

A FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.

Bennett E. Titus Escapes Almost Miraculously.

WE do not have at this writing all the details of a most distressing automobile disaster in which two men were crushed to death and burned beyond recognition while the former editor and manager of the Northern Christian Advocate, Bennett E. Titus, narrowly escaped with his life. About a week ago Mr. Titus left Syracuse on a business trip. At Utica he met Mr. J. E. Dodge, of Malden, Mass., a family relative, who invited him to spend Sunday with him at his camp in the woods. They went together to Port Henry, where on Saturday evening Mr. Dodge met his touring car, and with Mr. Titus and Mr. Lockwood Reed, of Port Henry, started for his camp in the woods ten miles away.

About a week ago Mr. Titus left Syracuse on a business trip. About noon on Sunday Mrs. Titus received from her husband a telegram saying there had been a terrible accident, but he was safe. Mrs. Titus started on Monday for Port Henry. From the dispatches in the dailies we learn that when six miles out from Port Henry Mr. Dodge lost control of the machine in some unaccountable manner and the car dashed into a stream known as Muddy Brook and turned turtle, pinning Dodge and Reed underneath. The two men were unable to move. Instantly there was a heavy explosion and the car took fire, burning the victims beyond recognition. How the accident occurred will probably never be known. It is thought that the two men were killed before the machine took fire. There is a high embankment near the scene of the accident and the heavy machine plunged over this, throwing Mr. Titus twenty feet into the air and landing him in the soft mud at the edge of the creek. At the same moment there was the crash and roar of exploding gasoline that was heard for two miles. Mr. Titus escaped uninjured, except for a severe shaking up. He is unable to tell how the accident occurred. Whether or not this terrible disaster came of fast driving we do not know; but we do know that the slaughter of people by the automobile is becoming alarmingly great and it generally is the result of fast driving; but at the present stage of the craze no automobilist can be made to believe he drives too fast.