

mercy! Tak' a' I hae an' begone but spare my life.'

'The white bravo speaks,' said the leader, 'let us listen. He offers us the gold he has stolen from our streams. He will ransom his life. Our squaws might laugh at his scalp.'

That familiar voice and the pimpled nose of that dusky face Rob had surely heard and seen elsewhere. It was strange.

'Let the paleface show the ransome,' added the same speaker.

Robin was unloosed. Tremblingly he crawled to the fireplace and removed a stone. Beneath lay some bags. Uttering an expressive 'Hugh!' one of the Indians removed them, examined them, shook out a handful or two upon the floor from one, accompanying the feat with the words, 'Our brother crosses the great salt lake to-morrow: his memory is good.'

They gathered up the bags and filed slowly out, leaving the hand-bound victim on the floor, fixed and motionless in despair.

Morning saw some dozen robbed and plundered adventurers, along with Robin, on the beach, bargaining to be taken on board ship. As one by one they paid their freight—paid almost all they had remaining—they were allowed to step into the boat. The remorseless Zech Chattle stood at a little distance, grinning and looking on. As the sailors dropped their oars in the water, he advanced, and nodding to Robin, said, 'Guess stranger, you're agoin to the old country with a fortin made at them diggins. Don't run and tell everybody of your luck now.'

Robin started. The voice was the voice of the Indian chief, and the very pimple stood plain on the nose of the Yankee. It was strange.

'Good by, stranger. A prosperous journey,' said Zech, nodding farewell.

This month another shop in the High Street of St. Mango has been opened, with 'Robin Rake, Hatter,' on the sign board, and Robin Rake personally, a sadder and a wiser man, behind the counter.

From Von Wrangell's Polar Seas.

UTILITY AND SAGACITY OF SI-BERIAN DOGS.

Of all the animals that live in the high north latitudes, none are so deserving of being noticed as the dog. The companion of man in all climates, from the islands of the South Sea, where he feeds on bananas, to the Polar Sea, where his food is fish, he here plays a part to which he is unaccustomed in more favored regions. Necessity has taught the inhabitants of the northern countries to employ these comparatively weak animals in draught. On all the coasts of the Polar Sea, from the Obi to Behring's Straits, in Greenland, Kamschatka, and in the Kurile Islands, the dogs are made to draw sledges loaded with persons and with goods, and for considerable journeys. The dogs have much resemblance to the wolf. They have long, pointed, projecting noses, sharp and upright ears, and a long, bushy tail; some have smooth, and some have curly hair; their color is various—black, brown, reddish-brown, white, and spotted. They vary also in size; but it is considered that a good sledge-dog should not be less than two feet seven and a half in height, and three feet three-quarters of an inch in length (English measure.) Their barking is like the howling of a wolf. They pass their whole life in the open air; in the summer they dig holes in the ground for coolness, or lie in the water to avoid the mosquitoes; in the winter they protect themselves by burrowing in the snow, and he curled up with their noses covered by their bushy tails. The female puppies are drowned, except enough to preserve the breed, the males alone being used in draught. Those born in winter enter on their trainings the following autumn, but are not used on long journeys until the third year. The feeding and training is a particular art, and much skill is required in driving and guiding them. The best trained dogs are used as leaders; and as the quick and steady going of the team, usually of twelve dogs, and the safety of the traveller, depend on the sagacity and docility of the leader, no pains are spared in their education, so that they may always obey their master's voice, and not be tempted from their course when they come on the scent of game. This last is a point of great difficulty; sometimes the whole team, in such cases, will start off, and no endeavors on the part of the driver can stop them. On such occasions we have had sometimes to admire the cleverness with which the well-trained leader endeavors to turn the other dogs from their pursuit; if other devices fail, he will suddenly wheel round, and by barking, as if he had come on a new scent, try to induce the other dogs to follow him. If travelling across the wide tundra in dark nights, or when the vast plain is veiled in impenetrable mist, or in storms or snow-tempests, when the traveller is in danger of missing the sheltering powarna, and of perishing in the snow, he will frequently owe his safety to a good leader; if the animal has ever been in this plain, and has stopped with his master at the powarna, he will be sure to bring the sledge to the place where the hut lies deeply buried in the snow; when arrived at it, he will suddenly stop, and indicate significantly the spot where his master must dig.

