

eruption has happened now—earthquake has shaken our houses and rattled our doors and windows. There have been for some days local shocks in the neighbourhood of the mountain, but the most alarming one occurred yesterday morning at about three hours twenty four minutes before midday. It lasted eighteen seconds, and proceeded from north west to south east was at first undulating, then vertical. The effect was, of course, terrible, and not unlike what I witnessed and felt some years ago, when many lives were lost in the Province of Basilicata. Bells rang, windows shook, and the walls of our houses in some directions were sensibly moved; but, as a heavy storm was raging yesterday, the indications which in some parts of the city were so strong, were mistaken as proceeding from the violence of the wind. As may have been expected, numbers of people left their houses and the roads and squares were crowded with fugitives, who added to the terrors of the moment by their cries. Those who could find refuge in carriages and omnibuses were only too glad to obtain shelter in them but many were compelled to pass the night in the open air, exposed to one of the most awful storms we have had during this extraordinary season.

We have had no other alarm from earthquake since Monday, and public feelings subsiding into its usual tranquil state of security. For one or two days every one I believe, was anxious and apprehensive, for it is no trifle to be rocked in your bed to see your walls rocking backward and forward and to hear the timbers creaking. Such sights would be alarming anywhere, more especially in Naples, which has suffered from a series of disasters, and which has not yet forgotten the awful earthquake of 1857. On Monday and Tuesday morning few persons went to bed; or if they did they threw themselves on it in military style, completely dressed, and ready for a start. Many formed parties as if seeking security in society, but more were in the streets, in the cafes, or in carriages of any kind they could lay hands on. Those who were less fortunate had to pass the night on the bare exposed to rain, but what for this country was bitter cold. There was a full expectation that the earthquake would repeat its visit at the first shock—it not unfrequently does—so that from midnight till 3.24 on Tuesday morning, apprehension became increasingly and painfully strong. Conversation was on the wane, snatches of Litany were chanted here and there almost *sotto voce*. As three o'clock approached there was a dead silence, as if the enemy were upon them; and thus it was at a quarter past three, when apprehensions were intense; but the minute hand marked 3.24, and the sense of relief was great, for nothing happened to create alarm, and though this did not suffice to satisfy those who fancied that the dreaded visitor might have delayed his coming, or that clocks might be wrong, a few minutes more restored tranquility to the most timid, and by dawn of day all went home chilled to the marrow, many, it is probable, having found the death from which they fled.

During the day preceding this anxious night preparations were made by persons which remind us of the hurried flight from Pompeii, indications of which have often been brought to light during the excavations. Boxes were purchased and jewels packed, and in some cases it is said even articles of dress. All that was most precious was in readiness to be carried off, and, says a journal, the lady sent off her *adorato papagallo* (adorable parrot) to be restored if de-

manded, or bequeathed to the friend if she herself was buried under the ruins of Naples. It is unnecessary to say that this general apprehension was of a most exaggerated and unnecessary character. Still no one can answer for his house when its foundations are heaving up and down, and we cannot forget the horrors of 1857, when 30,000 persons were destroyed by earthquake in the neighbouring provinces, and our bells rang, as it were, funeral peals over them.

Later reports now tell us that the shock was felt as far as Bari, and in every place it excited great alarm. In Salerno the people were in a state of fanatical madness. All rushed to the cathedral and insisted on bringing out the statue of the Patron Saint, St. Matthew, and on the bells being rung—a not uncommon practice in a tempest. The clergy, however, in obedience to the civil authorities, would not permit it; but public feeling was too strong to be resisted, so that the statue was carried off on the shoulders of men. Wax tapers were seized, and followed by many thousand persons St. Matthew was borne in procession through the streets. There was considerable fear that a dangerous collision might have occurred, for, by order of the Prefect, a detachment of soldiers was sent out and placed at the disposal of the Quæstor. After a long time, however, the people were persuaded that the Saint had little connection with the earthquake, and as it did not repeat its visit St. Matthew was taken back to the cathedral, and all returned to their homes.—*London Times*.

A Canadian Centennial.

