

ARE YOU READY?

A remarkable incident was related to the writer the other day, which suggests the question at the head of this paper. It may be, in the hands of a gracious Lord, used in evoking a reply from those of my readers who have never honestly asked themselves the question in the light of God, or had a satisfactory reply.

I write from memory the circumstance as narrated to me. Two men — and —, were employed in some part of England, in sinking the shaft of a deep well. They had found, in their progress, a large rock which required blasting, to permit a further sinking of the shaft. The hole was bored in the rock, and all in readiness—the blasting powder tamped in—the fuze attached—and all was now in readiness to blow up the rock. All that remained was to cut the fuze off to the proper length, and send up by — the remainder of the coil, with the powder case, tools, etc., in the bucket. This was usually done by the man who ascended, getting into the bucket, and being drawn up to the surface of the ground by a windlass. It was necessary to remove everything out of the shaft before the blast took place; otherwise they would be buried in the rubbish, or ignited, or otherwise destroyed. Everything had now been collected, and transferred to the bucket before — got in. — was always obliged to remain to ignite the fuze after the bucket had been lowered for him the second time, as it could not contain the two men, nor could the

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