

## FIFTY MINERS IN DANGER.

A FEARFUL STRUGGLE FOR LIFE IN A  
MINE FILLING WITH WATER.

SCRANTON, Penn., Nov. 14.--Fifty miners employed in the Leggett's Creek colliery of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company had a thrilling escape from death on Wednesday. The great pump which was used to draw water from the mine, and which generally put it out in a steady stream, broke, and the colliery began flooding rapidly. The alarming rumor was raised that Leggett's Creek had burst into the workings and the miners and laborers ran for their lives to the foot of the shaft, where they hoped to be hoisted out in safety before the rising of the flood.

At the shaft a new horror was confronted. The hoisting car had just been disabled by an accident that it would take twenty-four hours to repair. When the car was near the top of the shaft with a loaded coal car, the latter had run off the platform and fallen with a crash to the foot. At the same moment the hoisting car, freed of its burden, flew up the shaft and stuck fast in the timbers of the tower.

This was the condition when the miners, almost breathless with fear, reached the foot of the shaft. There was nothing left for the men but to turn back against the gathering torrent of water, through the workings to the Von Storch slope, which was more than a mile distant.

The flood was already to the knees of the men, and the miners could realize almost at every step that the water was growing deeper. In a short time it was up to their waists, and then gradually it rose to their necks, putting out their lights, and leaving them to battle with the rushing flood in the dark, with only a little space between the surface of the water and the roof of the mine.

The air became suffocating, and a miner named John Jones became so exhausted that he declared he could not move another step and bade his comrades good-bye. But his companions clasped him in their arms and carried him on, holding his head above water until they found themselves on rising ground.

For a distance of a thousand feet the struggle was fearful. Several of the men plunged ahead with water up to their ears, and were compelled to hold back their heads in order to keep their lips above the black current that threatened to engulf them.

When the men finally gained dry land they were so completely exhausted that they hung themselves on the ground, and it was some time before they were able to proceed further. Several of them had to be carried to their homes, having been sickened by the foul gases and the water against which they battled so bravely.

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