From Audobon and Bachman's Quadrupeds of North America.

LAZY BEAVERS.

It is a curious fact, says our trapper, that among the beavers there are some that are lazy, and will not work at all, either to assist in

building lodges or dams, or to cut down wood for their winter stock. The industrious ones beat these idle fellows, and drive them away; sometimes cutting off a part of their tail, and otherwise injuring them. These 'Parasites' are more easily caught in traps than the others, and the trapper rarely misses one of them. They only dig a hole from the water running obliquely towards the surface of the ground twenty-five or thirty feet, from which they emerge, when hungry, to obtain food, returning to the same hole with the wood they procure to eat the bark. They never form, and are sometimes to the number of five or seven together; all are males. It is not at all improbable that these unfortunate fellows have, as is the case with the males of many species of animals, been engaged in fighting with others of their sex, and after having been conquered and driven away from the lodge, have become idlers from a kind of necessity. The working beavers, on the contrary, associate, males, females, and young together.

From Chambers's Edinburgh Journal
THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION.

BY THE LATE MRS JAMES GRAY.

They flit, they come, they go,
The visions of the day;
They change, they fade, they glow,
They rise, they die away.
And all within the scope
Of one poor human breast,
Where joy, and fear, and hope,
Like clouds on heaven's blue cope,
Can never be at rest.

When will the lute be stricken
So that its song shall sound?
When shall the spring so quicken
That its streams shall pour around?
We for the struggling soul
That utterance cannot find,
Yet longs without control
Through all free space to roll,
Like thunders on the wind!

The painter's pencil came
The struggling soul to aid,
His visions to proclaim
In colored light and shade;
But though so fair to me,
His handiwork may seem,
His soul desponds to see
How pale its colors be
Before his cherished dream.

So from the sculptor's hand
To life the marble's wrought;
But he can understand
How lovelier far his thought.
The minstrel's power ye own,
His lyre with bays ye bind;
But he can feel alone
How feeble is its tone
To the music of his mind.

From Hogg's Instructor.
EARTHQUAKES;
THEIR CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES.

Of all stable objects, the earth itself seems the most stable. We speak of the everlasting hills, and of the foundations of the earth as being immovable; but when we speak thus, it is according to appearances, not according to the reality. The twofold motion of the earth, first round its own axis, and then round the sun, its centre of attraction, is well known; so that the mass which appears to the eye to be still and immovable, is in fact no two moments in the same point of space. Onward it speeds its undeviating course, in obedience to the laws imposed upon it by the great Creator; and onward it shall proceed, till those laws have been exhausted, and the heavens and the earth shall have passed away—if indeed more is meant by this passing away than the change of form, appearance, and use. But not only is the earth, as a body, subject to constant change of position; it is also constantly changing in its parts, and consequently in its external aspect; and, strange though it may appear, yet it is true, that the greatest amount of change is going forward in the very localities where we should be most forward to pronounce change impossible. It is true, indeed, that all parts of the earth's surface are subject to change. The bed of the ocean is frequently upheaved,

sometimes suddenly, and sometimes by degrees; the vast plains that stretch across the continents are frequently in part elevated and in part depressed; but the most sudden and observable of these changes take place in the neighborhood of lofty mountain ridges, especially if these are volcanic in their nature.

Earthquakes have a close connexion with volcanoes, and the phenomena associated with the one cause are akin to those produced by the other. The bursting of the upper parts of hilly regions—the pouring forth of molten matter, accompanied by noise, and smoke, and flame—and the frequent desolation thereby of vast districts, together with property and life, demonstrate the existence and presence of volcanic agency. A tremulous motion in the earth; a wave-like rise of the surface, causing men to reel, and trees to nod; a receding of the ocean, and a momentary or permanent elevation of the shore, indicate the presence of the earthquake. The cause of each is deep-seated and mysterious, and the effects overawe and confound mortals, penetrating the soul the meanwhile with the most certain conviction that God is a great God, and that it must be a fearful thing to fall into his hand. Wo be to the man who striveth with his Maker!

