

# Shocking Accident!

## Thirty-four Lives Lost.

A Particular Account of that Dreadful Accident which took place at Manchester on Friday last, by which 300 persons were thrown into the River, and 34 Persons Drowned.

IT is this day our painful duty to relate one of the most shocking and heart-rending occurrences that ever took place in this town. It had been pretty generally announced, that a large flat, just built for the New Quay Company, would be launched yesterday at one o'clock, from their premises, and that it would be full rigged, being the first time that a spectacle of that nature had been exhibited in Manchester. In consequence of this announcement, and of the novelty of the spectacle, a vast concourse of people thronged the opposite bank of the Irwell, and every window and standing-place in the yards and warehouses on the Manchester side of the river, from which a view of the launch could be obtained, were fully occupied. Previous to the launch, a great number of persons eagerly crowded on board, and on board at the moment of the launch considerably exceeded 300. On the signal being given, the vessel was let go, and it descended the ways in a pleasing and graceful manner, with the bow foremost. On the vessel leaving the stocks, every thing presented a favourable appearance, but the stern came on the slips, she was observed to incline a little to the larboard. The crowd on board perceiving this inclination of the vessel, rushed to the opposite side in such numbers that she was upset by the overpowering weight. The whole width of the river at this place does not exceed from 40 to 50 yards, and at the time she upset her bow had just the opposite bank of the river. The vessel having suddenly rolled over upon her starboard side, in the manner we have attempted to describe, the gay and numerous company on board were precipitated into the water. The scene which ensued may be imagined, but no pen can adequately describe it. A shriek of horror broke simultaneously from the miserable sufferers, and from the concourse of spectators on each bank. The hatches which covered the hold, &c. not being fastened, flew off the moment the vessel upset, and the force of the water rushing in carried numbers with it into the hold.

As soon as the spectators had recovered from the first shock of astonishment, they resorted to every means in their power to rescue the sufferers.

A small boat belonging to the Old Quay Company succeeded in extricating about forty persons from their perilous situation. In a few moments all the other small boats belonging to the company joined them, and no words can express the merit that is due to those individuals for their exertions. When all the bodies who had floated were at length taken out of the water, a number of men were employed in searching about the vessel with drags and grappling-irons, and a considerable number of bodies were thus got out, from nearly all of which, however, the vital spark had for ever fled. As the bodies were taken out, the usual means of resuscitation were practised upon them by a number of medical gentlemen, who were quickly on the spot; and in four cases these means were used with complete success. In the other cases they were, unfortunately unsuccessful. During the whole afternoon the drags continued to be used; and about five o'clock the vessel was righted, by means of ropes attached to the company's powerful crane.

The number of bodies already found amounts to 34, but it is feared there are a considerable number in the water, who have not yet been picked up.—  
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