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## Earthquakes.

**T**HE past year has been signalized by a series of natural phenomena which have been seldom equaled in any similar period within the history of mankind. Beginning with the terrible volcanic outbursts of Vesuvius on April 14, 1906, various points of the earth's surface have been convulsed by volcanic eruptions, or earth tremors, which have had the most disastrous effect, and have resulted in great loss of life and vast destruction of property. All of these cataclysms have not occurred in a single so-called volcanic or earthquake belt but have taken place in the most widely-separated localities and our greatest seismologists have not yet been able to ascribe their origin satisfactorily to a common cause. Whether or not it is merely coincidence that these happenings should all have taken place within a twelve-month or whether there is some great underlying action with which we are unfamiliar, and which has given rise to them, still remains to be revealed.

A scientific report cannot yet be given of the recent catastrophe which destroyed Kingston, Jamaica, and which, evidently, was hardly less destructive in severity and extent than that which resulted in the destruction of San Francisco or the subsequent one which effected such terrible devastation at Valparaiso. Only after an elaborate study of the whole region affected by the earthquake and a careful