Certain phenomena are observed to precede the approach of earthquakes, thus warning men of the activity of the internal forces of the globe, and of the danger to which they are exposed. And yet, whither shall they betake themselves for safety?—where shall they find a secure standing place, when the earth itself trembles like the ocean-surface, and opens her mouth to devour? Before these great and sublime movements of nature a change is observed upon the seasons. The winds become variable and fickle in their movements. Sometimes they blow with the utmost violence, and create a perfect hurricane; in an instant they cease, and a breathless calm pervades the region. Violent activity is followed, with rapid step, by deathlike repose. Men pass through extremes. The atmosphere undergoes a change: it is filled by a dusky haze, and the face of the sun becomes red like blood; the clouds pour down rain in unwonted quantity or at extraordinary seasons; everything indicates some portentous change. The signs in the heavens are followed, or accompanied by, no less alarming signs on the earth. From rocky fissures, and mountain gorges, and gloomy forests, issue smoke, and sulphurous gas, and flame; a hoarse, hollow noise is heard underground, like the approach of horsemen or the play of artillery, or like distant thunder; animals evince extraordinary alarm, and utter piercing cries; and men grow giddy and sink under a sensation of sickness. We shall best accomplish our object in this paper, which is to furnish a brief view of the causes and consequences of earthquakes, by placing before the reader a connected account of some of the most extraordinary of these visitations, with their accompanying phenomena.

A most violent earthquake visited the island of Jamaica in the year 1692. The ground heaved and rolled like the sea, and was traversed by numerous cracks, two or three hundred of which were seen at a time, opening and then shutting again. 'Many people were swallowed up in these rents; some the earth caught by the middle, and squeezed to death; the heads of others only appeared above ground; and some were first engulfed and then cast up again, with great quantities of water.' The devastation and death were such, that at Port Royal a third only of the houses were left standing, and a corresponding proportion only of the people were preserved. Three-fourths of the buildings, with their inhabitants, were sunk entirely under water. Over the island it was even worse. The store-houses in the immediate vicinity of the harbor subsided to such a degree, that they were twenty four, thirty six, and even forty eight feet under water. Some of the vessels, too, were sunk. It is stated, on the most unquestionable authority, that the houses remained standing; some of the chimney-tops, indeed, were seen projecting above the waves. A frigate, under repair at the wharf, was driven over the tops of many buildings, and then thrown upon a roof, through which it broke. As late as the year 1830, the ruins of the houses could be discovered when the water was still, and with the instrument called the 'diver's eye' they were clearly traced. According to De la Beche, the part of Port Royal that sunk was built upon newly formed land, consisting chiefly of sand, and into which piles had been driven. In many places over the island the ground is said to have opened, in other places sunk, and land-slips occurred in others. On the north of the island several plantations, with the entire population, were swallowed up, and in their places there appeared a lake above a thousand acres in extent. Afterwards this sheet of water dried up, and left nothing behind but sand and gravel. There was not the slightest trace of shrub, or tree, or human habitation, so thorough was the work of desolation. Strange things took place, too, among the mountains. It is affirmed that they were in many places torn and strangely rent; their appearance was altogether changed, being stripped of their trees and natural verdure. For twenty-four hours the rivers ceased to flow; the impediments to their progress being overcome, they brought to the sea such vast quantities of wood that it appeared like floating islands. Great was the change which Jamaica at this time underwent; and the sacrifice of property and life was tremendous. In one instance, an entire plantation was removed half a mile from its place, the crops continuing to grow upon it uninjured. The year after, namely in 1693, Sicily was visited by several shocks of earthquakes. On the 11th of January the city of Catania, and about fifty other places,

