

A COLLIERY CAVES IN.

BUT THE MINERS FORTUNATELY ESCAPE WITH THEIR LIVES.

SCRANTON, Penn., July 3.—An extensive caving in of the Bellevue Colliery occurred to-day in this city, and many miners who were working in the mine at the time had a narrow escape from being crushed to death. The fall of roof covers a vast area of surface, and has damaged a number of houses and destroyed the streets and sidewalks along Main-street. Fortunately the men who were working in the mine when the crash came had warning of the great collapse, and were thus enabled to save their lives. The rock in the roof began to crack like the snapping of rifles several minutes before the cave-in occurred, and when the miners heard it they ran to the foot of the slope, where they had hopes of being rescued. A man named Judge, who was among the last to leave the place, became so terrified as he ran along the main gangway that he lay down close beside the wall in the hope that if the roof fell in he would have a place of safety, but he was almost buried by a fall of coal in an instant and barely had time to get away to a more secure spot.

A Frenchman named Louis Gobe was far in the mine when the tremendous crash came, and his light was extinguished by the fearful rush of air. He was hurled with great force on the floor of the mine and had his hands and head badly cut by contact with the sharp coal. As soon as he recovered from the shock he groped about the place and found to his dismay that he was hemmed in by rocks and coal on all sides. He struggled hard to make his exit, but in vain, and he was in that terrible prison more than four hours before he was rescued more dead than alive.

The damage to property on the surface is considerable, and the walls of several houses are cracked and crumbling from the severe strain of the subterranean storm.

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