



The Launch of the *Lina* and the death of a spectator

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LAUNCH — DREADFUL ACCIDENT. — Yesterday, a beautiful new clipper brig was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. Charles Connell & Sons. At half-past one o'clock, the daggers were knocked down, and a full bottle was dashed against the prow of the ship, which was named 'The Lina'; when she glided into the river, amidst the cheers of some thousand spectators. The Lina is built on the clipper principle, and is a most beautiful model for fast sailing; she is 236 tons, old register measurement, and will carry about 350 tons, dead weight. She is intended for the West India trade, and is the property of Robert Boyd and James McNamara [sic], Esqrs. She is to be commanded by Captain Gruber.

Immediately after the vessel entered the water, a discharge of artillery took place from five guns, placed at the entrance to the building yard; and this was attended with a most melancholy accident. One of the guns was a small piece belonging to the Albatross, revenue cruiser, now in harbour for repairs. The other four belonged to a merchantman. The Commander of the cruiser, and some of his men, were working the guns; and every precaution had been taken to prevent any accident; but, after the four were fired, a female, named Eliza McCall, uncommonly handsome, about seventeen years of age, ran hastily across the front of the guns, and was just passing the small piece, while it was being discharged.

There was nothing but powder in it; but she was so near the muzzle, that the powder was driven into her groin, her clothes set on fire, and the poor creature dreadfully injured. Dr. James Moors was instantly on the spot, and examined the injury; which being of a very serious nature, he had her immediately conveyed to the Surgical Hospital, where the utmost was done for her that surgical skill could suggest. The whole of the lower part of the left side of the abdomen, round by the outside of the hip, and down the front of the upper part of the thigh, was completely blown off, leaving the surface dreadfully ragged and quite blackened with the powder — exposing, also, the intestines in the groin. The wound was dressed — some wine administered but, from the first there was no hope entertained of her recovery.

The poor girl lingered for some hours in great agony, and expired during the evening. No blame whatever is to be attached to any party except the unfortunate girl herself, and we know that the event has caused the greatest distress to the Messrs. Connell, as well as to the commander of the cruiser. — *Northern Whig of Thursday*.

An inquest was held yesterday, in the old Poor-house, before J. K. Jackson, Esq., and a respectable jury, on the body of the poor girl. The facts elicited from the witnesses who were examined, were the same as those stated in the foregoing paragraph. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental death', accompanied with the statement, that no blame could be attached to any person. — *News-Letter of Friday, (yesterday)*.