



HE SAVED THE MAIN TRUNK—SENSATIONAL ESCAPE OF THE AUCKLAND-WELLINGTON NIGHT EXPRESS.

The Main Trunk express, which left Auckland for Wellington on the evening of April 17th, narrowly escaped a serious accident at Westfield, between the Wairoa and Gladstone sections, as a result of a collision with a passenger train. The accident occurred at 10.15 p.m. on the 17th. The express was approaching the station at Westfield, and was in the process of passing a signal when it was struck by a passenger train from the Wairoa. The collision was so severe that the engine and several of the carriages were overturned. The passengers were all rescued, and the train was brought back to Auckland. The accident was caused by the negligence of the driver of the passenger train, who was proceeding at an excessive speed. The driver of the express, Mr. Claude, was promptly rescued after the collision, and was taken to hospital. He is now recovering from his injuries. The accident was a sensational one, and attracted the attention of the public. The express was one of the most important lines in New Zealand, and the accident caused a great deal of concern. The Government has ordered an inquiry into the cause of the accident, and has asked Mr. Claude to give evidence. Mr. Claude has been very frank and candid in his statement, and has admitted his error. He has also expressed his regret at the accident, and his appreciation of the help given to him by the staff of the station. The accident has caused a great deal of discussion, and has led to a number of suggestions for the improvement of the railway. It is hoped that the inquiry will result in some useful reforms.