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### A REMARKABLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

The train on the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad which left Boston at 10:30 P. M. on Saturday, December 26 last, was partially wrecked at Pelhamville, a little station 16 miles from this city. The

fireman was killed; the engineer and three of the seven mail clerks were seriously injured, while the passengers escaped with more or less severe bruises. The engine, tender, and mail car were thrown down the embankment, but the rest of the train remained on top,

although entirely derailed, with the exception of the forward truck of the baggage car.

The accident is one of the most novel in the records of railroad disasters, owing to the causes leading to it, and the small loss of life, when we consider all the con-

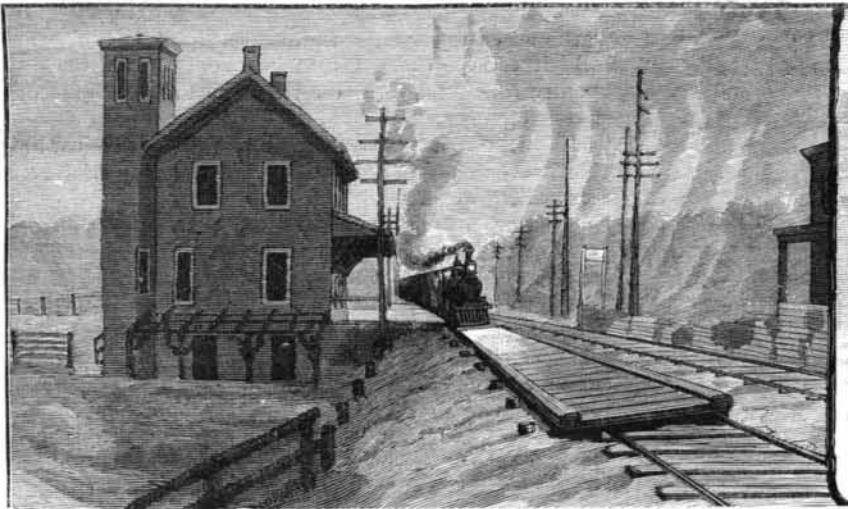


Fig. 1.—THE TRACK JUST BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

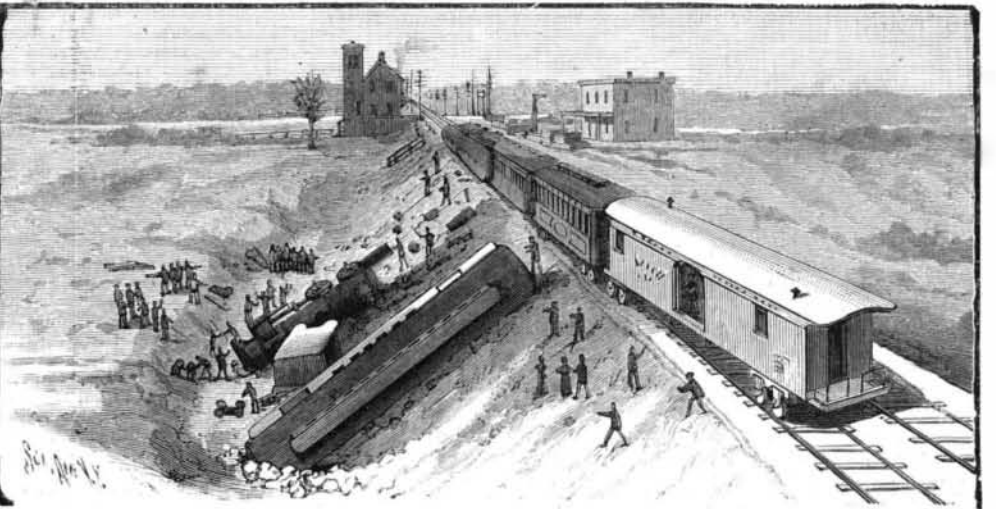


Fig. 2.—GENERAL VIEW OF THE WRECK.

