

benefit to England. Let the whole power of the nation be now turned to the best mode of welding together for the future the various parts of the British Empire. After some remarks from Mr. Fowler, M.P., and others, the following resolution, moved by Sir John Lubbock, was adopted:—

"That this meeting, appreciating highly the importance of the colonial position of the British Empire, desires to see the relations between the mother country and our colonies maintained and improved."

#### WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN CANADA BEFORE NOW.

##### THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE OF 1663.

We re-produce from the *Relation des Jesuites* the following description of an extraordinary earthquake in 1663:—

On the 5th of February, 1663, about half-past five o'clock in the morning, a great rushing noise was heard throughout the whole extent of Canada. The noise caused the people to run out of their houses into the streets, as if their habitations had been on fire; but instead of flames and smoke they were surprised to see the walls reeling backwards and forwards, and the stones moving, as if they were detached from each other. The bells sounded by the repeated shocks. The roofs of the buildings bent down, first on one side and then on the other. The timbers, rafters and planks cracked. The earth trembled violently and caused the stakes of the palisades and pailings to dance in a manner that would have been incredible had we not actually seen it in many places. It was at this moment that every one ran out of doors. Then were to be seen animals flying in every direction, children crying and screaming in the streets, men and women, seized with affright, stood horror-struck with the dreadful scene before them, unable to move, and ignorant where to fly for refuge from the tottering walls and trembling earth, which threatened every instant to crush them to death, or to sink them into a profound and unmeasurable abyss. Some threw themselves on their knees into the snow, crossing their breasts and calling upon their saints to relieve them from the dangers with which they were surrounded. Others passed the rest of this dreadful night in prayer, for the earthquake ceased not, but continued at short intervals, with a certain undulating impulse, resembling the waves of the ocean, and the same qualmish sensations, or sickness at the stomach, was felt during the shocks as is experienced in a vessel at sea.

The violence of the earthquake was greatest in the forests, where it appeared as if there was a battle raging between the trees, for not only their branches were destroyed, but even their trunks are said to have been detached from their places and dashed against each other with inconceivable violence and confusion—so much so, that the Indians in their figurative manner of speaking, declared that all the forests were drunk. The war also seemed to be carried on between the mountains, some of which were torn from their bed and thrown upon others, leaving immense chasm in the places from whence they had issued, and the very trees with which they were covered sunk down leaving only their tops above the surface of the earth; others were completely overturned, their branches buried in the earth, and the roots only remaining above ground. During this general wreck of nature, the ice, upwards of six feet thick, was rent and thrown up in large pieces, and from the openings in many parts, there is-

sued thick clouds of smoke, or fountains of dirt and sand, which spouted up to a very considerable height. The springs were either choked up or impregnated with sulphur—many rivers were totally lost; others were diverted from their course, and their waters entirely corrupted. Some of them became yellow, others red, and the great river St. Lawrence appeared entirely white as far down as Tadousac. This extraordinary phenomenon must astonish those who know the size of the river, and immense body of water in various parts, which must have required such an abundance of matter to whiten it. During the earthquake many plainly saw the stakes of the picketing or palisades jump up as if they had been dancing, and that of two doors in the same room one opened and the other shut of their own accord; that the chimneys and tops of the houses bent like branches of trees agitated with the wind; that when they went to walk they felt the earth following them, and rising at every step they took, sometimes sticking against the soles of their feet and other things in a very forcible and surprising manner.

From Three Rivers, they write that the first shock was the most violent, and commenced with a noise resembling thunder. The houses were agitated in the same manner as the tops of trees during a tempest, with a noise as if fire was crackling in the garrets. The shock lasted half an hour or rather better, though its greatest force was properly not more than a quarter of an hour; and we believe there was not a single shock which did not cause the earth to open either more or less.

As for the rest, we have remarked that though this earthquake continued almost without intermission, yet it was not always of an equal violence. Sometimes it was like the pitching of a large vessel which dragged heavily at her anchors; and it was this motion that occasioned many to have a giddiness in their heads and qualmishness at their stomachs. At other times the motion was hurried and irregular, creating sudden jerks, some of which were extremely violent, but the most common was a slight tremulous motion, which occurred frequently, with little noise.

