

THE LATE CATASTROPHE AT CORK.

IN our Journal of last week we recorded the melancholy accident, by which nineteen lives were lost. We now engrave the locality of the catastrophe— one of those close, narrow, and filthy lanes in which it is the hard fate of poverty to dwell, and with which Cork, and especially the flat of the city, abounds. This thoroughfare runs from Duncan-street, on the Marsh, and is known by the title of Penrose's-lane, or Penrose's-square: egress from it, to the North Main-street, being obtainable through Coleman's and Angel's lanes, by which it is crossed at the east, and both of which are thickly populated by the poorer classes. In the second house of Penrose's-lane, in the front room of the upper story (the house being three stories), occupied by a cooper, named Pat Sullivan, and his wife, about forty people, of his own grade in life, had assembled, on Saturday night, 29th ult., at the wake of an infant child aged two years. The night had far advanced, when a woman, Mary Noonan, remarked that she thought she heard something (creaking. To this Sullivan, who was standing, leaning by the jamb of the door, unthinkingly replied, there was not enough in the room to pull down the house, and, at that moment, stepping into the room, the flooring gave way, and he and his forty friends were precipitated with a tremendous and fearful crash to the base of the house, where they were huddled together in one indescribable mass of dead and dying. The scene was appalling. The entire flooring and ceiling of the two stories were completely gone—not a vestige of them remained in their original positions, while beneath was an immense mass of ruin, with here and there a human head, an arm, or leg protruding; and, in one or two places, human forms were to be seen in a standing or sitting posture perfectly lifeless. The result of this deplorable accident was, five dead bodies were taken to the Bridewell, six dead and six severely wounded were carried to the North Infirmary, and eight dead were taken by their friends and relatives to their homes in the immediate vicinity: thus making nineteen killed and six so injured as to require the shelter and care of the North Infirmary. Of the nineteen who met their death, very few of their bodies exhibited marks of external violence, having come by their end from suffocation; the eyes, nostrils, mouths, and ears of the killed being literally stuffed with mortar-duet. The houses in Penrose's-lane are the property of Miss Patten, of Denroche's-cross, and are apparently very old. They are let in tenements by the week; and it has been stated that a man, residing in the lane, on Saturday night informed the Mayor that a year ago he called the attention of the Corporation to the unsafe state of the very house which has fallen, and that the house was actually inspected by the proper officers, but no steps taken to render it more secure.

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[Topic: Nineteen people perish after floor & ceiling collapse in the Marsh area of Cork city]