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FURTHER PARTICULARS.

(From Yesterday's Newcastle Chronicle.)

HARTLEY PIT, Thursday,
Half-past Eight A.M.

THE men have not yet been able to fix any portion of the crib. This arises from the state of the shaft. The diameter of the shaft in its original condition was 12½ feet; now, in some places, from the repeated falling in of the earth, it is fully 30 feet. The men in the shaft have been rather affected during the night by the effluvia arising from the bodies of the poor men in the yard seam. The smell causes the men to feel very sick and unwell. Mr. Simpson, Newbiggen, and Mr. Ambrose, of Captain Snow's Arctic Discovery yacht, now lying in Tyne Docks, have remained up all night, for the purpose of attending to any one coming out of the shaft requiring their aid. They have been called upon every two hours to administer stimulants to those who came up every shift.

The poor women who have suffered so melancholy a deprivation in the loss of husbands and sons are now much more composed since the unnatural state of suspense has been terminated.

The coffins are being made at various collieries around, and as soon as the cribs are completed, the bodies will be placed in the coffins, and brought to bank.

DISTRESS AMONG THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

This (Thursday) morning, Dr. Dawson and Mr. Hornsby, relieving officer, have visited some of the most needy of the families bereft of their breadwinners by this appalling catastrophe. The cases of extreme distress are not very numerous, but there are many that are pitiful in the extreme, especially among Irish and Scotch families that have recently settled here. The principal miners' hamlets where the angel of death has placed his hand on the thresholds of once happy homes are called Quarry Row, Colliery Row, and Old Hartley, and each of these places consist of single or double rows of cottages. The cases requiring relief are most numerous at Quarry Row; the most severe afflictions have been felt at Colliery Row. Numerous instances of a harrowing description might be given; but after visiting two or three destitute families, in company with Mr. Hornsby, a fair idea of the nature of the rest may be obtained. One poor woman in Colliery Row, who has been recently confined, has lost her husband and son. Her mother-in-law, an old woman living at Gilsland, received information of the calamity on Monday morning, but she was then misinformed that all were saved. She hastened by train to this place, where the cup of blissful hope was dashed from her lips when she knew that her children were lost. These people have not sixpence in the house, and even now they cannot refer to their lost relatives without violent and heartrending bursts of grief. The old woman, who was decently dressed in black, made the following statement:— "I came from Gilsland on Tuesday morning. I heard on Monday morning that they had all been got out alive. Next day the newspaper mentioned all the names, and there were my two sons (weeping.); I have only a boy, seven years old, at home, to manage all now. We had great distress last back end. He has been poorly, and out of work. He once got nearly killed in a pit. Hamble knew him very well (weeping). My consolation is he never took an oath in his life (weeping.) We would like to have seen him (weeping.)" Three families, named Oliver, living in one home, have lost seven of their members; another family, named Liddell, is sadly bereaved. An Irish family that settled here recently has been deprived of every male member, and the widows and infants are left destitute, almost even to furniture. But the instances are innumerable; scarcely a home is unscathed by this the most appalling disaster in the annals of the coal trade.

Thursday, half-past Two.

Mr. Humble states that the inspection he made of the position of the bodies in the mine leads him to suppose that they have been overpowered by the gas while sleeping. They are almost all lying in natural, easy positions, and do not appear as if they had suddenly fallen from the overpowering effects of the gas.

On the arrival of the afternoon trains from Tynemouth and Percy Main, a very large number of persons got out; amongst them were several of the wives and relations of the unfortunate men. A most afflicting scene took place on the platform and on the road to the pit. Sobbing and weeping, wincing of hands, were heard and seen on every side. One poor woman, with an infant in her arms, told a most affecting story to a minister of religion who vainly attempted to assuage her grief as she related her loss, with tears streaming down her face. She has come down to hear some tidings of her husband. He had only commenced work in the pit, and it was his first day down when the accident took place. He had promised to write to tell her where to come to. The hand of death prevented him carrying out this intention. The little infant in the afflicted woman's arms looked on with an alarmed countenance at the violence of its mother's grief. Others were similarly afflicted. Even strong men were to be seen shedding tears without restraint.

Quarter to Five.

The first cart-load of coffins has just arrived, and is now being unloaded. They are placing them in a building near the pit, where they will remain till wanted.

Pit, Thursday, Midnight.

This is the most boisterous night we have yet experienced at this place of gloom. A strong south-eastern wind, blowing directly from the German Ocean, brings with it heavy showers of pelting rain, against which it is almost impossible to stand. In the sinker's cabin a few indefatigable men, including Mr. Coulson, await their turn to descend again the dismal depths of the foul pit. The work has proceeded well, and is more than half-finished. By five or six o'clock in the morning, the men expect to get again to the rubbish, and to resume the arduous occupation of clearing it away. Meanwhile, by the use of the brattice, the air is much purified, and none of the men have been affected by the gas to-day. Still there is some uncertainty about that fatal obstruction, so obdurate, and so firmly knitted; and, horrible as the thought is, it may yet be that the dead must be left to bury their dead. It is certain, however, that no effort will be spared to accomplish the object now in view, and that is expected to be achieved on Saturday morning.

