

was going, I saw the earth open and swallow up a multitude of people, and the sea mounting in upon them over the fortifications; Moreover, the large and famous burying-place, called the Palisades, was destroyed, and the sea washed away its carcases. The whole harbour, one of the fairest and goodliest, was covered with dead bodies floating up and down.' The town of Port Royal was principally built upon a triangular bank of sand, loosely adhering to a shelving rock, whose base is in the sea. A slight concussion, therefore, aided by the enormous weight of buildings, would cause this delta to fall into the water, whence it had been by degrees and but lately thrown up. The morning of the 7th June had been clear, hot and sultry; not a cloud was above the horizon, nor a breath of air abroad. The earthquake commenced at forty minutes past eleven in the forenoon, with a gentle tremulous motion; and was succeeded by another shock somewhat more violent, but accompanied with a hollow rolling noise, mysteriously sounding in the earth and air. This dreadful warning, too familiar to West Indian ears, was instantly followed by a third tremendous shock, when screams of anguish and inarticulate cries of horror were as quickly drowned by the rush of waters, and the simultaneous crash of a thousand falling edifices."*

Nothing is more striking, in very dry seasons, than the contrast between the parched and dried lowlands, and the verdant, woody, and grass-clad hills. Below, on the plains, between the shore and the base of the mountains, or between the sea and the foot-hills, there is scarcely a blade of grass, and all vegetable life appears almost extinct, except in the hardy cacti, the penguin, the logwood, cashew, and cherry trees; above in the hills, where vegetable life aspires to the clouds and attracts the skiey juices and is exempt from the greater heats, the luxuriant Guinea-grass flourishes to the very summits; and the parasitical plants form lofty and extended masses of the finest festooning, while the trees are clad with the richest foliage, and the gardens of the peasantry are either largely yielding or largely promising what is pleasant to the eye and good for food. In the plains, the traveller becomes wearied and exhausted from the intense heat of a cloud-

* Brydges' *Annals of Jamaica*.