

Lake Champlain fault line, extending to Anticosti, and into the Gulf. One of the reasons for the prevalence of earthquakes in Japan is that that island is on the edge of a great trough in the Pacific, and an earthquake always seeks the weak spots. In the earthquake here in 1663, was born yellow journalism. One account says, "they saw very lofty hills striking together with brows opposed like headstrong rams, then suddenly and instantaneously swallowed up in the yawning earth. Father Charles Simon relates that a man so shuddered at the sudden earthquake, that although at other times he was brave, his hair was bristling up with horror and standing up straight shook off his fur cap."

In 1746 there was an earthquake in Peru, and an account of it says, "It is most certain that the two named causes of these calamities are heat and moisture. However, supposing such to be the case, it does not at all hinder but that the Almighty power may employ these natural occurrences as the instrument of punishment to a wicked people. There was not before the late calamity a more licentious spot upon the earth. The charm of the climate of this country, and the tranquility of life which the inhabitants enjoy, together with the extreme beauty of the women, did not a little contribute to an amorous disposition which was the prevailing passion of the inhabitants."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am sure I have talked long enough about earthquakes, and I fear some of you would be glad if an earthquake were to stop me.

However, I can assure you that nothing would please me more than a good earthquake—of course, not here—one decent earthquake a week,—I hasten to add, in uninhabited regions.—is what we require to solve the riddle, not of the universe, but of the interior of the earth. Our earth is, after all, the most important body in the universe, and we want to study it, and the unravelling of its mysteries is one of the highest ambitions to which man can apply his energies and intellect.