Many of the French inhabitants and Indians, who were eye-witnesses to the scene, state that a great way up the river of Trois Rivières, about eighteen miles below Quebec, the hills which bordered the river on either side, and which were of a prodigious height, were torn from their foundations, and plunged into the river, causing it to change its course, and spread itself over a large tract of land recently cleared; the broken earth mixed with the waters, and for several months changed the colour of the great river St. Lawrence, into which that of Trois Rivières disembogues itself. In the course of this violent convulsion of nature, lakes appeared where none ever existed before; mountains were overthrown, swallowed up by the gaping earth, or precipitated into adjacent rivers, leaving in their place frightful chasms or level plains; falls and rapids were changed into gentle streams, and gentle streams into falls and rapids. Rivers in many parts of the country sought other beds, or totally disappeared. The earth and the mountains was entirely split and rent in innumerable places, creating chasms and precipices whose depths have never yet been ascertained. Such devastation was also occasioned in the woods that more than one thousand acres in our neighbourhood were completely overturned; and where but a short time before nothing met the eye but an immense forest of trees, now

were to be seen extensive cleared lands, apparently cut up by the plough.

At Tadousac (about 150 miles below Quebec on the north side) the effect of the earthquake was not less violent than in other places; and such a heavy shower of volcanic ashes fell in that neighbourhood, particularly in the river St. Lawrence, that the waters were as violently agitated as during the tempest. Near St. Paul's Bay (about 50 miles below Quebec on the north side), a mountain, about a quarter of league in circumference, situated on the shore of the St. Lawrence, was precipitated into the river, but, as if it had only made a plunge, it rose from the bottom and became a small island, forming with the shore a convenient harbor, well sheltered from all winds. Lower down the river towards Point Allouettes, an entire forest of considerable extent was loosened from the main bank and slid into the river St. Lawrence, where the trees took fresh root.

There are three circumstances, however, which have rendered this extraordinary earthquake particularly remarkable: the first is its duration, having continued from February to August, that is to say more than six months almost without intermission.

"If," says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, "Russia should crowd us to the wall in Asia, what a pretty pickle England would be in." Of late years the power of Russia has been rapidly increasing, her material resources having been developed as civilisation pressed over its borders, and the policy of its government became more European than Asiatic. One seventh of the land of the globe is hers; her population is about 75,000,000 souls, and only her western border has to be defended. The Russian regular army is more than 800,000 men on a war footing; the army of the reserve is 126,925, and of the second reserve 200,000. Besides these are the Cossacks, who, in lieu of taxes to the government, render military service. Russia has improved weapons, 700,000 breech loading rifles, and abundant artillery. In 1869 its navy consisted of 290 steamers, with 2,205 guns; twenty-nine sailing vessels, with sixty-five guns; twenty-four ironclads, with one hundred and forty-nine guns; and a force of more than 60,000 sailors. From this it is evident how formidable a foe she would be and how much she has done since the Crimean war.

#### DISTANCES IN FRANCE.

The *New York Commercial* has collected from European sources the following table of distances, which should be preserved for reference. The distance from Paris to

Miles.		Miles.	
Strasbourg.....	312	Gretz.....	21
Rheims.....	99	Longueville.....	55
Thionville.....	214	Flombeln.....	59
Nancy.....	220	Hermes.....	62
Bar le Duc.....	158	Troyes.....	103
Châlons.....	107	Châlons.....	162
Epervay.....	88	Mailhouse.....	391
Vitry le Vieille.....	117	Altkirch.....	294
Meux.....	28	Belfort.....	274
Soissons.....	65	Port d'Atelier.....	223
Toul.....	199	Champagne.....	283
Vitry le Français.....	128	Jussey.....	215
Charleville.....	161	Chalindrey.....	191
Longuyon.....	214	Vesone.....	236
Montmedy.....	201	Bar sur Aube.....	137
Chauvency.....	197	Châlons.....	58
Fontoy.....	235	Gray.....	248
Sedan.....	170	Montreuil.....	76
Hayange.....	240	Laon.....	87
Bazailles.....	174	Rethel.....	123
Pierrepont.....	220	Villers.....	48
Vesin.....	209	Bazancourt.....	106
Carignan.....	181	Palix.....	143
Donchery.....	108	Mahon.....	150
Bondy.....	6	Nouzou.....	148
Esly.....	23	Longpoint.....	55
Le Rulley.....	8	Crémy.....	34
Lagny-Thorigny.....	17	Le Châtelet.....	116
Châlons.....	11	Berzy.....	62
Noisy le Sec.....	5	Vetrey les Rheims.....	99