

News of the Week.

THE RECENT DESTRUCTION OF ST. SALVADOR BY AN EARTHQUAKE.

AN EYEWITNESS.

Near San Salvador, April 20, 1854.

The attention of the dwellers and sojourners upon the south western part of the elevated plain which lies above the city of San Salvador, upon the 12th and 13th of April last, was forcibly called to a hollow rolling subterranean sound which was repeated at intervals and at times continued several minutes without ceasing. It seemed to proceed from the mountain chain, which extends south westerly from the neighboring volcano and forms a semi-circle. The awe inspiring sound was most distinctly heard at Monserrat and at a little hacienda (farm) belonging to a German family named Bogen, from east Prussia.

About 7 1/2 o'clock on the morning of Good Friday (April 14), two slight shocks of earthquake were felt at San Salvador and in the immediate vicinity, succeeding each other with little interval and followed some ten minutes later by one more severe. I saw the roof and walls of my little habitation trembling without at first perceiving the cause. "Es un temblor," said Martin, my young now Spanish attendant very quietly. He was a native of the country, and therefore accustomed to a phenomenon, which fills the mind of an inhabitant of the north with so much profound horror. The environs of San Salvador have a bad name throughout the country, on account of the frequent shaking of the earth, and the natives have given the region a name expressive of the fact. But though these slight shocks are constantly occurring, especially at the beginning and end of the dry season, (December and May) there has never, since the memory of man, been any instance of these terrible catastrophes, which, as at Lima or Valparaiso, are expected about once in a century to overwhelm the city in total destruction. Besides, the volcano of Salco, sixteen leagues South of San Salvador, being in constant activity, is considered as a sort of chimney, conducting off the vapors and liquid matter from the vast fires beneath, or, to quote Humbolt, as a safety valve against destructive earthquakes.

The shocks continued throughout Good Friday with regular intervals, about as often as two or three per hour, and having at the same direction—west-south-west to east, north-east. In this direction at a distance of a short league from the city, and at an elevation of about 500 feet above it, is the great crater of Guscatlan. This crater seems to be more ancient than that of St. Salvador, and is partly filled up by a lake. Here the shocks seemed to originate and not at the volcano.

In San Salvador, where the holy week is celebrated with all possible religious pomp, the people paid little attention to the earthquakes that took place upon Good Friday, and were but to a very small extent hindered in their participation in the procession and in their visits to the cathedral. Still, several times in the course of the day, as the shocks grew of greater force, the devout multitudes were seen flying from the holy halls, pale with terror, rushing in wild haste to the doors—their fear of the subterranean powers overcoming their faith in the celestial.

About 8 1/2 o'clock, P. M., the houses were shaken to their foundations and the roofs began to crack. Walls were filled with fissures the plastering fell from ceilings, and many tiles were thrown from the roofs. This shock lasted at least some eight seconds, with an undulating motion and had the houses not been so exceedingly well adapted for resistance to earthquakes, they would probably have come down in masses. These houses are all low, very broad, and of only one story, the walls of loam mud possessing considerable elasticity and covered flexible cane—no better construction being possible to meet the case. Everybody fled into the open air.—An hour passed without further motion, yet most of the people resolved to put up their couches in their court-yards in the open air. The shocks continued more or less violent at intervals during the whole night. In the course of the twenty-four hours we counted forty-two distinct ones. On Saturday morning it became quiet again.

The Capital of this State of San Salvador, is situated at an elevation of 2,100 Spanish feet above the Pacific, upon a most fertile plain about 7 square leagues in extent, on the north-west side of which rises the volcano, hardly a league from the city. Seen from the town the old fire-mountain forms a most beautiful cone with a gently sloping summit crowned to the highest peak with thick forest. The crater is perfectly well preserved, more than half-a-league in circumference and partially filled with water. It rises about 1,000 feet above the table-land on which it stands. The other hills, both those which belong to the volcanic range south, and those of the semi-circle above mentioned rise not more than 1,500 feet above the level of the plain.

There is no historical account of any peri-

od of activity in the volcano of San Salvador. There is a tradition, however, of an eruption with lava having taken place in 1659, which is said to have destroyed and covered with ashes the pueblo of Nehapa on the north-western side. According to the other traditions this was no eruption of fire, but an overflow of mud from the crater.

Easter Sunday was welcomed by the discharge of rockets and the music of the military bands, while the multitude moved in festive procession to hear High Mass in the Cathedral. Most of the houses were beautifully decorated with pisang leaves and branches of palm tree. The "Sanctissimum" was carried in triumph through the streets. Along procession followed, and the Senoras and Senoritas displayed their most splendid toilets. In the afternoon the grand procession of Saints took place. Colossal statues of Saints carved in wood, and most luxuriously equipped in costly silk dresses, were carried from the Churches through the streets, and wherever they chanced to meet, the processions stop to give the Saints an opportunity to embrace. The multitudes greet these scenes with extravagant delight, and rockets by the hundred are sent rushing through the air. The good Catholic people devote themselves upon Easter Sunday, first to religious exercises then to cheerful enjoyment and so the day concluded with music, fireworks and banqueting.

