

COY'S DIGGINGS. [FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

Since the melancholy and fatal accident that befell the two unfortunate men Bland and Motton, there appears to be a gloom cast over the place.

The funeral took place last Monday, and their remains were followed to their final resting place, the Whroo Cemetery, by nearly all the inhabitants of Coy's in token of respect to our late fellow townsmen, who were well known and esteemed by us.

Two men in the vigor of manhood taken from a small community like ours, without a moments warning, shows to us plainly the uncertainty of life. Men to whom I was talking on the morning of the accident, in three short hours to see them cold in death, is rather saddening and oppressive; let us hope it will be a warning to the miners of the place to use every caution in future.

On Saturday two men named Motton and Bland, who had taken a contract to sink a shaft 150 deep on the London reef, at Coy's Diggings, while putting in the last slabs close to the surface, met with an accident which resulted in the death of both of them.

Bland, who was on the stage which was supported by two bars of iron, one of which was not thicker than the handle of a riding whip, had put in one of the slabs which appeared to Mutton, who was on the surface, to be a little out of place, and in his hurry to alter it, he jumped upon the staging thinking it was strong enough to carry both, but his extra weight caused the weak iron to bend and loose its hold on the sides of the shaft, causing one end of the stage to [illegible] down the shaft; seeing their danger, they threw themselves backwards to endeavour to catch hold of the partition which divides the shaft into two, but missing the edge they were both precipitated to the bottom, both being instantly killed.

Bland met with his death exactly 12 months from the day he was married, and leaves a wife and child, and Motton a wife to mourn his loss.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

COY'S DIGGINGS.

May 23rd, 1870.

Magisterial inquiry made before me at Coy's Diggings, on Monday 23rd day of May, 1870, on the bodies of Charles Bland and Henry Motton.

Frederick Tilson, on oath saith on Saturday the 21st inst, at 12 o'clock, I was on the top of the shaft when I observed Henry Motton stepping on the stage which immediately went down the shaft, Charles Bland was on the stage at the time, and went down also, the depth of the shaft is 150 feet, I called at once for assistance, several people came and William Merryfull went down to the bottom of the shaft and found them both dead and at once brought the two bodies to the surface. The Dr Heily was sent for who came shortly after the accident had happened.

Charles Bland is my brother-in-law. Both bodies are removed to the London Tavern Hotel, for Magisterial inquiry, I identify them as the bodies of Charles Bland and Henry Motton.

FREDERICK FILSON.

William Merryfull, miner, on oath, saith about 12 o'clock on Saturday last, the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, I was standing about 120 yards from the London Reef shaft, I heard some person calling out, I ran at once to see what it was, upon my arrival at the shaft Frederick Tilson informed me that the stage connected with said shaft and that the deceased Charles Bland and Henry Motton had gone down with it, I immediately went down the shaft and found them both at the bottom dead, I brought both the bodies to the surface at once, and I identify the bodies now at the London Tavern Hotel as the bodies of Charles Bland and Henry Motton.

WILLIAM MERRYFULL.

I find by the evidence given that Charles Bland and Henry Motton, came by their death on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., accidentally, through the breaking of the stage of the shaft of the London Reef, Coy's Diggings which fell down with them 150 feet.

J. CAMERON, J.P.

Coy's Diggings 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1870.

***(Waranga Chronicle, 25 May, 1870)***

The subscription list for the widows of Messrs. Bland and Motton, who were killed at Coy's Diggings by falling down a shaft, will be kept open until Thursday next, up to which time persons wishing to subscribe can do so by calling at Mr H. Smith's residence, at which place the list is lying.

***(Waranga Chronicle, 9 June, 1870)***

The following is a list of the subscribers' names and the sums contributed in aid of the widows of the two unfortunate men Chas. Bland and H. Motton, who lost their lives at Coy's Diggings, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1870.—

R. H. Smith 2s 6d, Mrs. R. H. Smith 2s 6d, W. C. Walbran £1, Faber 1s 6d, Jas. Goodyer 2s 6d, James Polan 1s 6d, Wm. Hardie 2s 6d, John Rice 2s 6d, Eugene Condroy 2s 6d, F. Nicolay 2s 6d, K. J. Hansen 2s 6d, J. P. Jasen 2s 6d, T. Clausen 3s, Wm. Lachmond 2s 6d, John Murray 2s 6d, Robinson 5s, George Mathers 5s, John McAnella 2s 6d, Mrs E. Guthrie 2s 6d, Wm. Crilly 2s 6d, Christian Millar 5s, Jorgon Lorentgen 5s, George Phillips 2s 6d, Mrs Mason 2s 6d, Wm. Richards 2s, F. Shiach 2s, J. H. Roberts £1, John Sands 5s, R. Morgan 3s 6d, Mrs Wigg 2s 6d, Cracknell 5s, Thos. Fitzpatrick 6s, Anybody 2s 6d, A. U. K. 2s 6d, G. Brice 2s, Wm. Smith 3s 6d, a Friend 2s 6d, T. Taylor 2s 6d, J. Eaustic 2s 6d, J. Oregon 2s 6d, Wm. Scott 2s 6d, Alex. Bryce 3s, C. Muhlhan 2s 6d, Rev. Westacott 5s, Wm. Dixon 2s 6d, R. Robertson 5s, E. H. Hicks 2s 6d, Chas. J. Reid 5s, J. J. D. 2s 6d, John V. Bate 2s 6d, Thos. Moyer 3s, Wm. McKay 2s 6d, H. B. N. 5s, a friend (No 2) 2s 6d. Total £10.

***(Waranga Chronicle, 16 June, 1870)***

SUBSCRIPTION TO MRS BLAND AND MRS MOTTON.

*(To the Editor of the Waranga Chronicle.)*

Sir, — We beg to acknowledge the receipt of £10 through Mr R. Smith we thank you sincerely for your kindness, and remain, Yours thankfully,

MRS. C. BLAND. MRS. H. MOTTON.

***(Waranga Chronicle, 30 June, 1870)***