

Cove. All night long the inhabitants were going around with their loaded guns on the track of what they called a "water bear." An old inhabitant eighteen years ago, explained to the writer, as well as he could, what the noise was like. The men heard it in the woods, and were afraid. The women thought a bear had got into their bed chambers, and were terrified. Two days afterwards there was a very heavy ground sea, and Bonavista harbour was partly dry for several minutes; but the noise of two days before has never been properly explained. The scientists of the day tried to find an explanation in the eruption of some distant volcano.

Dr. Philip Tocque, who resided at Elliston, as a business man, a few years later, tells in his "Wandering Thoughts," that the effects of earthquakes have been felt at great distances. "The sounds and detonations," says Sir Stamford Raffles, "were heard at a distance of 910 miles. The effects of the Lisbon earthquake were felt for ten minutes, in the year 1755, by the harbour being partly dry, and the waters around Cape Bonavista were most furiously agitated."

Economic Conditions.

Bonavista has always contained a large population, and in consequence of its poor harbor facilities, the inhabitants, in days gone by, have experienced great hardships and privations. In 1845 there was a population of 2,097. About that time the yearly crop of potatoes approximated 45,000 bushels. In the face of this fact Governor LaMarchand's point in 1847, we think, was not well taken. But for their prolific gardens the people must often have been in very straitened circumstances. From time to time the potato disease proved a great calamity. One of the redeeming features of those days was the sealishery. Steamers had not been introduced and the industry was prosecuted by sailing vessels. Occasionally the seals would reach Bonavista on the floating ice. One year 20,000 seals were captured by the fishermen of Bonavista, and 40,000 for the residents of Bonavista Bay. Twenty years later the favouring winds brought 150,000 seals into Bonavista and Notre Dame Bays. In those days of the sailing fleet, Bonavista had seven ships going to the ice, but it was necessary for them to