

THE PAPER DON'T SAY

The following we clip from an exchange, and though old it is worth republishing, as a specimen of the penny-a-liner style and "plain folks."

A few evenings ago farmer Slocum was reading an account of a dreadful accident which had occurred at a factory in the next town, and which the village editor had described in a great many hard words.

"I declare, wife, that was an awful accident over tew the mill," said Mr. Slocum.

"What was it about, Mr. Slocum?"

"I'll read the 'count, wife, and then you'll know all about it."

Mr. Slocum began to read.
"It becomes our painful duty to record the particulars of an accident that occurred at the lower mill of this village yesterday evening, by which a human being in the prime of life was hurried to that bourne, from which, as the immortal Shakespeare has said, 'no traveler returns.'"

"Do tell?" exclaimed Mrs. S.

"John Smith, a workman who has but few superiors this side of New York, was engaged in adjusting the belt on one of the large drums."

"I wonder if it was a bass drum, such as 'E Pluribus Unum' painted on't," said Mrs. Slocum.

"When he became entangled, his arm was drawn around the shaft at a fearful rate. When his situation was discovered he had revolved with immense velocity about fifteen minutes, his head and limbs striking a lagre beam a distinct blow at each revolution."

"Poor creeter! how it must have hurt him!"

"When the machinery had been stopped it was found that Mr. Smith's legs were macerated to a jelly."

"Wohder if it killed him?"

"His skull was fractured and his spine dislocated."

"Well, did it kill him?" asked Mrs. S., with increased interest.

"Portions of the dura mater, cerebrium, cerebellum, in confused masses were scattered about the floor—in short the gates of eternity had opened upon him."

"Was the man killed?" said Mrs. Slocum.

"I don't know—haven't come to that yet—you'll know when I've finished reading the piece." And Mr. Slocum continued reading.

"It was evident when the shapeless form was taken down that it was no longer tenanted by an immortal spirit—that the vital spark was extinct."

"Was the man killed, that is what I want to come at," said Mrs. S.

"Do have a little patience, old 'oman, said Mr. Slocum, 'I presume we shall come upon it right away.'"

"This fatal casualty has cast a gloom over our village and we trust that it will be a warning to persons who are called to regulate machinery in our mills."

"Now," said Mr. Slocum, "I should like to know whether the man was killed or not?"

Mr. Slocum looked puzzled. He scratched his head, scrutinized the article he had been reading and took a general survey of the paper.

"I declare, wife," said he, "it's rather curus; but really the paper don't say."

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