

VARIOUS PHASES OF CRIME.

A SKELETON IN A LEAD MINE.

THE STARTLING DISCOVERY RECENTLY MADE
IN AN ABANDONED SHAFT NEAR ELLEN-
VILLE, N. Y.

MIDDLETOWN, March 7.—Many years ago, what was supposed to be a rich vein of lead ore was discovered in the Shawangunk range of mountains, half a mile distant from Ellenville, Ulster County, N. Y. A company was formed and operations were at once begun. For several years the mining operations were continued, but, owing to the fact that ore was not found in paying quantities, and the funds of the company becoming exhausted, the mine was deserted and was soon flooded. Recently, the mining fever has been revived along the Shawangunk range, and several parties of prospectors have visited different sections of the mountains for the purpose of discovering the most favorable location. This activity on the part of prospectors had the effect of reviving the interest in the deserted mine near Ellenville, and resulted in the old mine being opened and a force of men employed in pumping the water from it. On Wednesday a man was sent down the shaft to ascertain the condition of the mine. He had been down the shaft only a short time when he returned and astonished his fellow-workmen by telling them that he had found the skeleton of a man. Several other workmen then entered the shaft, when the story was confirmed. The skeleton was found to be perfect, and the boots and hair in a good state of preservation.

The news of the discovery soon spread through Ellenville, and all kinds of surmises were indulged in as to whom the skeleton belonged. The mine was closed about the year 1867. Since that time there have been two cases of mysterious disappearance from the vicinity of Ellenville, and this fact has added considerably to the interest of the discovery of the skeleton. The first case of disappearance was that of a peddler, which took place a short time after the mine was abandoned. The peddler had stopped over night at a hotel in the sparsely-settled region between Ellenville and Summitville, and was never afterward seen. He was known to carry a large sum of money, and the people in that section believed at the time that he had been foully dealt with. The finding of the skeleton has brought to the minds of many their former convictions, and it is the generally-accepted theory that the skeleton is all that remains of the peddler of 12 years ago. About the time of the closing of the mine there disappeared from Ellenville a telegraph operator named Smith, and there are those who think to account for his disappearance on the theory of his having fallen through the insecure covering of the shaft and drowning in the water with which the mine was flooded. The authorities have taken charge of the skeleton, and intend making a careful investigation of that portion of the mine in which it was found, to discover, if possible, a clue to the identity of the remains.

A MISSING MAN'S FATE.

THE SKELETON FOUND FOURTEEN YEARS AFTER THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

ELLENVILLE, N. Y., Feb. 28.—In March last, the people in this part of Ulster County were excited by the discovery of a human skeleton in an old lead mine near the village. For a long time the question of its identity remained unsolved, but finally, on slight circumstantial evidence, it was decided by a Coroner's jury to be the remains of a young man named David Smith, who mysteriously disappeared from Ellenville in 1866. Smith was last seen alive in February of that year. He had been in charge of the telegraph office in the village, and was very popular with the people. His mother, a widow, lives in the town of Shandaken. He was the only child. Many conjectures were current as to his sudden and strange disappearance, but gradually the circumstance was forgotten, though when the matter was discussed there were few who entertained any opinion other than that Smith had been murdered. While at Ellenville, Smith formed an attachment for a crowd of fast young men, and as the months went by he became a hard drinker, spending the most of his time in the village bar-room when off duty. In February, 1866, a ball was given by one of the fire companies, and Smith was present, the worse for liquor. He was about drunk enough to act like a simpleton, and talked incessantly, finally getting into a quarrel with a disreputable man who was present, and who, when kept by Smith's friends from blows, angrily said: "He'll find out that this ain't the end of this muss." After that night Smith was not seen again. His mother expended much time and money in the vain search for him, and in March last, when the skeleton was found in the mine, she hastened here, and was firmly convinced that she had at last unraveled the mystery of her boy's disappearance. The jury, out of pure sympathy, it is thought, for Mrs. Smith, so decided, having no stronger evidence than a half-decayed pair of gaiters which it was proved were similar in style to those always worn by Smith. But there still remained much doubt in the minds of the people as to whether or not the skeleton was really that of Smith; but this doubt is now all removed. Mr. McCracken, one of the proprietors of the mine where the bones were discovered, found, yesterday, the diary of Smith buried in the mud at the bottom of the shaft. It was partially destroyed, but there is no doubt that it was the property of Smith, entries appearing in it relative to his life in Ellenville up to within a few weeks before his sudden disappearance. Several of his letters were found in the book. His mother has been given the diary, though she needed no proof to strengthen her opinion that the skeleton was really that of her son. It is remembered by Smith's friends that the man who quarreled with him, and who made certain threats afterward left the place, was engaged for a short time on the Delaware and Hudson Canal, and afterward went to New-York.