

DASHED HEADLONG DOWN A MINE.

SCRANTON, Penn., May 15.—A thrilling mine accident occurred this morning at the Pancoast Colliery, a short distance from Scranton, by which five miners, who were precipitated down the shaft, a distance of 86 feet, were so severely bruised and mangled that the lives of four of them are despaired of. The injured men are Louis Sawyer, Patrick Cullen, John Brogan, William Bourke, and William Boland, all of Dunmore. They got into a carriage at 7 o'clock and were about to descend, when the engineer, with his hand on the lever, asked if all was right; the men answered, "yes," and the machinery was set in motion for descent. The carriage had gone down about 10 feet, when the engineer, noticing that something was wrong, stopped it suddenly. This threw the wire rope from the drum upon which it was coiled and sent the carriage with its living load down the shaft at lightning speed. Just before it struck the bottom of the shaft Boland leaped for life, and managed to get away with comparatively slight injuries. The others remained on the carriage, which struck against the rocky bottom with a loud report like the bursting of a gun, and was smashed to splinters. Everybody thought the men were surely killed, and the most painful suspense prevailed at the mouth of the shaft until the result became known. Sawyer had a leg broken in two places. Cullen had one of his legs shattered below the knee and at the ankle, and Brogan and Banks each had both legs broken. They were carried to their homes in Dunmore in an ambulance. Their recovery is considered doubtful. Mine Inspector Blewitt will prosecute the owners of the mine for a flagrant disregard of the mining laws.

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