
ALMOST AN AVONDALE DISASTER.

A Breaker Afire Near Plymouth, Penn.— Fifty-five Men in a Mine with One Outlet—Narrow Escape—Indignation of the Miners.

PLYMOUTH, Penn., Dec. 31.—At about 10:30 A. M. the breaker of the Nottingham mine, situated at the southern end of the town, was discovered to be on fire. There were fifty-five men in the mine at the time, a mine with but one outlet—yet no notice was given to the men below that the building above was on fire. Fortunately it was extinguished. The fire was the result of gross carelessness on the part of the Company. Two stoves are kept in the breaker, and the pipes are run directly through the wood-work of the building, without any protection. At noon some of the men came up to dinner, and they became aware for the first time of the terrible fate they had escaped. When they went down again they held an indignation meeting and resolved at once to go up out of the mine. When they got up they assembled the rest of the men belonging to the mine—in all about seventy-five—and held another meeting, resolving that they would not again go down into the mine until there was built two brick chimneys for the stove pipes, a watchman placed in the building night and day, and a bell at the bottom of the shaft, so that they should have a signal when there was danger at the surface. Since that time the mine has not been worked, and the men still remain firm. The proprietors, Messrs. THOS. BRODRICK & Co., have yielded so far as the two chimneys are concerned, but they think one watchman sufficient, and decline to place one there in the day time. The men say that this only shows a willingness to protect their own property, and as their lives are exposed in the daytime they say they shall insist on the two watchmen and also on the alarm bell.
