

usual number, however, only amounted in all to some six birds. One pair of these I obtained—a male and female—the latter being the largest I have ever seen. In Canada West, this large owl has been taken at Kingston, Toronto, and Hamilton, and probably at other points. It is, according to Richardson, “by no means a rare bird in the fur countries, being an inhabitant of all the woody districts lying between Lake Superior and latitudes  $67^{\circ}$  and  $68^{\circ}$ , and between Hudson’s Bay and the Pacific. It is common on the borders of Great Bear Lake; and there, and in the higher parallels of latitude, it must pursue its prey, during the summer months, by daylight.” From Canada it wanders into the Northern and New England States in winter, and is found as far south as Massachusetts and New Jersey. Dr. Brewer states that about the year 1839 he obtained two for Mr. Audubon that were shot near Boston, a fact which does not appear to have been previously recorded. The majority of these owls are resident birds in the Arctic Regions, and those we see are the few stragglers which perhaps have followed in the track of some of the flights of Ptarmigan.—(“Vennor’s Birds of Prey.”)

#### EARTHQUAKES.

Great earthquakes seem to have occurred for some centuries past at intervals of about a hundred years, and groups of several important convulsions at intervals of fifty years. Thus, within the last four hundred years, we find that the middle and latter part of the sixteenth century was marked by great and numerous earthquakes in China, Europe, and the Atlantic, many of them very severe. In the middle of the seventeenth century there were great and disastrous shocks in the Mediterranean basin; and towards the latter end of it occurred the great Jamaica earthquake, besides many others of importance. Towards the middle of the eighteenth century was the great Lisbon earthquake, and subsequently the great one in Calabria. Hitherto, during the present century, there have been none of very extreme intensity; but they may perhaps *be looked for before long*. There thus appears to have been an interval of about a century between each of the very greatest paroxysms; and a like period may be traced between those of next importance in each century, following the former at an interval of from thirty to forty years. It also appears that, near the time of the great paroxysms, a number of smaller, but still important ones, have been crowded into four or five years; while, near those of second importance, a number also large is thickly spread over ten or twelve years. As the record of the greatest disturbances is of course more likely to be found in history than that of smaller ones, it seems further worthy of remark that the first, fifth, ninth, twelfth, and eighteenth centuries of the Christian era seem to have been those when the destructive force of earthquakes has exercised the largest influence over the human race in civilized countries; while the first and second A. D., and the third,