

## A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.

### A Man Blown a Hundred Feet into the Air—Partial Demolition of the Binghamton Water Works.

Binghamton, N. Y. (March 10th) dispatch to N. Y. Herald.

A terrific explosion occurred at the Holly water works, in this city, at half-past eight o'clock this morning, one of the boilers bursting and almost demolishing the entire edifice. The chief engineer, David Smith, was in the engine room at the moment and was blown in the air at least 100 feet. His remains were dreadfully mutilated. The fireman, William Courtney, received but slight injuries. The northern portion of the structure was totally demolished, the debris being scattered over a considerable area. The engine was a double Corlies, of 150 horse power, with two boilers, one of which was blown into fragments and scattered with the general wreck. The concussion was felt over all the eastern portion of the city.

A large piece of a huge pipe, connecting the boilers with the chimney and weighing two tons, was carried a distance of over 100 feet. The walls of the rear rooms of the building where the boilers were located were blown down even with the ground, not a vestige of them remaining.

The body of the engineer was found about seventy-five feet from the place of the explosion. The coroner is now investigating the matter.

The cause of the explosion is at present unknown. Great excitement prevails, all Binghamton being on the run for the cause of the disaster.

The wife of engineer Smith is prostrated with the terrible news of her husband's death and lies in a critical condition. Much inconvenience will result from this accident, as nearly the whole city and the several railroads entering here depend upon these works for their supply of water.

The city is at present without water, but the two boilers which are left will be put in operation as soon as the rubbish has been cleared away and the necessary repairs made, which the superintendent thinks will take twenty-four hours. The total loss is estimated at \$10,000. The Holly pumping machinery is not much injured. The waterworks are the chief dependence against fire, and the mayor has called a special meeting of the common council to appoint a large special police force to patrol the streets and watch for fires. A very strong west wind is blowing.