

William Duran (- 1 Oct 1855)

The Evening Star, October 2, 1855

Accident on the Washington Aqueduct

On Friday, William Darran, employed as a rigger, in charge of the derricks used in the rock excavation at the Great Falls, was so severely injured that it is feared he cannot recover. It seems that while a stone was being hoisted on the boom, he ascended to examine the head of the mast, which is forty or fifty feet high. While thus engaged, one of the stays parted, and he fell with the mast into the rock cut. He had lately inspected the rope which parted, and pronounced it good for a year's service. But on examination, after the accident, it was discovered that the rope had been nearly cut through by a stone thrown out in blasting. The injury had escaped his notice. This accident should be a warning to those employed on the heavy works now going on in this neighborhood. It is not enough that the engineer carefully proportions the parts of his machines to secure the proper strength to each. Constant watchfulness is necessary for their own safety on the part of those using them. The chafing against a wall, or the careless tying of a rope, or, as in this case, the blow of a stone in blasting, may, if not watched for and repaired, at any time cause a fatal accident.