

RAILWAY COLLISION AT TEBAY.

On Wednesday night, shortly after ten o'clock, an alarming accident occurred at Tebay railway station. Whilst a goods train from Crewe, on its way to Carlisle, was standing in the station, covering the length of the platform, a mineral train from Carnforth came up on the same line, and dashed into it. The van of the goods train was sent spinning on to the up line and took fire, while the four waggons next to the van became a heap of wreck on the west side of the down line, several of waggon wheels and axles being stripped and lying bare beneath the engine of the Carnforth train which was thrown off the rails in a greatly damaged condition. It is singularly fortunate that no one was injured. The guard of the wrecked van had a narrow escape, for he had stepped on to the platform only a short time prior to the collision, while the driver and fireman of the mineral train clung firmly to the rails of the locomotive. As soon as they observed the danger lights of the van of the goods train in the station they applied all the brake power available, but were unable to avoid a collision. They consulted whether to jump off or cling to the engine, with the result that they took the latter course, thinking that if they jumped off in the fog and darkness they would be in danger of getting under the wheels. It is said that the signals were against the driver of the mineral train, but that he did not observe them in consequence of the fog. The force of the collision was so great that the shock exploded about a dozen fog signals which were in a bag on the tender of the mineral engine. A large iron tank weighing six or seven tons, which was in one of the waggons of the goods train standing at the platform, was by the mere force of the concussion jerked out of the waggon on to the platform, where it fell against the rails on the other side, smashing them. The masonry of the platform itself was also a good deal damaged, and the one line was blocked, so that traffic had during the night to be conducted on a single line. The locomotive cranes from Tebay and Carlisle, accompanied by a large staff of men, were engaged clearing the lines until about half-past eight on Thursday morning. The wrecked waggons were set on fire to provide light for the working staff who were under the superintendence of Mr. Eac, locomotive foreman, and Mr. Brinnand. The blocking of the line caused considerable delay to the traffic.