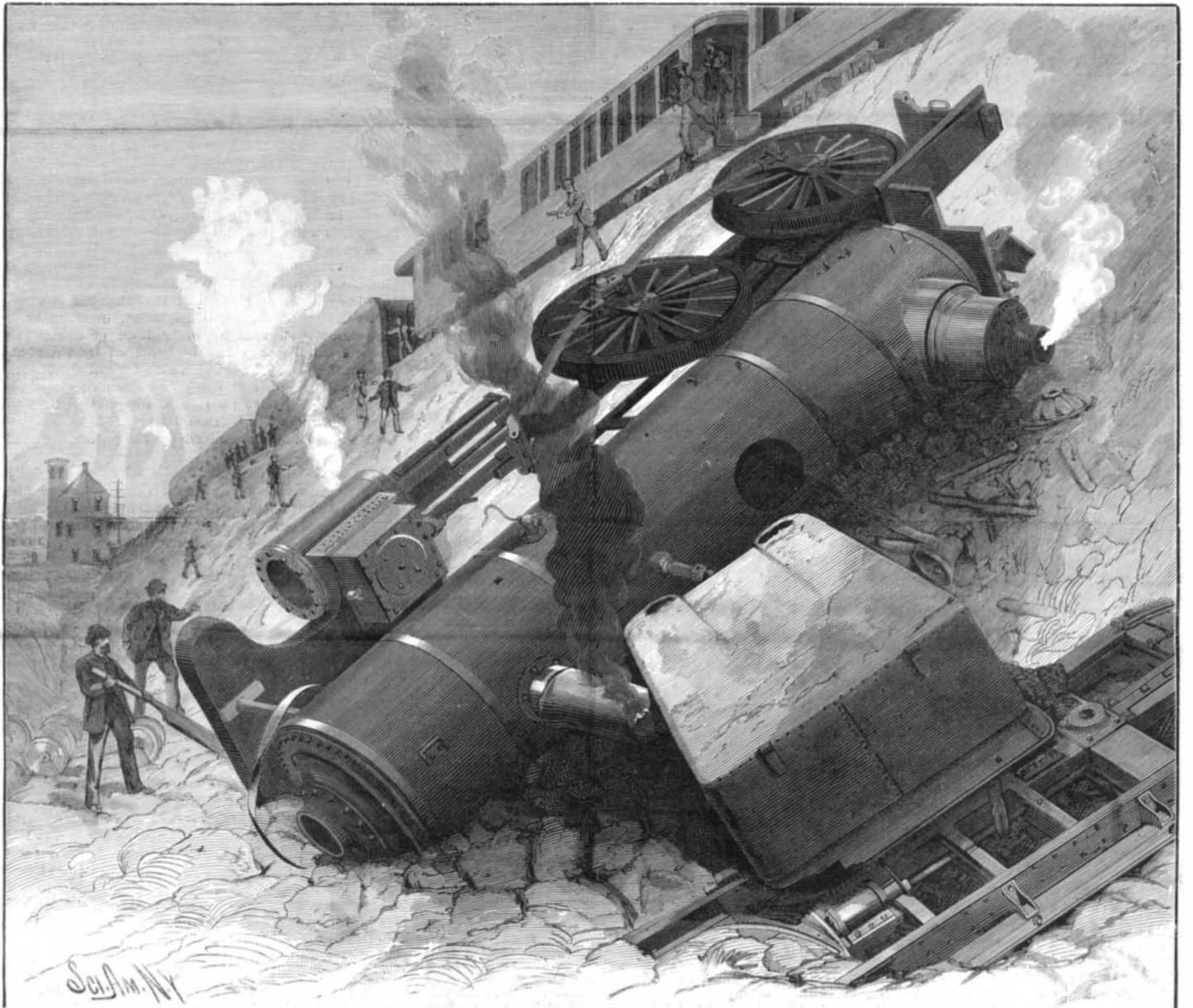


Fig. 3.—REMARKABLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—VIEW OF THE LOCOMOTIVE AND TENDER.

ditions. That an express train traveling at the rate of forty miles an hour should strike such an obstacle as this one did and yet escape total destruction borders upon the marvelous.

