

knew that many must bite the dust before that declaration could or would be honored by the mother country. Never were there a more determined fifty-six men's names signed on paper. To them it meant liberty or death; and after many years of warfare waged against the people of the thirteen colonies, England reluctantly withdrew her armies. If the then reigning king of England was living in this day, more than likely we would have more or less trouble with him.

But what a mighty change has taken place; the English lion and the American eagle eat of the same dish now. The great king of beasts in his wandering to and fro on the earth, if he perchance finds the nestlings of the great bird, they are not disturbed.

The two nations have become friends as fast as once they were enemies. And well they might be, for no better republic ever existed on the earth than the United States; and as a true-born American I am proud to say that no better monarch ever ruled a nation than now and, for many years has ruled the kingdom of England; when Queen Victoria passes from this stage of action, not only a nation, but a world will mourn.

As the anniversary of the birth of this good republic is drawing nigh, it is fitting that not only all natives, but also those who have adopted this as their government celebrate the Fourth of July as a national holiday. All America should rejoice. Wars and persons have an altercation and are vanquished and falls to the ground helpless from exhaustion and punishment, but shortly arises to his feet and offers the hand of friendship, it is bravery to tell him: "I whipped you," and keep on saying so for a hundred years, while the olive branch of peace is always held out to perpetuate that brotherly love that has existed for so long?

I for one am willing to make a new declaration to celebrate the Fourth day of July, one thousand, eight hundred and ninety-six. While we are at peace with all nations, there is none so great that it can tread on the tail of our coat; and while we have no chip on our shoulder for any nation to knock off, we do not propose to allow any one to put a chip on that they would have a chance to knock off.

Let old wounds heal up; let hy-gones be hy-gones; let the dead past bury its dead; and if it be necessary for America to make a declaration, it can do it, and one to suit the occasion, while every true American would say, well done.

Long may the beautiful Stars and Stripes float as an emblem of justice and liberty and every true American extend the hand of a protector and not a conqueror!

J. R. W.

A MINE DISASTER.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., June 29.—While duety laborers were at work in the Red Ash vein of the Twin shaft, at Pittston, about 3 o'clock this afternoon the roof caved in, and it is believed all of the men perished. About forty of the imprisoned men were English-speaking miners, the others foreign. The men were at work propping up the roof when the fall occurred. The alarm was im-

mediately given by the ringing of firebells, and the rescuers were put to work without delay. At 3 o'clock this afternoon the first bodies were found in the slope some distance from the plane in which the men had been working.

More than two-thirds of the victims were married men. Among them were Acting Mayor Laidigan, who was in the superintendent of the mine, and J. H. Lynett, a ward councilman.

About two weeks ago the surveyors reported to General Superintendent Law that the mine was "squeezing," and that unless steps were immediately taken to timber it, a cave, in or fall might be looked for. Superintendent Law lost no time, but at once put a number of timbermen at work to brace the falling roof. The "squeeze" continued, however, and yesterday the situation became alarming. In the afternoon a slight fall occurred, and the men who were at work had to retreat before it. A consultation of mine officers was then held, and it was decided that heroic measures would have to be resorted to to prevent heavy damage to the mine. Inside Superintendent Laidigan gave orders that the most experienced miners should be secured, and that the party would go down the mine at 7 o'clock. Expert timbermen put in an appearance at that hour and were soon lowered into the workings. They made their way to Red Ash vein, 150 feet down the shaft. The work of propping proceeded rapidly until 11 o'clock, when another fall occurred. It made a low rumbling noise, and the flying coal and debris drove the men back. Then the "squeeze" ceased again, and the men thought it was safe to resume work. They labored on until 3:20 o'clock, when, as it is presumed, the roof fell in without warning, making a tremendous crash. It is supposed, however, that the men were not all together, but some near the slope, and these probably ran up the incline when the fall occurred. If the men received any warning, they had time to run up the slope, but not to any great distance. The falling rock and coal filled up the slope and the adjoining gangways, completely shutting off all avenues of escape.

Crowds of people gathered about the mouth of the shaft and numbered thousands by daybreak. Stalwart men stood appalled, and fraitle women, who had husbands or sons in the doomed mine, waited in despair.

One mother cried out that she had two sons below. Another was the wife or widow of some unfortunate one, and had nine helpless children at home. Many knelt on the ground and in voices broken in sobs implored divine Providence to restore their loved ones alive.

When it was given out that there was little or no hope of rescuing the men alive, women and girls fainted and were borne away.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon it became necessary to swear in extra policemen to control the crowd around the mouth of the shaft. It had increased to fully 7,000. Ropes were stretched around the shaft, and only mine officials were allowed to enter the enclosure.

Sheridan, the water boy who had such a narrow escape, tells a thrilling story of the catastrophe. He thinks

there was an explosion of gas which blew down the newly erected timbers and caused the cave-in. He said those inside had no apprehension of a fall or a "squeeze." Everything was working nicely, and the men expected to be out of the mine within an hour.

At 11 o'clock tonight the situation at the ill-fated mine was unchanged. The rescuers were hard at work, but making little progress.

Superintendent Miller has given orders that the rescuers must proceed with great caution now, as the rock they are laboring under is "working" more or less. There is danger that in hurrying the work, other lives may be lost.

A conference of prominent mine superintendents from all over the Wyoming valley was held tonight and the situation in the mine discussed. The conclusion was reached that to prevent further loss of life, the work of the rescue must proceed with care. It is also the unanimous belief of the superintendents that the mine is now a tomb, and that it will be some days before the rescuers can reach the bodies.

At 12:25 there was another fall in the slope. It drove the rescuers back. The twenty feet of ground they had gained since 8 o'clock was thereby lost.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., June 29.—The excitement at Twin shaft at Pittston, where nearly 100 miners are entombed continues today. At the mouth of the shaft, besides the wives and children of the entombed men, there are hundreds of persons not residents of Pittston alone but visitors from Scranton and Wilkesbarre. The wives and children stand near the opening of the death chamber urging the rescuers to greater efforts. Practically nothing has been accomplished toward the recovery of the men. There is scarcely a man about the opening of the mine who does not believe the men are all dead. The rescuing party which went into the mine at 11 o'clock came out at 7. The foreman reports that the timbering is going on as rapidly as possible. The work is necessarily slow owing to the danger of falling rocks loosened by the explosion. It is utterly impossible to begin digging here late this afternoon. If the slope is not completely choked with debris the rescuers may possibly be able to reach the men within twenty-four hours; otherwise it may take two or three days. The rescuing party is 2,000 feet from where the cave in occurred. Gas continues to accumulate and the room which was weakened by the explosion is in danger of falling any moment.

A survey of the interior of the mine this morning shows that the main slope is blocked worse than the officials are willing to admit. Fully 60 feet that had been cleared up yesterday afternoon is blocked by another fall that occurred before 4 o'clock this morning. Fire Boss Johnson said: "It is my belief that the air current in the twin shaft was shut off the moment the explosion occurred; then if the men were not killed by the falling rock and coal, they may have lived some minutes before being suffocated; or, if the space where they were was left clear, gas may have accumulated and exploded which would of course have burned the men to death. It is likely