Soon after 9 o'clock in the evening came a severe shock, more powerful than the severest on Good Friday accompanied, during its entire continuance, by a hollow, rumbling noise.—Walls tottered to their foundations, bricks and tiles fell to the earth, and many houses were rent with fissures, I was lying in bed, suffering under an attack of ague, and had fallen into a feverish slumber from which the noise awakened me. At that instant a portion of the ceiling of my room fell, beating me upon my head and face, and for some minutes blinding me with dust. I sprang from my bed and groped my way in the darkness to the door, which was unfortunately locked. I succeeded at length in finding it, and reached the courtyard, in safety, where I found all the other inmates of the house assembled crying and praying in one breath.

In a few minutes though the panic was over again, and one heard even laughter and joking at the sudden consternation and flight from the house. These frightful phenomena occur too often to arouse more than a passing anxiety, even when the shocks are of unusual strength. They seem to be content if their dwellings do not sink at once. Still the inmates of the houses brought their beds into the open air, and opened the doors of their houses. My next neighbour, a young doctor, remarked that probably no other severe shock would occur that night, to which a Catholic priest replied, that the house was old, the roof rotten, and caution was at all events commendable. The people of the house went in again, and with open doors returned to their Easter feast, the conversation for the next hour turning almost exclusively upon the horrible "temblor."

In the meantime I, being sleepless was looking out upon the nightly sky. The day had as usual, been very warm: the thermometer rising at noon to 88° Fahrenheit.—Heaps of cloud (strato-cumulus) were piled up mountain-like about the declining moon, but at about 10 o'clock disappeared. The moon was now shining merrily through a clear and calm atmosphere a few vaperous veils of cloud (cirrus or cirrocumulus) only still hung immovable about some points of the horizon. Nothing appeared in the atmosphere to announce any uncommon phenomenon.

Half an hour later—10 1/2 P. M.—came the frightful shock which laid San Salvador in ruins. It began with a loud noise and undulating motion, the ground moving as if shaken by a subterranean sea. This motion, with its accompanying subterranean thunder—in the same direction with the previous shocks—lasted some ten or twelve seconds. The cracking and falling of roofs made a roar through which the appalling sounds below could scarcely be heard. A colossal cloud of dust arose. The terror, the cries and lamentations of the people were beyond description. Then followed prayers and a universal, loud, wailing invocation to *Maria Sanctissima*, and all the Saints, and finally a low lamenting and supplicating song from thousands of voices rising simultaneously from all the places of refuge to which the multitude had fled for safety.

And now began a scene which my pen is unable to describe. How insignificant appeared now the most frightful points in my past life, how mean appeared all the episodes of war and revolution, which I had witnessed in the Old World! There one had to deal with known agencies, with adversaries of flesh and blood, and not, as now, with unknown powers of the depths of whose existence we hardly are aware.

The shocks continued, sometimes light and sometimes with fearful force, with but short intervals, throughout the night and the next day, at the evening of which their number amounted to 120. I can compare the

awful rumbling noise attending them only to heavy discharges of artillery in some subterranean battle. Sometimes the noise was more of a rattling character, and the ground waved for minutes without a real shock. No one thought of goods and chattels; the people trembled still for their lives: the motion of the ground had opened it in all directions, and no one knew but that the next moment a yawning chasm would open beneath his feet and swallow him forever.—After each succeeding shock the multitude changed their prayers and called upon some new saint for help. But whether the saints did not hear, whether they could not or would not help, the earth continued to tremble, the subterranean artillery to roar. A few hours more, and the more resolute had become accustomed to the roar, and began to take measures for the public safety, the ravages of the Indians being feared.

About one o'clock in the morning a gentleman of my acquaintance climbed over the ruins of my house into the yard to look after me. Seeing me somewhat better, he proposed a walk in the moonlight through the town. We went first to the market-place. The cathedral was still standing, but the town—I saw, now, that it was involved in one general ruin, that not a single house had resisted the last frightful earthquake! The cathedral—a more elegant than imposing building of the last century—had to a certain extent sustained the shock. But its belfry had been thrown down, its porch was in ruins, its walls were cracked and full of fissures. All the other churches, save that of the old Franciscan convent had suffered far more severely, and their interiors presented sad pictures of solitude and ruin, being covered with dust and rubbish from the fall of tiles and stones from the heavy roofs. Colossal statues had tumbled from their pedestals, and their splendid and gorgeous robes were dragged in the dirt. There they lay, utterly uncared for by the multitudes who the day before had carried them in triumphant procession. Life and property were at this moment of more importance than images, the worship of which had done so little to arrest the footsteps of the calamity. A wing and newly-finished tower of the university still stood, and strangely enough, the clock was still striking the hours with all due regularity. In the Episcopal palace the ceiling had given away, and the Bishop, Don Tomaso Saldana, a man justly admired from his piety and virtues, had fared no better with his consecrated head than we profane. Senor Duenas, Ex-President of the Republic, once a monk, then a lawyer and diplomatist, and incontestably in capacity the first man in the country, was somewhat more seriously injured.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

THE CHOLERA IN 1834.—We had the curiosity to look over the files of our paper for 1834, to ascertain precisely the course taken by the cholera in this City in that year. We find that it commenced on 25th September, and continued until 15th November. There were seldom more than ten deaths a week, and the whole number did not exceed fifty.

