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LORD COMPTON DEAD.

r Bishop of Ely Passes Away at Good Old Age.

ndon, April 4.—Lord Compton, Bishop of Ely, is dead. He was in 1825.



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# Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVIII., NO. 34

VICTORIA, B.C., TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1906.

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

# VESUVIUS IN ERUPTION

Outburst Gathers Force Accompanied by Hail of Red Hot Stones and Increased Flow of Lava Causes Widespread Destruction and Carries Terror to Thousands Now Fleeing For Their Lives---Poisonous Gasses Now Renders Breathing Difficult----The City of Naples is in a State of Panic.

## AN APPALLING DISASTER MENACES TOWNS AND CITIES AT BASE

N APLES, April 8.—The hope that Mount Vesuvius was becoming calm was discipled. volcano became more active than ever. The panic has spread to Naples. Two strong earthquake shocks which shattered window panes and cracked the walls of buildings, were experienced today. The entire population rushed to the streets in terror, many persons crying, "The Madonna has forsaken us!" "The end of the world has come!"

No trace remains of Basco Tre Case, a community on the southern declivity of the mountain, where, up to forty hours ago, ten thousand persons lived, and Torre Annunziate, on the shores of the Bay of Naples, one mile to the southward, is almost surrounded by the invading lea, and has been evacuated by its 30,000 inhabitants.

The people were brought to Naples by trains, street cars, military carts and steamships. Transportation facilities have been sent to Torre del Greco to take away the people. The police and carbineers are guarding the abandoned houses, and several members of the government are

A telegram received from the mayor of San Sabastiano. a village near the observatory on the northwest declivity. of Vesuvius, says the lava is approaching rapidly, and that the people are terror-stricken. They have been for nights without sleep, he says, and are destitute, and beg that assistance be given them.

The work of succor is hampered, owing to the delays to the railway service, which is interrupted by red-hot stones thrown to a height of 3,000 feet, falling on the tracks.

As yet it is imposible to count the craters that have opened, and from which streams of lava have flooded the beautiful, prosperous and happy land lying on the southeast shores of the Bay of Naples.

The atmosphere is heavily charged with electricity, and now and then the flashes of lightning are blinding, while the detonations from the volcano resemble in sound a terrible dynamite explosion.

The churches of the city were open all day Saturday and Saturday night, and were crowded with panic-stricken persons. Members of the clergy are doing their utmost to calm their fears, but the effect of their arguments go almost for naught when renewed earthquake shocks are experi-



With the danger and horror of the situation aside, Vesuvius presents one of the most splendid sights imaginable. The mountain of fire, whose speech is by detonation, and whose acts are destruction, seems like an enraged giant, determined to make pigmies of the people of the earth in the might of his wrath. Here and there on the mountain side stand blasted trunks of pine trees, their branches outstretched as though in protest against the devastation

The Duchess of Aosta, who always is found where misery exists, is not sparing herself in her efforts to alleviate distress. The people call her an angel of mercy. Today she took several children and their mothers in her carriage and conveyed them to the royal palace, where they will remain until conditions are brighter.

teucci, the director, and the employees had narrow escape They passed last night in the darkness safe from the frequent flashes of lightning, as the gas works and electric light plants were also destroyed. The restaurant of the Funicular railroad, too, has been obliterated,

Prisoners in jails on the mountain side went mad with terror and mutineed

They were only partially quieted by being brought here. Their fears have been communicated to the prisoners here, who may rebel at any moment. The situation is critical.

Breathing is momentarily becoming more difficult beare still falling, tend to make life a burden.

Contrary to expectations, the sea has not yet shown signs of being affected by the phenomenon, but fears are entertained that tidal waves may yet come, and many eraft have put to sea. Visitors to Naples are avoiding the hotels on the sea front, and the people living there are beginning to leave for higher altitudes.

Rome, April 8.—Pope Pius is greatly distressed by the calamity wrought by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. In talking to his secretary today, he said: "There are moments when my imprisonment is irksome."

His Holiness personally will not be able to go to the scene, but he has sent a letter to Cardinal Prisco, archbishop of Naples, expressing his grief for the sufferers by the disaster, and instructing him to distribute relief among them and to send to the Vatican particulars of the eruption. He also gave the apostolic benediction to the faithful.

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