Running along the west track, which is the one used by incoming trains, on the north side of the Pelhamville depot, was a platform, 6 feet wide and 100 feet long, made up of thick boards laid crosswise upon two heavy stringers. One of the stringers rested on the ground by the side of the track, while the other rested on posts driven in the sloping side of the bank. These posts were about two feet out of the ground, in order to make the platform level. It appears that the stringers were not fastened in any way to the posts, and to this oversight the accident was directly due.

The contour of the country in the neighborhood of Pelhamville is such that when the wind is from the northwest it passes between two hills and sweeps down on the high embankment which crosses a creek below the station. Upon the night of the accident, the wind blew from the northwest with terrific force; it struck the slope of the embankment, and was deflected upward and beneath the platform, which it raised, turned completely over, and dropped upon the incoming track, as shown in Fig. 1. This structure of heavy timbers securely put together, 100 feet long, and wide enough to cover both rails, formed the obstruction struck by the train.

The locomotive splintered the platform, throwing large pieces a considerable distance each side of the track, and at about 300 feet from the station it tore the outer rail up, left the track, and rolled down the slope. The tender went further than the locomotive, while the mail car went further still, rolled part way down the slope, turned over, and stopped as shown in the second figure, which is a general view of the wreck immediately after the accident.

The condition of the engine and tender and their positions at the foot of the embankment are shown plainly in the large engraving. That the engine was not more thoroughly destroyed, after its rough treatment, proves the superior excellence of the material used and the skill attained by American locomotive builders. All things considered, it held together and reached the end of its short trip in a remarkably well preserved state.

That the baggage car, smoking car, Mann boudoir car, and the two sleepers did not leave the top of the hill, although derailed, is probably due solely to the fact that none of the couplings gave way. Had the connections broken, the results, lamentable enough as they were, would undoubtedly have been many times more serious. The two sleeping cars were turned partly over. The passengers of course escaped with only the bruises caused by the jolting of the cars when running over the ties.

The point most prominently and clearly brought forth by this accident is, that the effects of wind pressure should be provided for at every exposed section of a railroad. In high structures, such as viaducts and bridges, it enters of necessity into the problem. But in cases like the present, where there is no precedent, it receives little or no attention. Anything so near a road, and of such a character, that it might be possible for a high wind to blow it upon the track, should be made absolutely secure. The fact that this platform had withstood the gales of several winters is no excuse for leaving it unsecured to the posts upon which it rested.

Cheap Method of Heating Factories.

It frequently happens that chimneys are now built round, without corners to retard the draught. This is done by inserting in the chimney, as the building progresses, cores consisting of iron pipes cast in sections, or tile piping. Air spaces are thus left between the core of the chimney and the outer wall, and of course the air in this space becomes heated to a high temperature. It is quite practical to utilize this air for heating purposes, if this is found desirable. The air spaces being closed at the top, and openings being made to the open air at the base of the chimney, tin piping is connected with the spaces for conducting the heat to different parts of the factory. Of course, this method is not designed for heating the stories nearest the ground, as the current of air in ascending has not had sufficient exposure to become heated until it has reached the third or fourth story of the building.

Lieut. Greely Abroad.

Lieut. Greely, the celebrated Arctic explorer, lectured recently in London under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society. He was enthusiastically received by a large audience, who seemed to feel as much pride in his achievement, as if he had been an Englishman. The Marquis of Lorne presided, and a number of people eminent in literary and scientific circles were among the audience. Sir George Nares pronounced a fitting eulogy upon Lieutenants Lockwood and Brainard, of the Greely expedition, who had succeeded in planting the stars and stripes farther north than had ever before been reached by man.

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(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

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For the Week Ending January 16, 1886.

