

# MINE DISASTER.

**Twenty-Nine Poor Miners Meet  
Death in Tennessee From a  
Fire-Damp Explosion.**

**ALL ESCAPE CUT OFF.**

**Extreme Difficulty Encountered in Forcing an Opening Into the Wrecked Mine—Explosion of Accumulated Gas Thought to Be the Cause.**

NASHVILLE, Dec. 21.—A special from Chattanooga says: Twenty-four miners lost their lives in the Nelson mine, entry No. 10, near Dayton, Tenn., in an explosion of fire damp.

The explosion was succeeded by a terrific crash which indicated that the roof of the passage through which they had entered had fallen in. No avenue of escape was left and there is no possibility that any of the men will be found alive.

The mine is the property of the Dayton Coal and Iron company, three miles from the town of Dayton, and reached by a spur track.

The men, both white and colored, including several boys, entered the mine to go to work at 7 o'clock, but nothing of the awful catastrophe was known until 11 o'clock, when the drivers at entry No. 10 found their way blocked by a solid wall of coal and slate.

The Nelson mine has been worked for 12 years or more, and the entry where the unfortunate miners are entombed ran back more than two miles from the mouth of the mine.

Rescuing parties have been working all day like grim death, trying to reach them, but it is probable that they will be several days forcing an opening through the wall of the fallen roofing, which must be made safe as they proceed.

The foul air quickly exhausts the workers, who are relieved by fresh hands.

The work will continue day and night till the bodies are recovered.

At the drift mouth hundreds of women and children soon gathered and their grief and despair is heartrending.

As the mine is ventilated by air shafts or passages, the caving in of the wall in the entry cut off the draught and death was certain to those who breathed the poisoned air.

A way was finally broken through the debris in the passage of entry No. 10 and the blackened corpses of the dead miners were carried to the outside, where the work of identification began.

Two bodies recovered are those of negroes, which have been recognized.

Life had long been extinct in all the poor remains of humanity stretched at the mouth of the tunnel.