The annexed returns show the extent of the disease in this city and suburbs since the 26th July, when returns were obtained by the Board of Health. Several of the deaths enumerated are known not to have been occasioned by the prevailing epidemic, but the total (339) is probably about the number that have died of the disease since the 25th June, and the date of the first suspected death from Cholera.

It is remarkable that the same districts, namely, Portland and York Point, which are among its chief seats this year, were the very spots to which it was confined in 1834, and that there were only two or three cases in other portions of the City. The authorities of that day appear to have gone much more energetically to work than has been done this season. Weeks before the cholera appeared, a general cleansing took place, and we noticed that a number of persons were brought up for neglecting to remove nuisances and fined five pounds each. A Cholera hospital was also provided in good season, and seemed to have been of great service.

Deaths reported to the Board of Health.

Wednesday Morning.

In the City,	13
Portland and Indiantown,	22
	35

Thursday Morning.

In the City,	14
Portland and Indiantown,	27
	41

Friday Morning.

In the City,	19
Portland and Indiantown,	23
	42

Saturday Morning.

In the City,	8
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Parish of Portland,	21
	29
Total during the week,	235
In the Alms House,	4
Number of deaths previously reported to the Board of Health, from the 26th to the 29th ult., inclusive,	100
Total report to the Board,	339

RECIPROCIITY TREATY.—Telegraphic Despatches have been received from Washington by M. H. Perley, Esq., of this City, announcing the ratification, by the Congress of the United States, of the Fishery and Reciprocity Treaty. It was agreed to in the Senate on Wednesday evening by three votes more than the requisite vote of two-thirds of that body, and in the House of Representatives yesterday, only half an hour before the adjournment of Congress.

We publish a copy of the document today as it appeared lately in the New York Daily Times.

As the Treaty requires to be sanctioned by the several Provincial Legislatures, extra sessions will take place with as little delay as possible in the Provinces to be effected by it, in order, if approved of, that the Treaty may take effect on the 5th December next, the time provided for its going into operation.

STEAMERS.—The Steamer Governor arrived here on Tuesday evening last, from Boston, to the place of the Admiral. She is a very efficient boat we understand, and is handsomely fitted up, and will no doubt be well patronized by the travelling community. She is commanded by Capt. Wood formerly of the Admiral, and the other popular officers of that favorite steamer have also been engaged.

We learn that the principal owners of the Eastern City intend raising sufficient capital to purchase a splendid new steamer for this route, and we also understand that a large proportion of the stock has already been subscribed for.—*Courier.*

THE CHOLERA.—In our last we stated that we thought the disease was on the decline, as the number of deaths for the 24 hours previous, was less than that of the previous day. It will be seen, however, by the following that there is no diminution. Still, there is no cause for alarm in the clean and airy parts of the City.

It should be remembered by our readers at a distance, that where one dies by the Cholera, half-a-dozen are cured. The report does not embrace all the cholera cases, only the deaths. The disease, if taken in time, is said to be as manageable as the most simple complaint.

Deaths Reported to the Board of Health.

From 10 o'clock on Saturday up to 10 o'clock on Sunday,	19
In the city,	21
Portland and Indian Town,	40

From 10 o'clock on Sunday up to 10 o'clock on Monday,	21
In the City,	16
In Portland,	37

For the 24 hours ending Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

In the City,	20
In Portland,	33

Up to six o'clock this morning (Wednesday) we learn that there were 10 deaths in the City and 8 in Portland.

The total number of deaths for the week ending this morning at 6 o'clock, 275.

—*Morning News.*

EMIGRATION.—The packet ship "Edacia" brought 257 steerage, and 15 cabin passengers from Liverpool; and the Packet ship "Middleton," which came into port on Tuesday, brought 73 steerage and 5 cabin passengers. It is matter of sincere congratulation that the passengers by these noble ships of the Black Ball line were landed in excellent health and without even a suspicion of sickness. The ample accommodations on board these packets, the good fare, and ample supply of water, render them most desirable conveyances for emigrants that wish to cross the Atlantic safely and comfortably.

The Swedish brig "Miner" arrived at the Island on Thursday evening with 133 passengers from Londonderry, all in good health. The "Miner" will probably come into port to-day having undergone the necessary cleansing and fumigation.

DAY OF HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.—Yesterday, (Tuesday), was observed in this City as a day of general humiliation and prayer, in consequence of the severe visitation with which our community is at present afflicted. In compliance with a Public Notice to that effect, very judiciously issued by His Worship the Mayor, all business was suspended throughout the day; the stores and offices were all closed; and all the Churches and places of public worship were well attended by serious and devout congregations, heartily uniting together in humiliation before God, and in earnest supplication that in the midst of judgment he may remember his wretched