

# INSTANTLY KILLED.

## SAD FATE OF A FOREMAN AT THE NEW CAPITOL.

**Frank Larkin Crushed to Death by a Falling Stone—Sad Particulars of the Tragic Affair—Verdict of the Coroner's Jury "By Accident."**

Messrs. Miles & Horn are pushing the work of constructing the new capitol with all the diligence compatible with durability and solidity. Yesterday the hands were engaged in placing in position blocks of oolitic stone called "panels" to go over the windows. These blocks are about seven feet two inches long by three feet nine inches wide, and weigh about one thousand pounds. They are elevated to the positions designed for them by strong derricks. In one end a hole is drilled into the rock, wider at the bottom than at the top, in which is inserted an iron device called the Lewis, which is fastened by a bolt, and the weight of the stone presses upon the Lewis so as to force the lower end in the rock to spread and increase its resisting power.

Mr. Frank Larkin, derrick foreman, had charge of this special work. He was a fine looking man, and his experience and judgment rendered his services invaluable to Messrs. Miles & Horn. Under him was a colored man, named Sidney Perkins, who had been trained by him to putting in the Louis with care and caution. With confidence, then, Messrs. Miles & Horn relied upon Mr. Larkin to have this work performed expeditiously and safely.

Yesterday, shortly after three o'clock, an accident occurred that the best judgment in the world could not have foreseen, resulting in the horrible death of Mr. Larkin.

A stone of the character described had been elevated to a height of fifty-five feet, and had come to a stand, preparatory to being turned over to the men who were to set it in its position in the wall.

Contrary to the established rule not to allow any one to stand under a stone being elevated into position, and contrary to his well known care and caution, Mr Larkin was immediately underneath the stone, pointing out to Sidney Perkins how to put the Louis in a particular stone.

Mr. J. D. Saulpaugh, who was standing on the wall, watching the stone, had answered a question from the parties below, when he noticed the stone giving way and shouted in intense haste, "Look out below." He saw Perkins jump back and Mr. Larkin look up, just as the descending stone fell on him, crushing him to the ground, and mangling his body in a fearful manner. The stone broke into several fragments.

The fact that Mr. Larkin's face was not injured is accounted for by his looking up and the stone striking him about his waist. Perkins jumped back and barely escaped. He was considerably frightened and testified that he did not have time to look up or speak.

Quite a number saw the accident and speedily removed the pieces of stone off the mangled, lifeless body of Larkin. Underneath where he lay was a large pool of blood. His body was taken into the business office of Miles & Horn, where Mr. C. H. Swift proceeded to prepare it for the coffin and the tomb with delicate skill.

Messrs. Miles & Horn notified Coroner O. Haynes at once, and rendered every assistance in their power to aid the jury in their investigation. The jury, after examining the witnesses and viewing the scene of the accident, rendered the following verdict:

"We, the jurors assembled, after hearing evidence and viewing the ground, find that the deceased, Frank Larkin, came to his death from the falling of a stone hoisted by derrick on the new capitol building, and that said death was the result of accident."

"W. G. WHIDBY, Foreman."

Mr. Larkin was forty years old in July last, and leaves a devoted wife who is crushed beneath the weight of her affliction. Mr. Larkin came here from Philadelphia about two years ago, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him, and especially Messrs. Miles & Horn. It will be hard to fill his place soon.

In justice to Messrs. Miles & Horn it may be said that none regret the sad occurrence more than they do, and the accident in no manner reflects upon their wisdom, care or humanity. It grew out of the fact that men constantly exposed to danger at some guarded moment lose sight of customary caution and disregard danger with fatal results.