

A Narrow Escape:
A Letter to Julius Wayland in Girard, Kansas
(August 23, 1902)

Glenwood Springs, Colo.

My Dear Wayland:—

Came near crossing over to the other side recently. Was in a wreck in the Alpine Tunnel, and escaped as if by a miracle. Our train broke in two and the rear crashed into the front end. It was an awful smash-up and we came near suffocating before we could get out of the tunnel. The wreck was due to the criminal practice of getting all the freight over the road in one train. It was a mixed train, chiefly freight, with four engines attached to it, and the tunnel is as dark as the black hole of Calcutta.

We were all shaken up and bruised. My leg and back were injured, but I hope to be about in a couple of weeks. Our calendar meetings are record-breakers.¹

E.V. Debs.

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¹ Debs was visiting the Cripple Creek district, where he was speaking to hard rock miners.