most of which were destroyed, were visited by three of these visitations. Two hundred shocks were experienced in the short space of twenty-four hours. The waters of the ocean twice retired, and returned with the utmost impetuosity upon the land. The city of Lima was laid in ruins, very much property was destroyed, and very many lives were destroyed. A part of the coast near Callao was converted into a bay; four harbors were completely destroyed. The ill-fated vessels which these harbors contained were almost all of them wrecked. At Callao nineteen were sunk, and four were, by the force of the waves, carried landward, and left high and dry at a great distance from the shore. Of the four thousand inhabitants which the city contained, two hundred only escaped. Twenty-two of these were saved by clinging to a portion of the fort—the only remaining memorial of the town after this fearful inundation. The general site was covered with heaps of sand and gravel, presenting a scene of the utmost desolation. To add to the misery and consternation of the survivors, a volcano, long quiescent, burst forth the same night, and discharged such quantities of water, together with other matter, that the whole country was overflowed. Other three volcanoes, at some distance, became suddenly active, and frightful torrents of water swept down their sides. There are records of similar convulsions in Peru at an earlier date. According to Ulloa, one which happened fully fifty years before was accompanied by a similar inroad of the sea. The waters first retired, and then, in a mountainous wave, swept over Callao and its environs, involving the miserable inhabitants in immediate death. Another writer affirms that this same wave carried ships a league into the country, and drowned men and beasts for fifty leagues along the shore. Still earlier inundations are recorded by these writers, all of which were disastrous. But all authentic accounts cease when we go back to the period of the Spanish invasion. The Spaniards found the Peruvians to a considerable extent a civilized people, but they had no written annals; and therefore events of this nature were not accurately preserved, either in regard to the period in which they occurred, or their true character. Still there can be no question that previous to this date—the date of their conquest—they had been subjected to terrible convulsions in nature. They had a tradition, that many, many years ago, when the country was very populous, a great flood happened; the sea broke over its bounds, covered the land with water, and all the people perished. They further believe that some individuals betook themselves to the hollows and caves of the mountains, whence they came forth when the waters had subsided, and re-peopled the region. Others affirm, that of all the inhabitants of that populous country, six individuals only were saved, on a float, and from them the inhabitants which the Spaniards found had descended. It is of importance to remark, that certain of the discoveries of Darwin, in 1835, confirm the traditions of the natives. On the mainland, near Lima, he found proofs that the ancient bed of the sea had been raised to the height of more than eighty feet above water mark within the human epoch. At that altitude he discovered recent strata, containing pieces of cotton thread and plaited rush, together with sea-weed and marine shells. In the same region there is an extensive district, having the marks of former cultivation, but now entirely desert, owing apparently to a change of elevation, whereby a large river which watered the country has been diverted from its course, and sent to the ocean by another channel. May not the traditions, which universally prevail, relative to floods and the depopulation of countries, and which obviously point to facts, have reference to local convulsions and inundations, such as those described in this paper, and not to the Noachian deluge? This may be the case, without weakening in the least degree the legitimate evidence in support of that historical fact.

[To be concluded.]

From an Anglo Indian paper.

ALLIGATORS BOARDED AND LODGED.

We made an excursion lately to what is called here the 'muggur tank,' a lake of Alligators which lies in a small and beautifully situated grove of trees, surrounded by a range of low hills, about nine miles from Kurrachee. After having breakfasted we proceeded to the spot where these hideous monsters are congregated. They are held sacred by the natives of the country, and are regularly fed by the contributions of devotees. The tank is more like an overflow meadow than a lake, having deep channels intersecting each other, and is literally alive with these huge 'muggurs,' some lying basking on the knolls and ridges, others floating on the surface of the deeper water. They are of all sizes, from a foot or two to twenty or twenty five feet in length, and bulky in proportion. Having purchased a kid, and cut it up on the banks, there was a universal opening of their capacious jaws, which they kept distended in expectation of having a piece of flesh pitched into them; they are too lazy and too well fed to make any further demonstration; the native keeper, who feeds them, then began calling to them, when they came one by one lazily along, and waddling on to the shore, each took what was given to him. The rapidity with which the poor kid vanished, head and heels, was truly surprising. They know the keeper quite well, and if any one should take up what is not thrown to him, the