

ground. One proof of this is the statement sent out from New-York as the opinion of the directors, that the "stable boss" caused the fire by descending the shaft with hay and a lighted lamp. It would have been wiser had the evidence been heard before promulgating this story, and it would then have been discovered that several cars came up the shaft after STEELE went down before the fire was discovered, and that his body was found some distance from the bottom of the shaft, which could not have happened had he fallen through a burning shaft, he had himself ignited. Speculation upon all these points is yet rife, and, as in all matters where fact cannot be substantiated by positive proof, surmise is continually growing bolder. The dead of Avondale Mine will have long mouldered in their graves before their comrades cease to canvass how and why they died. E. C.

Relief for the Avondale Sufferers.

The following contributions for the Avondale sufferers have been received at the TIMES Office to date:

Poor man.....	\$1 00	M. N. N.....	5 00
T. C. and J. H. W.....	10 00	M. M. D.....	25
Cash.....	5 00	Cash.....	3 00
An Irishman.....	5 00	L. J. W.....	6 00
G. F. W.....	20 00	M. E. B.....	10 00
Total.....			\$65 25

The following additional subscriptions were received at the Mayor's Office yesterday:

Wilson J. Hunt.....	\$100	Church of Holy Trin-	
W. S. Caldwell.....	100	ity, New-York.....	300
Jas. C. Spencer.....	100	S. D. Scott.....	3
J. & W. Seligman &		Cash.....	5
Co.....	100		
Total.....			\$708

The total amount received up to the present is \$6,426 13.

CHAMBERLAIN & FRENCH, No. 111 Broadway, acknowledge the receipt of the following additional subscriptions to the Avondale fund, which they have forwarded to Plymouth:

E. J. Muldowney.....	\$10 00
A Mother, Islip, L. I.....	1 00
Historical Hall Presbyterian Church.....	46 20
Total.....	\$67 20
Previously acknowledged.....	1,245 00
Total.....	\$1,302 20

On Wednesday evening, next, a grand *soirée dansante*, in aid of the widows and orphans of the deceased Avondale miners, will be given at Rivers' Academy, in this City.

On Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the Mutual Base-ball Club will play against the Eckfords, at the Union Grounds, Brooklyn, devoting the monied proceeds to the Avondale fund.

THE AVONDALE CALAMITY.

The Verdict—How it is Received—The Origin of the Fire Still an Open Question—The Feeling Among the Miners.

From Our Special Correspondent.

SCRANTON, Thursday, Sept. 16, 1869.

There is little profit in discussing the verdict of the jury, nor is there much disposition to comment upon it anywhere in the neighborhood of the catastrophe. Some, however, are dissatisfied because the jury so emphatically indorsed the theory that the fire originated from the furnace, and say that there is something wrong in finding so conclusively on this point. A theory is passed upon, it is said, as conclusively as a matter of fact, and that too when, as some claim, the weight of evidence was seemingly upon the other side. Experts swore positively on both sides of the question, but more of them that the fire could not have so originated than that it did. On Saturday last the witnesses, who were all called from lists handed in by the Miners' Committee, swore positively, with possibly one exception, against the furnace theory. That one witness was WM. THOMAS, who is declared by the Coroner's notes and by a local paper to have said that he believed the fire took from the furnace. Admitting that he did so testify, there is no dispute as to the other witnesses who testified on the first day, and there was no difference in their testimony on this point. On Tuesday several miners swore as positively that it did take from the furnace, and one contradicted all the other witnesses as to the present condition of the brettice, saying that it is burned all the way from top to bottom. This is no theorising, but a discrepancy as to a simple question of fact, with this witness standing alone in his statement of the condition of the brettice. In addition to these miners, a mine owner and a mining engineer of long experience and high character testified that the fire originating from the furnace it was as likely to begin in the brettice high up near the mouth as near the mouth of the flue at the bottom of the shaft. Against these gentlemen were arrayed other miners and engineers of equal experience and character, who were as positive that the fire could not have originated from the furnace, but who, with one exception, did not advance any theory as to its origin, and that one said boldly that he believed it was set on fire.

The jury thus had the drift of evidence all one way on Saturday and about equally divided on Tuesday, but the latter seemed to them of the greater importance, and that of Saturday could scarcely have been considered at all, for the jury from the first was unanimous on this point, and never admitted any other possible origin of the fire than the furnace theory. The protracted session of more than four hours occupied in arriving at a verdict, was consumed in determining the measure of censure to be meted out to the Company owning and working the fatal mine. There was a strong pressure to make that censure sweeping and decided, but the entire testimony being to show that the mine had been worked with care and prudence, and that it was a favorite among the miners, the Company could not be consumed without condemning the miners themselves. Finally the jury arrived at the compromise which has been published, which is hardly a condemnation of the system of mining with one opening, for it only says mines should have two "whenever practicable," which admits that it may be necessary to operate a mine with but one.

The verdict has by no means set the incendiary theory at rest. Those who believed in it before believe so now. I am reliably informed that much testimony tending to strengthen this view could have been produced at the inquest, but it was not deemed advisable to do so, because it could in no way serve to lead to the apprehension of the criminal. The public know something by this time of mining jealousies, and troubles about "basis" and "strikes," and will understand why it was unwise to fan these acrimonies. But that many persons believed the shaft to have been fired by an incendiary is as true as any statement made in connection with the tragedy, and the statement telegraphed from Wilkesbarre in the name of the Miners' Union that nobody believed in incendiarism was sufficiently disproved by the sworn testimony before the Coroner. The suspicion of incendiarism came from miners, was founded on the condition of the brettice, and was telegraphed, so far as your correspondent is concerned, without having seen any officer of the Company, or without any suggestion being made by any person that it should have publicity. It was simply sent as a matter of news, and it is scarcely necessary to repel the libel which has been put in circulation, when common sense shows that it was to the interest of the Company that the fire should be proven to have been entirely accidental. The owners knew perfectly well that if it should be proven that the fire could have originated in no other way than by the act of an incendiary, certain inferences would be drawn which would disorganize mining industry, and indefinitely postpone the profitable production of coal. It is known as a fact that while the managers of the Company were exceedingly anxious to show that the disaster was not the result of any negligence or unskillfulness on their part, they were fearful of the effects of the incendiary theory, and studiously kept it in the back-