The loyal inhabitants of Quebec are going to do a little in the Centennial business this year as well as the puritans of Boston and vicinity. One hundred years ago last New Year's eve (Friday night) the American General Montgomery, after capturing Montreal, marched down the river to take Quebec and give the British into the sea, and was killed in his assault, and his troops defeated. This was a great blow to the Yankees, who had counted upon driving the British entirely off the continent. Montgomery had four thousand men under his command. The garrison of Quebec consisted of one company of infantry and a dozen marines supplied by one of the two loops of war in the harbor. These were supported by about five hundred French militiamen, badly armed and worse drilled, that had hastily been collected on Montgomery's approach. The attack was made just about midnight on the 31st of December, when it was expected that the garrison would be surprised after the manner of Ticonderoga and Crown Point. The place selected for the attack was a difficult ascent protected by one rusty old gun and manned by ten men. When the Americans came within a short distance they made a rush with Montgomery at their head. But their approach had been observed and the gun trained in position. The point blank discharge killed Montgomery and thirteen of his companions, mostly officers, and the rest were so much frightened that they ran off without making the slightest exertion to recover the body of their brave commander. That single discharge has had a glorious effect on the history of this continent, and the inhabitants of Quebec are going to celebrate it in right royal style. Let it be a good one.—*London Herald*.

"The cause of woman suffrage"—a study of husbands.

THE BRITISH ARTILLERY.—Consequent on the new scheme for the mobilization of the British army, it is understood that two additional brigades of artillery are to be formed in order to render the strength of the regiment employed at home adequate to the requirements of the several army corps. There are at the present time in the British Isles fifteen batteries of Royal horse artillery, and forty two batteries of Royal artillery, with the addition of five mounted batteries in the Depot Brigade. These, at the rate of six guns per battery, represent a total of 374 field guns ready mounted, manned, and equipped for service at home. There are also several garrison brigades of artillery, composed of men who are well drilled and quite efficient, but unprovided with guns and horses. These are employed either in the fortifications or in other garrison duties. There would be no great difficulty in converting these garrison brigades into field brigades at a very short notice were it considered necessary to do so, as there is a large reserve of field guns in store, comprising not only the muzzle-loaders of recent construction, but the older and partly discarded breech-loading field guns, which are still as effective as they ever were. In a time of pressure the garrison brigades would probably be mounted with such horses as could be obtained, and their present duties would fall to the lot of the auxiliary forces. It is probable that there will be a siege train attached to each Army Corps, and the guns for the purpose are being turned out at the Royal Gun Factories in the Royal Arsenal. The sixty-four and forty-pounders are completed and ready for issue; the sighting of the eight-inch howitzer has now been finally determined upon, and it is being expeditiously proceeded with. The light siege train is also ready, so far as the guns are concerned, but not as regards the howitzers, which are still in course of manufacture. The movable artillery force may be regarded as fully effective; but the forts cannot be said to be fully armed, since there are many positions which are not yet prepared to receive the guns ordered for them, while there are in many other places numbers of old smooth-bore guns to be replaced by rifled ordnance of more modern construction. Of small-arm ammunition there is a large store in the country, but a great proportion is for the Snider rifle. The supply for the Henri Martini rifle is not complete, partly owing to a certain hesitation about the arm which it is hoped has at length been removed.—*London Times*.

A ROMAN TUNNEL IN ALGIERS.—Several civil engineers, engaged with the surveys for a water conduit from Tonja to Boujie, have made a very interesting discovery. A mountain which was situated in the proposed line of the conduit was to be tunnelled for a length of 500 yards; and in searching for the most suitable place the engineers discovered an ancient tunnel 6 feet 8 inches in height, and 19 feet 7 inches in circumference. It is supposed that this is the same tunnel mentioned in an epigraph found at Lambeoc, according to which the tunnel was built in the reign of Antonius Pius, the plan being proposed by a veteran of the Third Legion, named Nonius Datus. Finding works like this after a time of 2,000 years, we cannot but be greatly astonished at the power, energy, and genius of a nation which produced, with the limited means available at those times, such gigantic structures.—*Sturmer's Ingenieur*.