Price 10 cents. For sale by all newsdealers.

Detailed table of contents for the supplement, including sections on Engineering, Technology, Electricity, Art and Architecture, Astronomy, Botany, Pathology, and Miscellaneous.

MIND CURES.

Within the last comparatively few months, the possibility and practicability of curing diseases of all forms without the use of medicines or any other physical agencies have been pressed upon public attention with very great zeal and earnestness. There is nothing new in the idea; it is as old as the most ancient of all records, and has assumed various features in various ages, according to the environment. The present form is apparently the result, and a very natural one, of the importance which studies in psychology have been gradually assuming. At present, the idea of "mind cures" is the dominant one, which will doubtless live out its day and disappear; but it is worth while to consider briefly its claims, for it is surely doing no small amount of injury in many cases, some of them being those in which remarkable cures have been claimed. The stronghold of the "mind cure" as yet is in Boston.

It is quite manifest that the claims which are put forth depend for the possibility of their fulfillment on two things: 1. The actuality and potentiality of "thought transference"; and 2, the limit of the power which can be exerted by mental energy, not only on bodily functions, but on the living tissues and organic changes.

If the first point—"transference of thought"—cannot be thoroughly established, we have nothing whatever on which to base a belief that "mind cure" is any more than a delusion. The one who is to act the part of "healer" simply turns his own mental power and attention in upon himself, concentrating his energy upon the idea that the patient is free from disease. This he does while sitting by the patient's side, though it is claimed by some that it can be done without even coming into the patient's presence or entering his house. In proportion as his vital force, that is, his nerve force, becomes absorbed in this one thing, it is transferred to the mind of the patient, who is thus brought into physical relation with him, and is under his control to such a degree that what he believes, the patient necessarily believes. The patient thus believes that he is well, and, as the result, he is well, either immediately or speedily. This is the theory and the action, according to their own statements.

It is but fair to say that the evidence in favor of "mind transference" is exceedingly small. Very careful experiments have been made, both in Europe and in this country, and no fair-minded person can say that the proofs of transference of an idea from one mind to another without external agency go any further than what would be obtained from the doctrine of chances by means of accidental coincidence.

But now, in order to give every possible advantage to the advocates of "mind cures," let us admit for the occasion all that is claimed by any one of the reality and extent of thought transference, and see how far it can carry us. No one professes to deny that the influence of the mind over the sanitary condition of the body is exceedingly great, though it has in medical practice been sadly disregarded, in times past. We know well that in every form of disease the patient can be very largely benefited by those attendant circumstances which give tone and hopefulness to the mind, and specially by the efforts of his own will. We have no reason to question that in many instances the balance between life and death can be held and determined by the patient's actual will power.

We know also that multitudes of cases are daily occurring, involving very great exhaustion and distress, with not unfrequently most acute pain, in which the disease is purely and solely functional, that is, there is no organic change of any tissue, so far as we can ascertain. These patients, as a rule, are in no danger whatever, notwithstanding the frightful symptoms which they exhibit. Their case can terminate rapidly, and even instantly, in recovery, of which perfectly unnumbered instances can be given. Many who have been "bedridden" for years recover in this manner. And one point in addition ought to be mentioned—every possible symptom of organic disease is continually simulated by these functional forms so completely as to deceive the friends of the patient and not unfrequently the physician himself. These cases can be largely controlled by the mind; they are within the reach of the "mind cure."

In many of them, the machinery is in sufficiently good order for running; it lacks only steam. In them, a mind healer may make not only a complete cure, but one that is permanent. In others, the muscles have been so long without use that they have become sadly weakened; and while the stimulus of hope under the influence of the mind healer springs them into energy, so that the one who is fearfully crippled can and does move at will, thus putting on record another "cure," yet the reaction is as sure, though not quite so rapid. Within one, or perhaps two days, the new-found strength begins to sink away, and presently the patient has become much worse than before, and commonly is permanently injured, and hopelessly so, whereas different