

THE NEWARK DISASTER.

The details of the calamity in Newark are too sickening to dwell upon. Of all the fatal fires of recent years, and every year has its share, this is the worst. It will not do to say that the innocent victims lost their self-control and caused their own destruction. Few if any of them jumped from the windows until all hope of rescue was gone and their clothing was in flames. It seems that the accumulation of horrors would have been sufficient if a spiked gate had not been left standing open to impale many of them as they fell. But the flames did their work so swiftly, the dire calamity was of so brief duration, that blame cannot be placed on any person in the army of would-be rescuers.

The burned factory building was, presumably, frequently inspected. It is pitiful to read that the futile letter of the law was complied with in the provision of fire-escapes. That the place was a fire-trap many persons must have known. The whole State of New Jersey has been stirred to indignation, and the Governor has ordered an investigation, while the Prosecuting Attorney will summon an extraordinary jury for the Coroner's inquest. Obviously the stable door is now to be securely locked.

These measures will not restore life to the maimed and burned bodies, happiness to the afflicted homes, the means of support to many poor families. But will they help to prevent other disasters of the same sort? Will the indignation of the people last long enough to compel the substitution of fireproof structures for all factories in place of the fire-traps which have survived a whole generation of modern improvements and boasted progress?