ACCOUNT OF THE FALLING OF THE CAGE BY ONE OF THE SURVIVORS.

Mr. Watson, who escaped miraculously along with two other men, when the cage fell, has favoured us with details of the accident, the cause of all the woe. Some of the facts have been stated previously; but these, coming from a survivor, are not without interest. The cage, consisting of an upper and lower deck, was being drawn up at twenty minutes to eleven o'clock on the morning of Thursday the 16th, with four men on the upper deck—namely, W. Sharp, George Sharp, sen., George Sharp, jun., and Ralph Robson; and four on the lower deck—namely, — Watson, — Robinson, William Bewick, and — Brown. They had entered the cage at the bottom of the shaft, and their ascent was regular, as usual, until they were within a few feet of the bank. Then they heard a great crash above them, and before they could conjecture what it was, they felt a heavy substance strike the cage, and the cage at once descended with great velocity. After a momentary perception that they were falling down the shaft, the cage caught the brattice, and was instantaneously crushed by falling timber. The first blow is supposed to have been given by the falling beam, and the effect of that shock knocked George Sharp the younger, Ralph Robson, William Brown, and Robert Bewick, out of the cage, and they fell down the pit. As the cage hung on the brattice, the four men left on it began to perceive the reality of their situation. Above them the shaft was choked with *débris*; below them all was dark, but they had heard the sound of weighty material falling beneath them. The first idea of the men in the cage was to obtain relief from the yard seam, and Watson, who was uninjured, volunteered to slide down the "rap ropes," to that place, both the Sharps being severely injured on the head and body, and Robinson being slightly hurt. Watson slid down accordingly, and soon found his progress stopped by the obstruction that has since caused so much trouble. There he found the bruised and wounded persons of the poor fellows who had fallen, and from whom the breath of life was ebbing fast. George Sharp the younger, was a member of the Society of Primitive Methodists, to which body Watson also belonged. The two joined in prayer; and while asking His mercy upon their souls, Sharp, Bewick, and Brown yielded up their breath to the God who gave it. Watson now found his own situation to be one of difficulty and danger. It was impossible for him to re-ascend to the suspended cage by means of the rope, and he therefore attempted to climb up the pumps; but his efforts were unsuccessful. He engaged in prayer, as did also those in the cage above, and in this way the time passed until they were relieved. The first signs of assistance were the signs of hammering above the obstructing material. In response, Watson and his comrades shouted as loudly as they could, and they had the satisfaction of hearing faintly the sound of human voices in reply. At length a ray of light appeared in the obstacle above, and eventually a rope was lowered to the men in the cage. George Sharp was the first put in the sling; but just as he was being drawn up he fell out, and the next instant he was a mangled corpse, lying at the side of Watson, who only noticed him breathe twice after he fell. The other men were drawn up in safety; but Watson still remained among the dead below. A rope was lowered to him, and he commenced to

ascend. But his dangers were not yet past. He had been exposed to a heavy fall of water, and while he stood, pieces of hutting and other debris fell at intervals around him, but, happily, did not hit him. After he was drawn up two fathoms, a heavy fall came away; and after being drawn up three fathoms more, another shower of debris fell around, but happily missed Watson. He then reached the cage, and after getting through that, he was drawn safely to bank.

While in their perilous situation, the men were only able to make conjectures as to the cause of the accident, and these are somewhat interesting, as affording ground for believing that those immured in the seam would be likely to entertain similar opinions as to the nature of the accident. Mr. Watson and his comrades believed that the main engine-work must have fallen; but the thought of the beam having broken never occurred to them at all. They believed also that the pump spears had fallen, and the shaft was closing in. They were, of course, aware of the dreadful position of the men in the workings of the pit, and must have been fearfully impressed with the terrible nature of the catastrophe as they hung, as it were, between life and death.

William Sharp has made hopeful progress towards recovery during the past two or three days; but he suffers a great deal from the bruises he has received. Sharp was formerly a sailor, and both he and Watson are men of more than the ordinary intelligence of their class; Mr. Watson possessing a fair degree of education.

HER MAJESTY AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

The following telegram from Her Majesty, through Sir Charles Phipps, was received at New Hartley, last night, by Mr Carr:—

"The Queen has been deeply affected by the dreadful news from Hartley. Her Majesty feels the most sincere sympathy for the poor widows and orphans. What is doing for them? I will write by to-night's post."

In reply to this, Mr. Baker Foster has telegraphed to Sir Charles Phipps, for the information of the Queen, that measures had been adopted for the immediate relief of the poor people, and a public meeting is to be held to-morrow, at Newcastle, for the purpose of forming a permanent relief fund. There are 406 women and children left destitute.

