

# MINERS' NARROW ESCAPE.

Entombed by a Cave-In, They Cut Their Way to an Air Shaft and Reach the Surface.

SCRANTON, Penn., Dec. 5.—Thirty-two men employed at the Nayaug Colliery, in Dunmore, were entombed by a cave-in this morning, but, thanks to a fortunate circumstance, a terrible disaster was avoided. The men were at work about 1,000 feet from the bottom of the slope and 400 feet below the surface, when two acres of the roof between them and the slope came down with a terrific crash, crushing the pillars beneath it and causing a rush of air that almost blew the men from their feet and hurled the roof off the fanhouse.

Their lamps were extinguished, but, finding that the air was still pure, they re-lighted them and began to cast about for a way of escape. Some counseled remaining where they were until help should reach them from the outside, but the cracking of the pillars in their vicinity told them that the cave-in was extending toward them, and that they must soon find a way out or be caught and killed like rats in a trap.

Foreman John Gibbons, who chanced to be with the men at the time, bade them keep cool and quiet and he would try to find a way out. Crawling on his hands and knees over the fallen roof and sometimes squirming through crevices that barely admitted his body, he made his way to within fifteen feet of the airway which led to the second opening, and which, it was presumed, was not affected by the fall, as it is a narrow passage, cut through solid rock. Returning for the men, he had them take their tools and follow him.

After a difficult and dangerous journey, they reached the point where the fall blocked their way. This was attacked with bars, picks, and shovels, and, after an hour's work, a passage was cleared to the airway, which, as they had counted upon, was open. As fast as they could run they made their way to the second opening, and thence to the surface, where they were greeted with wild hurrahs from the thousands who had gathered expecting to see them brought out crushed and mangled corpses, if they were brought out at all.

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