

SOME DISASTERS

Caused by Earthquakes and Volcanoes in the World's History.

MARTINIQUE ONE OF WORST

Ranks With Lisbon and Krakatoa and Far Beyond Pompeii.

Description of Two of the

Worst Disasters.

Some of the greatest disasters caused in modern and ancient times by volcanic eruptions and earthquakes were the following, beginning with the latest:

- Quesalralang, and other cities in Guatemala, April 19, 1902—300 killed by earthquake.
- Cuicuilpanco, Mexico, January 16, 1902—300 killed; earthquake.
- Shamaka, Russian Transcaucasia, February, 1902—200 killed; earthquake.
- Erzerum, Armenia, November 12, 1901—22 killed; earthquake.
- St. Kocleiz, Java, May, 1901—About 200 killed; volcanic eruption.
- St. Azona, Japan, July, 1900—200 killed; volcanic eruption.
- Island of Oram, East Indies, October 10, 1899—4,000 killed; earthquake.
- Aidin, Asia Minor, September 20, 1899—300 killed; earthquake.
- Venezuela, April 24, 1894—3,000 killed; earthquake.
- Southern Greece, April, 1894—1,000 killed; earthquake.
- Island of Hondu, Japan, October, 1891—10,000 killed; earthquake.
- Charleston, S. C., August and September, 1886—38 killed; earthquakes.
- Mauna Loa, Hawaii, 1880—79 killed; earthquake.
- Isle of Ischia, 1883—2,000; killed; earthquake.
- Krakatoa, Strait of Sunda, May to August, 1883—38,800 killed; volcanic eruption.
- Djokjakarta, Java, 1867—1,000 killed; earthquake.
- Island of Martinique, 1867—1,000 dead; earthquake.
- Calabria, Italy, 1857—10,000 killed; earthquake.
- Fort Royal, Martinique, 1859—700 dead; earthquake.
- St. Martin, Island of St. Vincent, 1812—10,000 killed; volcanic eruption.
- Canton, China, May 27, 1830—6,000 killed; earthquake.
- St. Louis, 1814—14,000 killed; volcanic eruption.
- Lisbon, Portugal, 1756—60,000 killed; earthquake.
- Kuehan, North Persia, 1755—40,000 killed; earthquake.
- Canton, China, November 30, 1731—100,000 killed; earthquake.
- Palermo, Sicily, 1726—6,000 killed; earthquakes.
- Calicia, Poland, 1268—20,000 killed; earthquake.
- Syria, 1158—20,000 killed; earthquake.
- Cantania, Sicily, 1137—15,000 killed; earthquake.
- Constantinople, 537—Thousands killed; earthquake.
- Pompeii and Herculaneum, A. D. 79—2,000 to 5,000 killed; volcanic eruption.

THE LISBON EARTHQUAKE.

History exhibits few catastrophes more terrible than that which was caused by the great earthquake which on November 1, 1755, leveled the city of Lisbon to the dust. On other occasions, such as that of a siege, a famine or a plague, calamity of the kind which was visited upon the city of Lisbon, has never occurred. The earthquake was followed almost immediately by another and another, brought down convents, churches, palaces and houses in one common ruin, and at a very moderate computation occasioned the loss of 60,000 lives.

"The shocking sight of the bodies, 'together with the shrieks and cries of those who were half buried in the ruins, exceeds all description: for fear and consternation were so great that the most resolute person durst not stay a moment to remove a few stones off the friend he loved most, though many might have been saved by so doing; but nothing was thought of but self-preservation."

Many of those who were not crushed or disabled by the falling buildings fled to the Tagus, vainly hoping that they might find there the safety which they had lost on land. For, soon after the shock, the sea also came rushing in, and a violent, though against wind and tide, and rising in an enormous wave, overtook its banks, devouring all it met on its destructive path. Many large vessels sank at once; others torn from their anchors, disappeared in the vortex, or striking against each other, were shattered to pieces. A fine new stone quay, where about 3,000 persons had assembled for safety, slipped into the river, and everyone was lost; nor did so much as a single body appear afterward.

