

Source 1 - Newspaper Accounts

Source #1 - New York Times:

“ One of the most appalling castatrophes which has ever shocked the country occured
yesterday “
January 11,1860

Source #2- Boston Journal:

“ A more heart-rendering catastrophe we have never had the occasion to report”

Source #3- Harper’s Weekly: (New York)

“ The catastrophe which destroyed this mill is almost unparalleled in our history.”

Source #4 - Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper: (New York)

“ The news of this most astounding castaphros has caused a thrill of horror through the
whole length and breadth of this country.”

Source #5- New York Illustrated News

“ The sudden death of hundreds of offending men and women, many of them hardly
emerged from childhood, has cast a gloom over our country which no other stirring social
incident or political events can dispel.”

Source #6- Lawrence Couriers: (Lawrence, Ma)

On Tuesday Afternoon. Jan. 10th, about ten minutes before five o’clock, the usual quiet of
our city was disturbed by the alarm that the Pemberton Mill had fallen in on the operatives
who were engaged in their labor.”
Tuesday, January 10th

Source 2 - Boston Globe Article

The Boston Globe vividly described the carnage:

“The scene after the fall was one of indescribable horror. Hundreds of men, women, and children were buried in the ruins. Some assured their friends that they were uninjured, but imprisoned by the timbers upon and about them. Others were dying and dead. Every nerve was strained to relieve the poor unfortunates, when, sad to relate, a lantern broke and set fire to the wreck. In a few moments the ruins were a sheet of flames. Fourteen are known to have been burned to death in the sight of their loved ones, who were powerless to aid them.”

Source 3 - Boston Globe Article

The Boston Journal reported:

“The moans and cries for help of those in the ruins whose lives had not been immediately crushed out, mingled with an alarm rung out by the factory bells, called almost the entire community to the spot. Darkness lent additional horror to the scene, for while a thousand hands were ready to rescue it was impossible to know whence the calls for assistance came.”