

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 12, 1861

This was apparently more limited in its range, at least within Canada, than that of Oct. 1860. We have notices of it only from Montreal, Ottawa, Prescott, Ogdensburgh, Brockville, St. Andrews and St. Johns. It was more violent at Ottawa than elsewhere, shattering walls and throwing down chimneys. It occurred in all the above places about 9 o'clock, p. m. It appears, from collating the statements of several observers, that it was preceded by a rumbling noise, which was followed by a series of slight vibrations, terminating in a sudden shock. At Prescott, three shocks are said to have been experienced. Unless it extended into the Hudson's Bay territories, from which no accounts have been received, the theatre of the vibration was limited to the central district of Canada, surrounding the confluence of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence.

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GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

In late numbers of the "Abstracts of Proceedings of the Geological Society of London," we find the following notices of papers relating to North American Geology :

April 10, 1861.—"On the Geology of the Country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean (between 48° and 55° parallels of latitude), explored by the Government Exploring Expedition under the command of Captain J. Palliser (1857-60)." By James Hector, M.D. Communicated by Sir R. I. Murchison, V. P. G. S.

This paper gave the geological results of three years' exploration of the British Territories in North America along the frontier-line of the United States, and westward from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean.

It began by showing that the central portion of North America is a great triangular plateau, bounded by the Rocky Mountains, Alleghanies, and Laurentian axis, stretching from Canada to the Arctic Ocean, and divided into two slopes by a watershed that nearly follows the political boundary-line, and throws the drainage to the Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic Ocean. The northern part of this plateau has a slope from the Rocky Mountains to the eastern or Laurentian axis, of six feet in the mile, but is broken