

TERRIBLE CONVULSION AT SEA.

The Bath *Times* says that Captain Preble of the ship *Ellen Goodspeed* of Bath, writes home from Hamburg, as follows, concerning an earthquake at sea in July:—"We were twenty-three days from the channel to the line, and thirty-six from the line to the Cape of Good Hope, having light airs and calms all the way. We came south of Tasmania and up between that and New Zealand. On the 15th instant, made Macauley Island, and at 1:30 felt a very severe shock of earthquake, which caused the ship to tremble violently. It lasted one and a half minutes. We were about eight miles from the Island at the time. At midnight made Raoul Island and saw an active subterranean volcano near the shore in the S. W. Bay of the Island. It

hove up a dense volume of steam and smoke to the height of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet with such force that the wind did not seem to have any effect upon it till it was lost in the clouds. The water assumed a singular appearance. It was almost as black as ink, and looked more like ink than water. It was two days before it resumed its usual color. The steam obscured the heavens for a distance of more than fifty miles each way from the Island, and seemed to affect the wind as to make it blow from all points of the compass toward the Island."

HARPER'S publications are to hand, every page of them, as usual, full up of interesting and useful reading matter.

A REMARKABLE PREDICTION.—The *Tours Constitutionnel* publishes a document of a prophetic character which just at the present moment possesses a more than ordinary interest. We allude to a prediction well known in certain parts of France as "the prophecy of Blois." It was made in 1808 by an Ursuline nun of that city. She foretold that troubles would come upon both Blois and France in 1848 and in 1870. The former part of her prediction has come true; and therefore there is a probability that the latter part of it also may be realized. While foretelling terrible troubles to France in the present year, the nun went on to predict *le sauveur accorde a la France*, and added that he should be a man whom the country did not expect. According to the prophecy, the *grands malheurs* were to begin after the middle of July—it will be remembered that the war dates from just before that time—and before the vintage. The troubles foretold were to affect the capital especially, in which there were to be a fearful fight and very great massacre. "Both good and bad will fall in battles, for all the men will be called out and only the old men left in the place. The time,"

adds the nun, "will be short; for the women will prepare the vintages, though the men will return to complete the work. Meantime no news will be obtained, excepting through private letters. Presently, three couriers will arrive at Blois, of whom the first will bring tidings that all is lost, the second will be in too great a hurry to stop at all, and the third, who will come by fire and water"—probably, that is, by railway—"will be the bearer of good news. A *Te Deum* will then be sung, such as never had been heard before; but this *Te Deum* will not be in honour of him who resigned at the first, but for the saviour granted (*accorde*) to France." The prophecy of Blois ends by a statement to the effect that "the prince will not be there; they will go and seek him elsewhere; and after the prince has ascended the throne, France will enjoy peace and prosperity for 20 years."

One of the vacant places in the Spanish Order of the Golden Fleece is to be given to the Sultan. This order, which is common to Spain and Austria, was founded by Philip III., Duke of Burgundy, in the year 1429.