

animals and where flocks of birds fill the air with their songs. There are brooks, lakes, deep and rapid rivers—rivers far larger than our majestic St. Lawrence and mighty Mississippi, which are fed from mountains covered with eternal snows, giving rise to glaciers, which are rapidly dissolved from below by the great heat of the Sun.

Venus, as we have seen, has most of the striking characteristics of the planet we inhabit. Of almost the same dimensions, same length of day, same atmosphere, same clouds and rains; even the years and seasons do not show any very marked difference, in fact Venus affords to the Earth greater resemblance than any other member of the Sun's family. But her close proximity to the Sun and her rapid meteorological changes render it more difficult for us to accurately chart her surface than that of our older, but much smaller brother, Mars.

### EARTHQUAKES AT CHARLESTON.

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The recent earthquakes seem first to have touched Summerville, S.C., about August 21, 1886, and to have reached Charleston six days after, early in the morning. Shocks were frequently and strongly felt at Summerville, but no one could account for the strange phenomenon till it developed itself here on the 31st of that month.

The day had been cloudless, and to common observation was as pleasant as could be for the season. It continued thus during the night when Charleston was shaken. Houses moved on the surface of the earth as if on the surface of water for the duration of thirty seconds. The strongest buildings were shattered, chimneys thrown down and buildings burned. The fires originated from the upsetting of lamps due to the motion of the houses. A little while after this quake, there was another one though somewhat less in strength and duration, but the rumbling sound as of subterranean thundering was now more audible. This was followed by tremors in the earth, which wore away gradually till the next day, when another shock came about noon, and the tremors were increased and kept on so for several days.

There were other strong quakes throughout the year. These have occurred so variously as sometimes to be days apart, and again to follow each other in quick succession. The last quake that I felt was on Easter Sunday, April 10th, at 6 a.m. It was a very quick motion, with an explosive sound. The last earthquake rumbling I heard was on August 10th, but I then felt no quake. Local records give three quakes for the end of August, 1887, and they have accordingly lasted over one year.