

AN EARTHQUAKE, YESTERDAY.

THE SHOCK FELT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

About ten minutes or a quarter past one, yesterday afternoon, the city was "frightened from its propriety" by a shock of earthquake—of brief duration and unattended by any serious results, but sufficiently violent to give an idea of the destruction which would have been caused had the convulsion of the earth lasted as many minutes as it did seconds. The shock was of a peculiar nature. It was not of the swaying or vibratory species—it was a shaking of the ground precisely similar in effect with that caused on a bridge by the passing of a heavy train at a considerable speed. In the houses it was felt to a much greater extent than by persons in the streets—this fact being of course easily explained by the motion communicated to floors, the rattling of windows, doors, furniture, glassware and loose fixtures. Several persons appear not to have felt the quivering motion of the ground, out of doors, and were therefore surprised to see persons rushing into the streets, anxiously enquiring what had occurred. In the houses the rumbling or jarring sound was, however, positively alarming. In some instances ornaments and light articles of furniture were thrown down, and ill-secured panes of glass fell from windows.

The shock lasted, as nearly as can be determined, five or six seconds. Of course, on such an occasion, few persons could be found with sufficient presence of mind to count at the moment; and the duration of the convulsion can therefore only be estimated by the recollection of the event.

In the upper portions of the city—on the Cape, in the Citadel, and in St. Lewis Suburbs—the shock seems to have been most severe. In the Lower Town and St. Roch's, however, it was felt with sufficient force to send thousands of persons into the streets to enquire if another explosion had taken place, if the Gas Works at Orleans wharf, Palais, had blown up, or if a portion of Cape Diamond had given way and crushed the houses in Champlain street. All these surmises were indulged in at the moment. That with regard to the Gas Works, however, grew into a rumor which spread like wildfire, and hundreds of persons ran or drove towards the Palais to find that it was unfounded. This rumor was doubtless strengthened by the fact that many persons fancied that they perceived a gaseous smell immediately after the shock. But the absence of anything like the loud report which characterizes an explosion seems to have led most people to attribute it at once to its true cause.

There were none of the signs of the elements which usually herald the coming of earthquakes in southern latitudes. The sky was cloudless at the time, the weather clear and agreeable, with what mariners would call a "stiff breeze." The wind prevented the effect of the earthquake from being noticeable on the river, although some observant persons say that the surface of the water appeared darker than its ordinary color while the concussion lasted.

The effect produced by the shock upon the minds of the citizens was surprise rather than alarm. People ran hither and thither to find out the cause. Two or three females fainted in the street; but there was no general panic.

The shock of earthquake experienced here in October, 1860, was much more violent than that of yesterday, and appears to have extended over a wider tract of country. We subjoin the telegrams received by us yesterday, relative to the shock in other localities. Its course appears to have been of a devious nature. Although felt at L'Islet, it did not visit River du Loup; and Danville experienced a shaking, while Richmond and Montreal escaped the visitation. It is said by some that the motion appeared to come from the south-west; but the telegraphic intelligence seems to prove that it travelled from the north-east to the south-west, inasmuch as it was felt at Father Point two hours before Quebec.

Since the great earthquake of February 5th, 1863, the shocks experienced from time to time in Canada have been devoid of any serious result. In February, 1836, a smart shock was felt in Quebec. In 1837, the Richelieu District was similarly visited. The shock on the 17th October, 1860, is fresh in the minds of our readers. Since that period—within the last eighteen months, in fact—rather severe concussions were felt on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, between Malbaie and the Saguenay. Last summer, about the time of the earthquake in England, there was a slight convulsion of the ground in several localities west of Quebec.

We subjoin the telegrams above referred to:—

"FATHER POINT, April 20.—We felt two shocks of an earthquake about 11 o'clock this morning.

"L'ISLET, April 20.—Two shocks were felt here at 1.10 p. m. It nearly capsized several of the cars.

"DANVILLE, April 20.—Two shocks of earthquake were felt here at 1.10 p. m.

"RICHMOND, April 20.—The earthquake was not felt here.

"MONTREAL, April 20.—The earthquake was not felt here.

"RIVER DU LOUP (20 hrs.) April 20.—We did not feel the earthquake here."

THE C

It is

ers that

brate t

day nea

of Veni

known

efforts

of the d

past; s

sion, th

which

at the

istende

"Histr

gling v

play;

allowa

extent

clever

ever, n

are m

who h

matter

of per

of a c

cal

guara

been

cave

correc

amate

Those

trioni

and a

may l

time,

we t

press

We

of Ve

perfo

gentl

old D

servi

Ab

fire

guill

Mr.

ter's

peur

soon

toget

teuts

how

vent

adjo

Navi

betw

the

hour

W

\$124

stor

by \$

It

out,

assi

thei

bul

hav

THI

A

"W

the

the

nes

the

aw

urd

can

sug

one

ing

to

so

bar

"T

cal

of

du

co

str

co

to

by

ph

m

la

th

all

to

ti

th

fr

st

ex

al

is

fu

L

P

O