

A TERRIBLE MINE DISASTER

In the Egypt Mine in North
Carolina.

Twenty - Four Bodies Have
Been Brought Out,

And More Are Yet Buried at
The Bottom of the
Shaft.

Raleigh, N. C., December 20.—There was an explosion of gas in the Egypt coal mine, in Chatham County, yesterday morning. Twenty-three persons were caught by the explosion, and all hope of rescuing was abandoned, owing to the firedamp, which at several times nearly overcame those who attempted to rescue the imprisoned men. Once two of the rescuers were in sight of some of the victims, but had to retire in the face of the overpowering firedamp.

Twenty-five men who were first in the mines escaped. The explosion was terrific, and the noise was heard for many miles.

The Associated Press correspondent has just returned from Cumneck, the scene of the terrible explosion in the Egypt coal mines. The work of rescue began late yesterday afternoon. All the bodies discovered were brought to the bottom of the main shaft, but none were brought to the surface until early this morning, when twenty-four bodies were brought out by the rescuers. Eight bodies were found afterwards, and are lying at the foot of the shaft. Two more bodies have been discovered, but are almost completely buried. They are now being dug out. The body of the foreman of the dynamite-room has not yet been found. Reports as to the amount of dynamite in the mine conflict. Some of the miners say there were five cases, or 250 pounds, in the mine, while the Superintendent thinks there were only fifty pounds of the explosive there. The theory of the cause of the catastrophe generally held is that the first explosion was of coal gas; that then the dynamite exploded, and after this came the stifling "after damp" that suffocated all who remained alive.