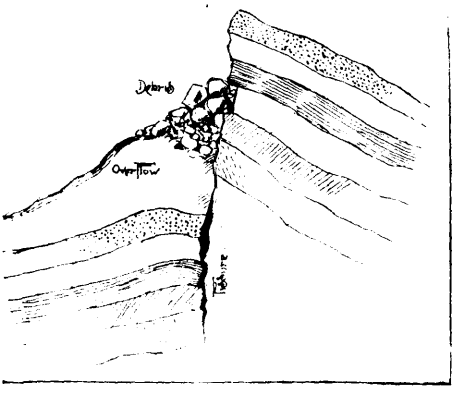
catastrophe as best we might, receiving the wounded where they could be attended to after the best fashion possible, and setting the able-bodied men and women to the procuring of food by agriculture, to the obtaining of fuel and the making of clothing along with ourselves, hoping that in time our afflictions would be lightened, and eventual good be wrought out of present trials—nay, perhaps, in unforeseen ways, the elevation of the survivors.

The great fissure had closed almost as soon as it appeared. The east side of it seemed to sink or the west side to rise, this motion lasting for a day or more, while the difference in level steadily increased to about 200 feet. There was then at some points an overflow of lava, at others of mud, at others an emission of gases; and, in proportion as this developed, the crack closed up. By contraction, the crust had been fissured throughout its thickness. Semi-fluid materials came up to fill the crack, as water will when an ice sheet breaks; the eastern side of the fissure settled along its whole length, showing that the materials to fill it flowed slowly up from that side chiefly, as was natural, considering the gradient both of the land and of the sea bottom. Then, of course, the walls jammed together.



In places, the force with which they closed—a thousand miles of solid crust pressing the edges together—made them pile up ten thousand feet.

In others, the upper strata of the western earth-field, as by analogy to the ice-fields in the Arctic seas it may be called, were driven over the surface of the lower strata; so, at least, it seems from appearances, therein resembling the spots on the foothills of the Rocky mountains visited in 1892 and 1893 by the late Professor Coleman, where, he said (agreeing with McConnell, of Ottawa), the mountain strata had been floated over those of the plain, like a huge ice-block over an ice floe in a jam—which, of course, nobody then believed, though we now see how true it may have been.

Where the crack ran under the sea, very violent disturbances likewise occurred, while the ocean was observed to be now inky black, and now discolored with mud, as in the West Indies in the great earthquake of 1755, when Port Royal sank—an earthquake which, like this, was felt from the West Indies to Europe on the one hand, and to the great lakes of Canada on the other. That convulsion seems to have been on the same lines of fracture as this of which we speak, though it was much less important, and, as it were, a mere premonition 140 years or so beforehand.

In places, the sea boiled, or seemed to do so, from the escaping gases; and where the elevation took place from the jamming together of the two sides of the crack, volcanic vents speedily formed. The ocean waters, getting at the heated interior through the fracture, doubtless caused the peculiar appearances which alarmed many sailors who observed them, and caused a few wrecks, but not so many as might have occurred had the seas been as much frequented as they were before the calamities befell the continent, and while trade was active.

It had been noticed that volcanoes are always near seas, or places where seas had been; the connection was now practically exemplified; but it was singular and fortunate that no new volcano appeared in what had