

June 7th / 54 -

My Dear Sir -

I have your very kind letter of the 3^d inst.,
our late accident is a heavy loss; We however ~~of~~
have had worse, but then it bore entirely on
ourselves and the hands employed in the Mills &
& We had full leisure to make all right; ~~some~~
~~our~~ repairs could go forward as best might
Suiter, annuities to Widows, ^{2c, 2c, 2c} ~~and~~ ~~the~~
~~the~~ ~~wounded~~ ~~men~~ ~~of~~ ~~course~~ ~~nothing~~ ~~to~~
expenses ^{payable} ~~upon~~ in small amounts ~~over~~ ~~a~~ ~~course~~.
through periods of many years... In the
present case we have to indemnify persons
residing at a distance, ~~who~~ ~~will~~ ~~some~~ and
do our best some will not be satisfied with
their just claims -

On the other hand, we have lost at most
one days work of our Mills and ~~some~~ ~~turn~~
~~powder~~ out ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~amount~~ ~~of~~ ~~work~~, as ~~in~~ ~~our~~ ~~previous~~
accidents left us crippled for months &
~~my~~ ~~generally~~ Mills & other buildings
with machinery had to be ~~new~~ ~~built~~ & put
in operation before we could recover our
position - . It is impossible to state the
cause of the explosion; the ~~three~~ ~~3~~ Waggon's were
on ^a level ~~ground~~ street, unpaved, and the soil
was not being well saturated by rain a
few hours before; no deep ruts, for the place
was seldom used ~~for~~ heavy hauling; the ~~3~~
three were standing in a line, very close, the
heads of the leaders of the 2^d close to the tail
of the 1st Wagon & the 3^d in the same position
relative to the 2^d; the Wagons had been

Standing at rest some few minutes, and on the word being given to move, the 1st got underway, the horses of the 2^d stretched their traces to follow, instantly ~~the~~ it exploded, sweeping as a matter of course the front and hind Wagons. The most probable explanation is that some loose powder from leakage had found its way under & abt the head of the body bolt. & that the sudden friction ignited the grains lying that may have been between the Iron & Wood.

All eye witnesses agree in stating that the middle Wagon, N^o 2, exploded first, but ~~had~~ ~~all~~ ~~agreed~~ to before such testimony was made the fact was self evident; the soil on which the wagons stood was uniform in every respect, ~~the ground level and~~ the indentation or hole sunk by the 2^d wagon was ^{far} the deepest, showing ~~that~~ the other two loads were already in motion from the shock received when they took fire.

~~Yours~~

The ~~water~~ cast iron water pipes lying three feet ~~under~~ ^{beneath} the soil surface, in the middle of the street were of course crushed to pieces under each wagon; this rather astonished the worthy Citizens who yet believe that the effects of gunpowder are caused by ~~the~~ vacuum.

Very sincerely Yours