STATISTICS OF THE LOSS OF LIFE.

Some idea of the extent of this frightful disaster will be gained from statistical returns that have been compiled by the parochial officers, assisted by the officers of the colliery. The following is a statement of the number of the nearest relatives only of those whose lives have been lost in the pit:—

Widows,.....	103.
Children,.....	257.
Sisters supported by brothers,.....	27.
Orphans,.....	2.
Parents supported by sons,.....	16.
Aunt supported by nephew,.....	1.
Grandmother supported by grandson, ..	1.
Total,.....	407

407 living, and 219 dead, including those who were killed by the falling of the cage, and yet those figures only indicate those immediately affected by the calamity. The male population of three pit hamlets swept away at one fell swoop, and of all the men employed at this important colliery, which but nine days ago was in active operation, only 25 remain alive. We have received the full returns made by the collecting officers, but we have only space to append a few exceptional cases:—

PERSONS KILLED.

- Christopher Wanlass (20), Thomas Wanlass (18), John Wanlass (14)—sons of Thomas Wanlass, in work.
- James Glen (18), William Glen (14), George Glen (12)—sons of Thomas Glen, who has four other children (two boys and two girls), himself being unable to work for 19 weeks, age 61.
- William Sharp, in the cage at the time of the accident, injured in the head, has four children, eldest 9, all boys, belongs to Old Hartley, but brought here.
- Thomas Sharp (48)—has left a widow, but no family.
- George Wade—left widow and child two months old, girl.
- Mark Bell (23)—unmarried; his father, Mark Bell, almost wholly dependent on him; also, a boy, aged 14, who lost a leg in the pit fifteen months since, and can't work.
- John Harrison (16)—son of John Harrison, who is able to work.
- William Logan—left a widow and five children, eldest 7, three girls and two boys.
- Patrick Walpole—lodging with Mrs Logan, only been there a fortnight, left a mother unprovided for, living in Scotland.
- Robert Wears (20)—unmarried, son of R. Wears, his father in work.
- Henry Hunter (13)—son of Thomas Hunter, one of the few saved.
- John Rutherford (25), William Rutherford (23)—both unmarried, sons of John Rutherford (67), past work, who has a daughter unmarried, aged 21, both unprovided for.
- Henry Ford (28)—left a widow, aged 25, no family.
- William Fairburn (64)—left a widow, aged 64, has one son, unmarried, who came up in the second cage, aged 27, but not strong.
- George Fairburn (34)—unmarried.
- Robert North (26)—left a widow (just confined) and two children, girls, infants.
- George North (16), John North (14), Alexander North (12)—father, mother, and two children (boy and girl, aged 6 and 8), dependent on these three young men; one son left, who is married.
- William Oliver (65)—left a widow, and girl 12 years old. Rest of the family gone. John Oliver (27)—married, did not live with his father; James Oliver (21)—married, left a widow (near confinement) no family; William Oliver (18)—unmarried; Peter Oliver (15); Peter Ford (12.)
- John Cousin (18), Robert Cousin (12)—brothers; father works, but family to some extent dependent on the sons.
- John Young—left widow, and two children under 16, girls, the first time he had gone to work, from Bishop Auckland.
- Robert Coulson—left widow, and two girls under 16, the first time he had gone to work.
- Caleb Cross—left widow and one child, girl, first time he had gone to work; Philip Cross (10), son of the above—Francis Allsopp, a widow, daughter of Caleb Cross, dependent on father and brother; she is very delicate, and has two children, 4 years old and 18 months, girls.
- Patrick Gormley—lodger with Elizabeth Cross; no relation has yet appeared to claim him.
- John Harding (15)—son of George Harding.
- John Liddle—left widow, four girls under 16; Thomas Liddle (19), George Liddle (16), John Liddle (10)—sons of the above.
- Oswald Cleghorn—left a widow (who is daughter of John Liddle), one boy and two girls, under 16.
- Thomas Liddle—left a widow and three girls. Brother of John Liddle.
- Thomas Liddle (16)—son of the above T. Liddle.
- William Ternent—left a widow, one boy and three girls, all the Liddles and Gleghorn very recently came here from Slegburn.

In the list of the sufferers published two or three days ago, there are but 204 names, while the number in the pit at the time of the accident is generally believed to have been 215. The only additional name, however, that we have been able to obtain is that of Robert Coulson, married man.

MEETING TO RAISE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE BEREAVED.

A meeting of gentlemen, hurriedly convened on Thursday morning, took place in the Central Exchange Hotel, at ten o'clock, to take measures for commencing a subscription for the bereaved widows and families of the unfortunate miners lost at Hartley.

In compliance with resolutions adopted, the Mayor of Newcastle called a public meeting yesterday (Friday.)