

undermined was not long able to sustain the pressure, and burst. This occasioned a violent rushing of the water to the part; more of it sank below the deposit, undermined, and broke it up still further. Successive underminings and burstings of this kind took place, until at length the belt of sand in which the trench had been made, was worn down to the width of several rods, and finally the waters made a deep gulf or channel through the whole barrier, and poured down the declivity to Mud Lake!

While these operations, which did not occupy above twenty minutes, were going on, the workmen stood looking on in stupefied amazement at the unforeseen commotion they had excited, and they did not think of getting out of the way until the first burst of the torrent began, when one of them was with difficulty saved by the hair of the head. Another was caught by the torrent, and only saved by his accidentally catching the roots of a tree. These accidents induced the men to run with speed to save their lives, and as they did so, they felt the whole ground quivering under them. Having got to a secure spot, they stood and watched the progress of the desolation.

It was but a few seconds, after the first efflux of its waters, ere Long Lake was entirely empty! When the first waters escaped, the rest, being left without support, flowed northwards with such impetuosity that the northern shore gave way to the width of more than a quarter of a mile, and the depth of one hundred and fifty feet. The whole barrier being thus removed, the escape of the waters, as has been said, was almost instantaneous, and the violence of their motion inconceivable. The liberated mass—consisting of a volume of fluid one and a half miles in length, three-fourths of a mile in width, and from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet in depth—made its way down the declivity to Mud Lake, tearing up and bearing before it trees, earth, and rocks, and excavating a channel of a quarter of a mile in width, and from fifty to eighty feet in depth. "With the immense momentum which it had gained," says Dr. Dwight, in his account of the eruption in Silliman's Journal, "it flowed into the valley of Mud Lake, forcing forward, with irresistible impetuosity, the spoils which it had already accumulated, tore away masses of earth from the high grounds on each side of the lake, excavated the whole bottom of the valley, including the shores of Mud Lake, to the depth of perhaps thirty feet, and with the additional mass of water thus acquired, made its way down the channel of Barton river."

With the exception of the narrow pass by which Barton river found an outlet, the whole northern shore of Mud Lake had been composed of rising ground of considerable height. The torrent broke away this mound in a moment, and carried it, as a fresh trophy, down the valley. The valley, however, was insufficient to serve the torrent for a path; it hollowed out a new one for itself, varying from twenty to thirty rods in width, and from twenty to sixty feet in depth. This excavating course

was continued for about five miles below Mud Lake, where the country opened up considerably. Before reaching this point, however, the waters carried away the mills at Keene-Corner, or rather carried away, to a great depth, the ground on which they stood. Happily no lives were lost, though one man had just barely escaped the torrent's path as it went by.

About a mile below Keene-Corner, "the moving mass of trees, earth, and water (says Dr. Dwight), expanded itself as the country opened, and, with the velocity acquired in its long descent, marched onwards in its work of desolation." The inhabitants of Barton, seven miles below Keene-Corner, received a dreadful alarm, when they saw the flood rushing rapidly down towards them, bearing a moving forest on its top. Only one house, nevertheless, proved to be within the track of the torrent. The proprietor of this, and his wife, were then at home. Alarmed by the noise, the man caught his wife in his arms, and carried her up the bank; yet it was with the utmost difficulty they escaped. Their house was lifted from its foundations, but being carried against some firm object, it remained there till the waters passed. The mills of Mr. Blodget, and those of Mr. Enos, respectively three and five miles below Barton, and fourteen and sixteen below Mud Lake, were entirely carried away. At Enos's mills the torrent retained still enough of force to move a rock, above one hundred tons in weight, many rods from its bed. Indeed, the excavating effects of the waters extended over the greater part of the level country above Enos's mill, a channel from thirty to sixty rods in width, and from ten to fifteen feet in depth, being left to mark its course. Below these mills, the country opened up still more, and the force of the current was much weakened, but its marks were visible all the way to Lake Memphremagog, fifteen miles below Barton, into which it discharged itself.

It was fortunate, though most remarkable, that no lives were lost through this violent and most unlooked-for eruption of water. The neighbouring inhabitants of the country, who were not within sight of the flood, participated in the alarm excited by it; for the noise of the first outbreak was like the loudest thunder, and the earth shook as if with an earthquake, causing the cattle to run home with signs of the utmost terror and alarm. After the torrent had passed, the appearance of the districts through which it had moved was most extraordinary. The immense continuous chasm ploughed out by the waters, was the most remarkable object. In many places, also, great depositions of sand and earth had taken place, wherever the waters had been obstructed, and formed an eddy in their course. These sandy heaps covered acres in many places. The quantity of wood which the waters had carried down was large beyond calculation. In some places where the current had met an obstruction, heaps of timber had been piled up to the height of eighty feet. At Barton, a field of twenty acres had been covered with deposited timber to the height of twenty feet. Thirteen years after-