

the corpses, so much were they affected by what they had seen ; but from the general appearance of the men, there can be no doubt that all of them died from the effects of the gas, and died quietly and calmly." There is comfort in this to the bereaved and suffering widows and orphans, but there is still greater comfort in the knowledge that many of them were truly Christian men—men of sterling piety and spiritual worth ; some were local preachers and class leaders in the Methodist body ; and that they would feel the support of the faith they professed, and encourage their fellow sufferers, was a source of consolation to many during the long hours of agonizing suspense at the mouth of the pit ; that this expectation was correct, the following short but touching memorandum will go far to prove. It was found in the time book of the overman, whose body was one of the first brought up :

Friday afternoon, half past two. Edward Armstrong, Thomas Gledson, John Hardie, Thomas Bell, and others, took extremely ill. We had also a prayer meeting at a quarter to two, when Tibbs, H. Sharpe, J. Campbell, H. Gibson, and William Palmer — (The sentence is incomplete.) Tibbs exhorted to us again and Sharpe also.

This is all we shall ever know this side eternity of the passing away of those brave spirits. May the lesson not be lost on the thousands engaged in like perilous occupations. Another relieving shade in this sad picture is the touching letter sent by command of the Queen to the sufferers. It is as follows :

OSBORNE, January 23.

SIR,—The Queen, in the midst of her own overwhelming grief, has taken the deepest interest in the dreadful accident at Hartley, and up to the last had hoped that at least a considerable number of the poor people might have been recovered alive. The appalling news since received has affected the Queen very much.

Her Majesty commands me to say that her tenderest sympathy is with the poor widows and mothers, and that her own misery only makes her feel the more for them.

Her Majesty hopes that every thing will be done as far as possible to alleviate their distress, and her Majesty will feel a sad satisfaction in assisting in such measures.

Pray let me know what is doing.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

Charles Carr, Esq., Hartley Colliery.

C. B. PHIPPS.

Worthy is the woman who in the midst of her own bereavement could feel so much for others, to that deep place in the affection of her subjects, which has been so strikingly manifested of late ; sure we are that the utterance of many a stricken wife and mother will find a response in the hearts of all who read this letter. "God bless her." May the sorrowing ones—on the throne or in the coal pit—experience alike the consolation of Him who is alone the comforter.

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The preparations for celebrating the Bicentenary of St. Bartholomew's Day, 1662, are being pushed on with vigour, if not with so much unanimity as could be desired ; there have been several meetings on the subject, but nothing definite has yet been decided upon. The present appearances indicate that the celebration will be denominational instead of—as at the first was expected—united. We shall endeavour to keep our readers fully informed on this interesting subject.