

be serious, immediate steps were, as we have seen, taken to provide that assistance which, it was feared, would be needed, and the whole of the passengers were forwarded to their various destinations, safe at all events, in body, if terribly disturbed in mind.

A word or two as to the man who devised and perpetrated this horrible attempt. He was supposed to have jumped off the train a little way down the line, and to have got clear away; but next morning a gang of platelayers, proceeding to their work, came upon his sadly-mutilated body lying in the "six foot." His head and face were so shattered and bruised that no feature could be recognised; but from his cloths, and an old pass found in his pocket, he appeared to be one of the most disaffected of the lot, and had often been heard to utter vague threats about "serving the company off for their tyranny and oppression,"—threats so very vague that no one had thought it worth while to heed them or to look after him. When found, one of his boots was missing, but it was found a few yards further on, torn and flattened all out of shape. Putting the two things together, it would seem that, in jumping off the engine, his foot had caught in the slippery iron step. He had fallen head downwards, and had so been dragged for a considerable distance, with his head crashing against the end of every sleeper, until his boot came off, and he had then fallen to the earth on the spot where he was found.

None of the railway officials had any doubt of this, but the directors considered it expedient that the circumstances should be suppressed as far as possible, and, accordingly, at the inquest, the men examined seemed to know so little of the matter, and so little of any real importance came out, that the jury returned a bare verdict of Accidental Death; and, as the train was not smashed up, and the passengers were not all killed or dreadfully injured, the newspapers contented themselves with a brief paragraph, headed, "Extraordinary Affair on the M. and D. Railway," instead of the columns on columns which would have been required under other circumstances.

For the share which I had the good fortune to have in the matter, and for saving them so much valuable property, and so many thousands of pounds in claims for compensation, I received a handsome acknowledgement from the directors, and have risen rapidly from one position to another; so that, although it was long before I quite recovered from the nervous state into which I sank after the occurrence, I have had no reason to regret that I was in that runaway train, and that I did my duty to the passengers, and to the company whose servant I was. I am thankful I had sufficient courage and strength of purpose to do that duty satisfactorily.