

ful conflagration in the mines of Pictou, involving also a fearful loss of human life.

The International Mine owned by and worked for a Montreal company, has recently been the scene of one of those awful accidents, such as occur occasionally in Britain, notwithstanding the guards provided by science, and the care and skill of overseers and inspectors.

By a series of explosions, in this case following the igniting of the coal, there has been a destruction of life fearful to contemplate. Fifty-nine souls have been hurried into eternity, and of these forty-five have left wives and families to mourn over the terrible stroke. Westville is filled with lamentation and sorrow, and East Pictou sent into mourning.

It is generally conceded that the marine disaster might have been avoided by ordinary prudence and care; and we fear from the intelligence received, that on the part of a few in the subterranean accident, there was some rashness, at the beginning, and a mistaken security, on the part of a greater number, when the danger became imminent, leading to results fatal to themselves, and now lamented by their friends.

The dark and terrible features of this calamity are somewhat relieved by noble acts of heroic courage and daring, shewn alike by overseers and workmen, in the hour of most imminent peril; exertions, however, which alas proved unavailing to prevent the spread of the awful calamity, and resulted in most cases in the loss of the lives thus imperilled, in a spirit of the noblest self-sacrifice.

Shall there be evil in the city and the Lord hath not done it? We can look back to times in the history of the world when the judgments of the Lord were manifestly abroad and is not the present such a season? It is true that the great and black war clouds have rolled away from our continent and from Europe, but what unparalleled conflagrations in America, and storm and shipwrecks on the Atlantic and on its coasts, with railway horrors at intervals. What crashing of human works and sudden crushing out of human life. Surely we will shew ourselves both blind and deaf

if we do not see the hand and hear the voice of the Judge of all the earth calling on us to learn righteousness. In view of striking providential events of the times and of our own Provinces, we should shew in union deep sympathy for the suffering and sorrowful around us, profound submission under the chastening hand of God, and earnest desires to learn all the lessons natural and spiritual which such dispensations are designed to teach. We are happy to notice that sympathy for the bereaved is finding prompt expression in the most practical manner, by voluntary provision to meet the wants of the injured, the aged, the widow and the fatherless. Such free will offerings in relief of the suffering are among the works which may be truly called "good," and "acceptable to God."

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#### ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

This Synod met at Newcastle on the 21st April. The retiring Moderator, Mr. Davidson, preached an able and earnest discourse on 1 Cor. 9 15. He called very pointed attention to the manner in which legal standing room is now secured in the Established Church of England to Popery. In the words of the *Times*:

'It is now established that a clergyman of the Church of England may teach any doctrine within the limits which only extreme subtlety can distinguish from Roman Catholicism on the one side, from Calvinism on another side, and from Deism on a third.' The *Church Times* adds, by way of congratulation to Ritualists, 'that they can preach without any fear of civil or ecclesiastical penalties the primitive doctrines of the real presence, the sacrifice of the mass, and of eucharistic adoration.' That they were in the way of preaching such deadly error they did not conceal, nor could they well. Their literature is in our hands. The catechism taught in their schools is, with a few meaningless alterations to evade the law, an exact reprint of a catechism long in use in Roman Catholic schools.

He argued from these solemn facts that the true followers of Christ should draw more closely together and labour more diligently to spread the pure gospel. Rev. Thomas McPherson was elected Moderator. The Synod appointed a Committee on Intemperance, classing this vice with Roman-