Had the misery ended here it might in some degree have admitted of redress, for though the ruins could not be restored, yet a great part of the immense riches that were in the ruins might have been recovered; but a new calamity soon put an end to such hopes; for, in about two hours after the shock, fires broke out in three different parts of the city, caused by the goods and the kitchen fires being all jumbled together. About this time, also, a fresh gale suddenly springing up made the fire rage with such violence that at the end of three days the greater part of the city was reduced to ashes. What the earthquake had spared fell a prey to fire, and the flames consumed thousands of mutilated victims, who, incapable of flight, lay half buried in the ruins.

KRAKATOA ERUPTION.
The terrible eruption of Mount Krakatoa is well remembered by thousands of the present generation.

Krakatoa is a volcano on an island of the same name in the Strait of Sunda, between Java and Sumatra. Its earliest recorded eruption was in 1680. The volcano then became dormant, and stood as an irregular peak 2,623 feet high until 1853, when there occurred one of the most stupendous eruptions ever known.

The eruption began in May and continued until August 27, when a large

NAPHTHA EXPLODES.

A Terrible Disaster in the Railroad Yard at Pittsburg.

TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE HURT.

The Valattha Fluid Burns Over a Wide Area, Causing Injury and Pain, and Killing Many People.

THE AWFUL EXPERIENCE

of a Survivor of the St. Pierre Volcano Disaster.

James Taylor, who was one of the officers of the Roraima, the Quebec line steamship that was destroyed in the harbor of St. Pierre, gives a graphic story of the tragedy of last Thursday, says a dispatch to The New York Herald from St. Kitts, Island of St. Christopher, B. W. I.

"We experienced the greatest difficulty in getting into port," said he. "Appalling commotion was going on in the mountains behind the town, which was shrouded in darkness. All the passengers were up and some were trying to obtain photographs.

"Suddenly I heard a tremendous explosion. Ashes began to fall thickly upon the deck and I could see a black cloud sweeping down upon us. I dived below, and, dragging with me Samuel Thomas, a gangway man and fellow countryman, sprang into a room, shutting the door to keep out the heat that was already unbearable.

"The ship rocked and I expected every moment that it would sink. Outside I heard a voice pleading for the door to be opened. It was Scott, the first officer, and I opened the door and dragged him into the room.

"It soon became unbearably hot and I went on deck. All about were lying the dead and dying. Little children were moaning for water. I did what I could for them. I obtained water, but when it was held to their swollen lips they were unable to swallow, because of the ashes which clogged their throats. One little chap took water in this method and rinsed the ash from his mouth, and then he was able to swallow. He sank back unconscious and a few minutes later was dead.

"All at the ship was afire, and from the land came draughts of terrible heat. At last, when I could stand it no longer I sprang overboard. The water was hot enough to parboil me, but a wave soon swept in from the ocean, bringing with it cool water.

"I was caught in the receding wave, which was of tidal velocity, and was carried out to sea. Then on the return of the second wave I was washed against an overturned sloop, to which I clung. A few minutes later, I was joined by another man, whom I learned was Captain Muggah of the Roraima. He was in a dreadful agony and kept begging piteously to be put on board his ship.

"Picking up some wreckage and a tool chest, I and five others who joined me, succeeded in forming a rude raft, on which we placed the captain. Seeing an upturned boat, I asked one of the five to swim out to it and bring it over so that Captain Muggah might have an opportunity to live. The man succeeded in getting the boat righted, but instead of returning he picked up two of his countrymen and went away in the direction of Fort de France.

"Seeing the Roraima, which had arrived in port soon after we anchored, making for the Roraima, I swam to the Roraima. Before I could reach her, the best into flames and put out of the fire. I finally reached the Roraima about half past 2 o'clock in the afternoon and later was taken off by the cruiser Suchet."

The cause of the catastrophe was the explosion of a train of naphtha cars which was being switched at the yard, and in the switching the rear car telescoped the car forward. The leaking naphtha ignited from a switch light, causing an explosion, which threw the flames fifty feet high. Much of the escaping naphtha ran through Corks Run to Esplanborough, a distance of one and one-half miles, causing an explosion, blowing to atoms the Sheraton Hotel and the Collins House, and badly wrecking a frame building nearby, in which were congregated every man or more sports from Pittsburg and vicinity, betting on the races, base ball, etc. Few of the occupants of this building escaped injury, many being badly hurt. Mrs. Seymour and her daughter, of the Sheraton hotel, were seriously and, it is feared, fatally injured.

