

Ohio Repository

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Awful explosion and loss of life- News was brought to town yesterday that an awful explosion had taken place early in the morning in the Black Heath Coal Pits in Chesterfield, by which there was a considerable destruction of human life. The explosion was what is known as a "fire damp explosion" for want of proper precaution. Between fifty and sixty pit laborers and two overseers had previously gone down. The men at the mouth of the pit were instantly killed. The fate of those who went down is not known but it is supposed that few, if any, escaped death. They had not been reached according to last accounts.

Postscript - Since the above was in type we have just conversed with a gentleman from the Pit. He thinks that between thirty and forty had gone below before the explosion - four had gotten out, who it was supposed would recover; two others were seen dead; and cries and groans were distinctly heard from some who had not been reached.

So great was the consternation and dismay, that the accuracy of details could not be relied on; and so great was the terror among all in the vicinity, that the proper efforts could not be promptly made to get out the unfortunately laborers.

One of those at the mouth of the pit alluded to above, is living with both legs broken - The other two were immediately killed. The shaft and engine are but little injured.

The Coal Pit Explosion - The Richmond Courier of Wednesday brings the following additional intelligence, as to the recent dreadful accident at the Black Heath Coal Pit.

Up to four o'clock yesterday evening, only four bodies had been got out. They were lifeless and in a very mutilated condition, having been taken from beneath a great bulk of coal.

One of the four got out alive on Monday has since died. Mr. Beverly Heth, with his assistants, is causing every possible exertion to get out the bodies. There is but little hope that any more of them will be taken out alive. The explosion took place at 6 o'clock on Monday morning, and thirty hours had elapsed when we last heard from the Pits, in which time, if any had escaped death from the very violent explosion, they must have died of suffocation, the structures for conducting air in the shaft being some much injured.