.

He says that six days ago he was walking up the gulch to look at some mining property, when all of a sudden he was precipitated down the deserted shaft spoken of. He was not aware of its presence, as the mouth was completely blockaded with snow. From the fall he suffered a sprained ankle and a bruised arm, but was not otherwise hurt, as he struck upon his feet. All that night he made attempts to climb out of the shaft, and only ceased his efforts when his strength had completely given out. His suffering was terrible. As near as he can tell for three days and nights he kept up his endeavor to escape from his tomb. Frequently he says he heard men passing by. But he called to them in vain. Finally the hunger and exposure made him so weak that he could not stand up, and giving up in despair he lay down on the spot where he was found. He must have lost consciousness soon afterwards, for he says he knew nothing more till he awoke in the cabin where he was taken after being rescued.

Richard Swan abandoned mine rescue

Clipped By:



usmra_rob
Sun, Dec 27, 2020