

CHAPTER XX -Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive

In Chapter XX of "Tom Swift and His Electric Locomotive," a near-catastrophe is averted thanks to quick thinking and modern technology. The fast express, No. 28, is delayed, and this delay, along with a warning from the Half Way operator, allows for preventive measures to be taken at Hammon station. Subsequently, Tom Swift's electric locomotive, the Hercules 0001, manages to keep on track despite a high-speed descent, evading disaster.

After the event, amidst the excitement and relief of the railway men, Ned Newton, Tom's companion, expresses his fear and reluctance to ever control such a powerful locomotive again. In contrast, Tom Swift is invigorated by the incident, seeing it as an inspiration for further innovation. He reveals to Ned that the thrill of danger has sparked a new idea in him: enhancing safety features for his locomotives, specifically, incorporating wireless telephones to allow locomotive engineers to send warnings of their accidents both up and down the track.

Tom's rationale is that although it's impossible to ensure a locomotive will never lose control, it is possible to better communicate such emergencies, reducing potential harm. He plans to equip each of his electric locomotives with wireless sets and to improve the design of brake controls to prevent similar mishaps.

Mr. Bartholomew, backing Tom's project, approves of the idea, recognizing the value in investing in these innovative safety measures. The chapter concludes with optimism for the future of Tom's invention, as preliminary tests indicate the Hercules 0001 not only meets but exceeds performance expectations, showing promise for revolutionizing rail transport.

This chapter encapsulates the essence of progress in the face of adversity, highlighting the importance of innovation and safety in the advancement of technology. The close shave with disaster becomes a catalyst for development, showcasing Tom Swift's resilience and inventive spirit.

