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A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR.

Entering upon a new year, we are naturally led to review that which is closed: and as the past year has been chiefly distinguished by shakings, revolutions, and agitations of various kinds, so to some of these we recall the attention of our readers. In the material world we have had many startling phenomena. Among these, attention has been chiefly arrested by "earthquakes in divers places." From the beginning to the end of the year, shocks have been felt with unusual frequency, and in some cases with unusual violence, and attended with unusually appalling results. Thus, in the Sandwich Islands, according to the accounts of the Missionaries, there occurred in the month of April such a shock as was unknown in the history or traditions of the natives. "The earth," it is said, "rose and sunk, and its surface rolled like the ocean in a storm. Trees swayed to and fro. Shrubbery and grasses trembled. Stone walls fell flat." "The sea rose and swept over the lower banks and barriers, and general consternation raged among the people." But vastly more appalling—indeed, one of the most appalling earthquakes recorded in the history of any country—was the earthquake, whose shocks were felt in the month of August, on the Western Coast of South America. The earth there trembled from the equator to the south of Peru, a distance of 1,400 miles. The ocean