

# A BRAVE MAN'S DEATH.

## THE THRILLING EXPERIENCE OF ANDREW B. NICOLL.

SCRANTON, Penn., Sept. 14.—Andrew B. Nicoll, the General Superintendent of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's mines in this region, died this morning, after the most intense suffering, of the injuries he sustained in the explosion of firedamp at the Eddy Creek mine Olvphant three weeks ago. Nicoll is the fourth victim of that terrible disaster which set fire to the mine. A braver man never faced death in a colliery. With four of his men he entered the Eddy Creek shaft to look for gas, and after making a tour of investigation one of the party, a man named Mason, called Mr. Nicoll's attention to a wall built across the cross-cut, which he said was white before the fall of the roof and was now black. Never suspecting danger, the men held up their lights as high as their heads for a better look at the blackened wall, and in an instant there was a terrific explosion, which shook the mine and struck terror to their souls.

Mr. Nicoll and his companions were now in darkness, a mile and a quarter from the foot of the shaft, and they realized that they were terribly burned by the deadly flash. Knowing that relief from outside could not reach them if they staid there, the heroic Superintendent rallied his comrades to make one supreme effort for life. Their clothing had been set on fire and was still burning about their limbs. Mr. Nicoll with his own hands rubbed the smoldering garments until he extinguished the fire, and burned every particle of skin from his hands in doing so. When he could endure the agony no longer he tore the burning clothing off with his teeth, severely injuring his mouth and face in the attempt. Then came the desperate walk in the dark of a mile and a half to the foot of the shaft. The Superintendent led the party, and guided their progress by feeling the rail in the little mine road along which they crept. One of the men begged that he might be permitted to remain and die, but Nicoll dragged him along by the collar until all finally, after a terrible struggle, reached the foot of the shaft, from which they were speedily hoisted to the air and sunlight.

Since the accident four of the party have died of their injuries, Mr. Nicoll being the fourth. He was born in Scotland in 1849, and was a man of great courage and perseverance. He worked his way up from a humble position until he became General Superintendent of all the Delaware and Hudson mines. He was familiar with disaster, and never shrank from danger in leading relief parties down in the depths to try to save some poor miner whose life was threatened by falling roof or firedamp.

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