

lessons as these in social life confirm the rule that one of the necessities of a gentleman is persistent abstinence from the tobacco habit.

### THE ARMY MINE DAMAGES.

On Saturday evening the News published a statement of the controversy between the Rocky Mountain Coal and Iron company and the bereaved families of the men killed in the Red Canyon mine disaster at Almy, Wyoming, relative to the amount of damages which the company should pay for the lives of the men lost in its service; and today there is a further statement of proceedings in the matter. The company offered \$1,000 for each man killed, then increased to \$1,500. This offer was rejected by the families, who asked \$3,000 and costs of securing the same. The company refused to grant the last named figure, and the families have combined to institute suits for the amount.

It is a pity this affair could not have been settled without going into court; for whatever the outcome as to the amount of damages awarded, the contestants are sure to suffer loss and delay in settlement, the only one-gaining by the litigation being the lawyers and others to whom fees must be paid. As to the amount of damage, it might seem that \$3,000 was small compensation for the death of the head of a family, even in a case where the killing was accidental; but the bereaved have expressed themselves as content to settle on that basis, after having considered all the circumstances, without being put to further trouble. Failing to secure this settlement amicably, they will endeavor to collect that and more through the courts.

In its response the company denies all legal responsibility for the fatality, and insists that its offer of recompense is pure magnanimity. However that may be, and we have no reason to doubt that the company desires to do the fair thing, it will hardly be conceded by the public that its offer to pay \$91,500 to the bereaved families—if each of the 61 persons killed is included—is made without a conviction that there is a measure of legal obligation attached thereto. If there were no responsibility recognized for the condition of the mine, such as produced the fatality, it is hardly probable its owners would be content to pay over such a large sum for mere charity's sake. The tender of the amount, therefore, is virtually a confession of legal responsibility which will have its effect in the claims, which aggregate double that sum, and may reach considerably higher if suits are entered.

It is to be hoped that the efforts at amicable settlement will not be allowed to be stopped where they are by the arbitrary action of either of the parties concerned. In looking at the case two features will present themselves to the public mind as follows: First—The men were killed, and the company was in a measure responsible—not criminally so—for the condition of the mine at the time of the explosion; and second—\$3,000 is not an exorbitant

sum as recompense for the taking away of the support of a family, even when such deprivation was unintentional; leaving out all consideration of mental affliction caused by the bereavement. At the same time, in considering the claims for damages in an instance like this, the extent of the list should be considered, which here would swell the amount to nearly \$200,000, for the sixty-one killed, and costs. This is double what the company expresses a willingness to pay.

There may be arguments on both sides of the issue. It would not be wise to insist on damages that are impossible of cancellation by the company; on the other hand, it would not be just to make every concession come from the bereaved, who have suffered irreparable loss already. Looking at the matter from an outside point of view, it might seem that the injured parties have reduced their claim to a minimum now. Yet neither there nor the company should be averse to efforts at settlement by a reputable board of arbitration, without going to the expense of lawsuits. If an adjustment could be thus made at either limit or any point between, so that all would consent and avoid litigation, it would be a sensible procedure for both parties to make overtures to that end. We hope that the terrible catastrophe of March 20th last will not be a cause of irritation in the courts, but that the magnanimity and justice of the interested parties will cause it to be settled by a friendly and satisfactory arrangement.

### THE ENGLISH CABINET CRISIS.

With the fall of the Rosebery cabinet a rather featureless administration of the affairs of the British empire has come to an abrupt end. Last Friday, June 21, the government was defeated in the House of Commons on a motion to reduce the salary of the secretary of war by £100, and although the opposing majority was small, the premier hastened to summon the ministers and they decided to hand in their resignations which were promptly accepted without any expression of regret on the part of the sovereign. If Lord Salisbury accepts the task of forming a new cabinet, the dissolution of the Parliament is likely to follow immediately, and in case the conservatives obtain a sufficient majority in the elections, a strong policy, internal and external, may be looked for.

Among the burning questions in Great Britain are those of home rule and the abolition of the House of Lords. The silver question also has been much agitated lately and is likely to be an issue in the coming campaign. On home rule, Lord Rosebery, in the early part of his career, made some promises that have not been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the supporters of the government. His attitude toward the House of Lords, an institution he branded as an "anomaly," has been equally unsatisfactory. With a Salisbury cabinet and Balfour as the leader of the House of commons, the liberal party seems doomed to commence anew its long struggle for reforms in the interest of

democracy, with this disadvantage however, that its most eminent leader is rapidly nearing his Jordan without being followed by a faithful Elijah upon whom his mantle may fall and with it the spirit of his mission. With the unionists in full control, friends of home rule in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales have cause for feeling downhearted.

In view of the present agitation caused by the disturbances in Armenia, Lord Salisbury's views on the Turkish question, as expressed in 1879, are of great interest. The Berlin congress had just completed its labors and England had secured Cyprus for services rendered. The utmost efforts had been put forth to maintain the integrity and independence of Turkey. "Whether use will be made of this," said Lord Salisbury, in summing up the situation, "probably the last opportunity which has thus been obtained for Turkey, by the interposition of the powers of Europe, of England in particular, or whether it is to be thrown away, will depend upon the sincerity with which Turkish statesmen now address themselves to the duties of good government, and the task of reform." If Lord Salisbury still holds the opinion here more than implied, that the Berlin conference was Turkey's last chance as far as assistance from England is concerned, Russia's long desired opportunity has evidently come, and his acceptance of the premiership of Great Britain may possibly be followed by events of great moment to Europe and to the whole world.

### CONDITIONS OF HAPPINESS.

This is a season in which all nature rejoices in the blessings of a bounteous Providence and in which much of the energy of the children of men is spent in pursuit of pleasures. It is natural that human beings should seek happiness. They are endowed with the faculty of enjoying the endless beauties of the physical, the intellectual and the ethical world, and this gift bestowed by the Creator is in itself a proof of His intention as to their happiness; besides there is the direct promise to those who will conform to God's laws, that they shall be given the desire of their hearts.

Many fail, however, in their pursuit of happiness, for various reasons. They seek it in the wrong place and miss it. Discontent, useless fretting and grumbling are the results both among rich and poor. The path to real happiness is continually being pointed out, and yet, how many find it? In the first place, it may be said that a clear conscience is the foundation of it. Without it, nothing can be enjoyed; with it, adversity itself has lost its sting. Then, the faithful performance of duty is the main entrance to enjoyment. Recreation is not possible except as a contrast to labor performed in the interest of the human family. Only to the weary, rest is sweet. Work itself may not always be looked upon as a pleasure, yet without it no happiness is obtainable. Further, it may be remarked that exquisite pleasures are found on the vast spiritual and intel-