

these are infallible indications of unreliability. Should Trowbridge make affidavit, as did the blood atoned ex-"Mormon" William Green, to the effect that he is alive and well, comfortably situated in an adjacent town, it must be insisted that he is not informed on the subject, and that the Masonic death penalty for disobedience to the obligation of its formula has been duly executed upon his proper person. That is to say, of course, if it is intended to render the Masonic fraternity odious and exclude alien members of it from naturalization.

A REMARKABLE STATEMENT.

THERE can be no question as to the fact that R. N. Baskin stands as a historical character in the annals of Utah. The consistency or even humanity of the part he has played in a drama of throbbing interest is a theme we do not propose now to discuss, as the treatment of such a subject would not be opportune. It is solely on the ground of his prominence that we make the following excerpt, the rhetoric of which is largely inflated, from a "Liberal" and rabid anti-"Mormon" organ published in this city:

"Judge R. N. Baskin has, we understand, sold his farm and horses, and says he wants to sell his home, preliminary to closing up his business and going back to his early home to live. When told that his friends desired him to remain that he might be their first Gentile representative in Congress from Utah, he answered that such an honor would a few years ago have awakened the full measure of his energies and enlisted them all in the work, but now it would be little more than Dead Sea ashes to his parched lips. Perhaps this is true. The blows have been thick and heavy upon the soul of R. N. Baskin, and the lion within him which causes him to close his lips, and make no complainings against fate, only makes his real sufferings the more severe. Still, as we read his nature we do not believe that it will be possible for him to go away with a thought that he is leaving while yet the work which called out the best energies of his manhood remained unfinished. The first effect of a great sorrow is to turn one's thoughts in upon himself or herself; the second is to expand the true heart; to give it a broader fellowship with the world, a gentler patience, a more profound reverence for the commands of duty. So reading R. N. Baskin we do not expect that he will go away. We should be glad to see him close up his affairs and give some months to travel; to go where he can catch the voices of waterfalls, or the winds in the forests; where the mountains and the ocean will be reminders to him that all things in nature have their stations and must do the work marked out for them, whether that work be incessant like the never-resting oceans or whether it be but to hold the snows and the springs for the rivers and to bear the forests, like the mountains. Our

excuse for thus bringing up a private citizen's name and discussing his position is that R. N. Baskin is in one sense public property, and the public have claims upon him. As a rule men are mere instruments to work out decrees which are formulated by the fates. The destiny of some, at least, is to bear heavy burdens, that the burdens of others may be made lighter, and this was what compelled R. N. Baskin to do for Utah what he has done in the past, what he must still do in the future.

Although a volume might be written upon the other side of the question presented in the foregoing, we pass it without comment further than to say that the talk about the delegateship does not agree with the shouts uttered by representative "Liberals" in favor of Orlando W. Powers, who was paid ten thousand dollars for carrying the late municipal election 'at all hazards.' It is to be hoped that Mr. Baskin is not being paid a disingenuous compliment.

COLLIERY DISASTER IN WALES.

THE press dispatches contained a brief account of a terrible colliery explosion which took place in the Llanerch pits, Abersychan, South Wales, on the 6th inst. We are in receipt of copies of the *South Wales Daily News*, published at Cardiff, which contains the particulars in detail of the great catastrophe. We quote:

"Between six and seven o'clock yesterday morning 300 men, constituting the full morning shift, descended into the bowels of the earth to pursue their hazardous occupation. Hardly had they settled down to the 'daily round the common task,' when a terrific explosion resounded through the workings, and shook terror into the hearts of brave men. The explosion was of tremendous force. The machinery of the up-cast shaft and other works at the pit's mouth were destroyed almost entirely, and dense volumes of suffocating smoke, relieved ever and anon by flames of fire, ascended the shaft. The terrible news spread rapidly throughout the district, and scores of persons rushed to the pit's mouth and eagerly offered their services in the dangerous work of exploring. Rescue parties were soon organized, and succeeded in descending the shaft. Those who were on the bank breathlessly watched for the re-appearance of the brave band of volunteers. At last came the news from below that the dead were lying about in scores, and then commenced the mournful task of bringing them to the surface. At one time it was feared that none would be rescued alive. But happily this gloomy anticipation was not justified, and in the course of the day between 70 and 80 men were safely brought to bank, many of them, alas! injured and suffering. Still the actual loss of life is appalling in its magnitude."

A description of the pit, workings, etc., is given, followed by an account of the manner in which the explosion is supposed to have taken place:

"It is stated that five men were engaged in one of the stalls, driving a hard heading, and that they suddenly came to a fissure, from which gas rushed in a tremendous volume, and that it ignited at the lamps which the men carried, naked lights being used throughout the pit."

The mine had, within two years, been overhauled thoroughly, fitted up at great expense with new machinery, and was considered to be well ventilated and entirely free from gas. The presence of gas in it had not been detected for years, and the sudden rush into its workings of the explosive fluid cannot be satisfactorily accounted for upon any established theory.

There were between 240 and 250 men in the mine when the explosion occurred, as nearly as can be ascertained. Of these 174 were killed, and many of the survivors were burned or otherwise injured. The manifestations of grief and despair at the mouth of the pit as the bodies of the miners were brought to the surface were harrowing in the extreme. The wives and children of the men employed in the mine flocked to the pit as the news of the explosion spread, and there was one long succession of heartrending scenes during the labor of exploring the mine and bringing up its dead and living workers, which lasted two days. Actual experience is necessary to enable a person to realize the horror of such a calamity.

There are many persons in Utah who are acquainted with the neighborhood in which this great disaster occurred, and no doubt some of our readers had acquaintances and perhaps relatives numbered among the victims. The *South Wales Daily News*, in connection with the particulars of the explosion above recounted, prints a list of 112 disasters of a similar character which have occurred in England and Wales since 1845, the victims of which number from 5 to 300 each.

COMMENDABLE LEGISLATION.

FEB. 27th the House passed two bills the tendency and effect of which are in the right direction. One of these provides for the payment of a bounty of one cent per pound on all the sugar that may be manufactured in this Territory during the next two years, and appropriates \$20,000 for the purpose. The other bill exempts from taxation for five years the plant of any establishment which may engage in the manufacture of cements from native materials.