

True Heroism.

**WILLIAM MARKS' DECENT INTO A BURNING PIT—
THIRTY TWO LIVES SAVED.**

The fire broke out about midday, and when first discovered the main shaft in the mine was in a blaze, with thirty two men and boys at work beyond and beneath the flames, nearly forty feet below the level of the earth. In a few minutes the whole population of the place rushed to the scene, and a thousand or more men, women and children—the relatives, friends, and neighbors of the entombed miners—were gathered at the mouth of the burning shaft, steeped with fear and anguish. All the wells in the town had run nearly dry weeks before, and scarcely enough water could be secured to subdue the heat above ground, much less to arrest the conflagration inside the mine. Thus matters stood for two awful hours, when a railroad engine arrived with a full tank, which was hurriedly emptied into the shaft, and a great shout of hope went from the people.

At this juncture a man emerged like a spectre from the blaze and smoke, and fell in a swoon at the very edge of the shaft. An hour later two more men cried up through the flames for help, and a ladder was lowered to them, on which they made their way to the top, and were dragged forth alive, but burned and blackened beyond recognition. Three were now saved, but twenty-nine others were still below and the fire was not yet under control. The terrified crowd stood aghast for a few minutes, and then suddenly a panic of despair seemed to seize them, the stifled moans of the women and children breaking out afresh, and the men drawing back from the mine with blanched and averted faces. The supreme moment of the emergency had come, and the man to meet it was there. His name was William Marks, and he stepped to the front with the promptness and the modesty of a true hero. "Fasten a rope around me, and let me down into the shaft," he said. The proposition was appalling, but down he went into the horrible cavern, without another word, and reaching the bottom freed himself for his search in the entries diverging from the main shaft. At almost the first step into the stifling darkness he stumbled upon the inanimate form of one of the miners in a coal car, which he pushed to the entrance, secured the rope around the body, called to those above to hoist away, and in a moment the man was safe. Further search soon revealed the whereabouts of the remaining twenty-eight, and slowly but surely Marks piloted them to the mouth of the mine and delivered them, one by one—many insensible, but all alive—out of the jaws of death into the hand of their wives and children. Then, when the last one had been rescued, he came himself to the surface, scorched and blinded, and nearly suffocated, and stood there silently among the cheering townspeople, the master of the situation.

Thus the peril was surmounted without any sacrifice of life; but the heroism was there all the same. The rescue of the helpless miners, and the escape of the man who gave death scorn to save them, spoiled the perfection of a tragedy; but the destruction of all concerned could not have added to the radiance which belongs to the unselfish bravery of William Marks. He was a common workingman.

The Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway is again open for traffic. The late thaw enabled the company to clear the line.

The Martini-Henry offers, it would seem, a corrective, not intended by the inventors, to that wastefulness of ammunition in rapid firing which was regarded with apprehension as the result of the use of breech-loading small arms. Surgeon Major Henry, in a letter which will be found under the head "60th Rifles" in our regimental column, states that he gave it as his opinion, after examining the effects of the discharge of 100 rounds in "five" volley, and skemistiny firing as fast as the heating of the rifle would admit of twenty men selected for the purpose, that a repetition of the same practice next day "would inflict most serious bodily pain and injury on the men;" and he specifies, among the effects, extensive marks and contusion on nineteen out of the twenty—one km. by 7in.—though he does not specify the place. The trials at Aldershot have not developed such extensive mischief; but, then, there has been no test of such severity as the discharge of 100 rounds as fast as they can be fired. This check on extravagant firing may, however, be attended with disadvantages.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

EARTHQUAKE.—A letter from Guadalajara, Mexico, says earthquakes occurred in that section, on the 11th of February, in San Cibistebel. Nearly the whole town was destroyed, and seventy dead bodies were taken from the ruins. Many of the injured people are now living in the open air at Leon Calchahuite and Zacateco. The shock was felt severely.

RIO JANEIRO, March 16.—An extraordinary session of the Brazilian Legislative Assembly, called for the purpose of considering the budget and the disorder in the country, was convened to day. The speech from the throne was delivered by the Emperor in person.

PARIS, March 16.—*L'Univers* publishes the text of an address which it says General Cabrera has issued to the Carlists, and which he will immediately despatch from Paris. In this paper General Cabrera announces his recognition of Alfonso as King of Spain. He points to the country's need of peace, and appeals to the patriotism of the Carlists to discontinue a struggle, hopeless from a cause which he refrains from revealing.

A convention between the Cabrera and the Alfonsists is also being published. By its terms the Carlist towns, districts and provinces submitting within a month may retain the special and loyal privileges they enjoyed before the war; and any appointment of a Carlist to a civil or military office which has been approved by or may emanate from Cabrera, will be accepted and confirmed by the Alfonsists. To these reports is added that a Carlist proclamation has appeared denouncing General Cabrera as a traitor.

The scene at Germantown on the river banks, beggars description. The ice on the shore in many places is 30 feet high. About twenty small houses and some shanties have been torn to pieces, and about 200 are filled with water to the second story. One man is reported killed. Four or five spans of the Delaware Railway bridge are broken to pieces. The bridge cost \$200,000.

New York, March 18.—Port Jervis despatches sum the losses by yesterday's flood, as follows:—Erie Railroad Bridge, \$75,000; Barrett Bridge, \$45,000; Individual loss in Port Jervis, \$60,000; Basket Bridge, \$15,000; Loss in lumber, \$75,000; Damage to property, above \$20,000. Total \$288,000. The probable losses down the river will no doubt swell the above amount by \$100,000.

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