The first car of naphtha exploded about 4:40 o'clock and the spectacle soon attracted a large crowd on streets lining the hills on both sides of and parallel to the railroad. The section car exploded about 5 o'clock, but it was not until 5:15 o'clock, when three more cars of the deadly stuff went up with a roar that could be heard for miles, that the work of destruction really began.

A torrent of flame belched forth on each side of the track, sweeping back the terrified spectators like a charge of artillery, and sent a shower of flames over their heads, resembling Mont Pelee on a small scale.

The scene that followed beggars description. The successive explosions had heated the air to such an extent that before the third explosion many were rendered unconscious by the extreme heat and the gaseous fumes, and were being carried away when the torrent of flame swept over the excited crowd.

"There was an awful hush for a moment, then followed a scene of frenzy. Men and women, their clothing ablaze, their faces scorched and blistered and their hair burned off their heads, ran wildly shrieking hither and thither, only intent on escape from that awful furnace of fire. Some gave vent to frenzied appeals to kill them and put them out of their misery, and little children, with their curly locks and light summer clothing, small pillars of fire, cried piteously as they were swept along by the tide of burning humanity. The town people did all in their power for the stricken victims and all the Pittsburg ambulances were immediately dispatched to the scene with a corps of physicians. Many of those not seriously burned were removed to their homes in Sheraton, while others were sent to the various Pittsburg hospitals, and the dead removed to undertaking establishments in Sheraton and vicinity and to the Pittsburg morgue.

The Panhandle Railroad Company has thirty-six tracks through Sheraton and has succeeded in keeping communication open. The property loss will amount to at least \$600,000. The list of known dead numbers twenty, all residents of Sheraton or vicinity. Several died last night in hospitals. Among them is Carl Eatings of Tip-ton, Tenn., who was badly burned about the head. A complete list of the wounded could not be secured last night. A partial list contains twenty names.

The accident happened in the railroad yards at Sheraton, where the Panhandle railroad makes a turn, near Corks Run. Banked by two high hills hundreds of people were caught. At this point, which is about one-fourth of a mile from the city line, there are thirty-three tracks. Upon these tracks were several hundred cars. Near the middle of these tracks about 4:45 o'clock a heavy freight train was being made up for the west. In this train were ten tank cars, containing refined petroleum and naphtha. In the shifting necessary to prepare the train for its journey a switch was made with too much force and the petroleum and two with naphtha, were switched with too much force and one of the cars of naphtha was broken. Instantly the inflammable by-product poured out in a stream. The trainmen, seeing that one of the cars was damaged, started to pull them all out of the way.

Already the men in charge of the switch light had made his rounds and the lights were burning. As the tank car passed over one of the lights the dropping naphtha caught on the little flame and almost instantly an explosion followed.

A Practical Reform.
A Pennsylvanian tells of a practical reform in his State that is good enough to be put in operation everywhere. He said: "All over Pennsylvania anti-swearing societies are being formed, and the people are joining them by the hundreds. The object of the societies is to bring about a cessation of profanity in ordinary conversation. I believe that a vast deal of good will come of this movement, and hope to see it spread to other parts of the Union. The fact is that a large per cent of men use profane speech to an extent that they scarcely realize. A gentleman ought not to mar his talk with coarse and meaningless expletives, and I believe, that day is coming when frequent oaths will not be tolerated in decent societies."

A STORY OF HORROR.

Further Particulars of the Great Disaster to St. Pierre.

Disaster to St. Pierre.

In Every Respect.

The weekly bulletin of the condition of the weather and the crops was issued last week by Director Inauer of the South Carolina section of the climate and crop service of the United States weather bureau as follows:

The temperature was again about 6 degrees per day above normal, during the week ending Monday morning, May 12th, the average for the week having been 76 degrees, with maximum of 99 degrees at Bowman on the 4th, and a minimum of 48 degrees at the station on the 5th. The sunshine averaged about normal, with partly cloudy days and clear nights.

The rainfall for the week was generally light, except in spots where the southeastern counties and the Savannah valley, where it was copious, and of great benefit to crops, although it failed to thoroughly relieve the drought at any point. There were also numerous but widely scattered showers on the 7-8th over the entire State, but they were local, partial, generally light, and entirely insufficient. In the Pee Dee sections the drought is becoming serious. There were heavy showers on the early morning of the 12th, in the central and northeastern counties, and possibly throughout the State, but they occurred too late to be fully reported in this bulletin.

The week was favorable for farm work which made rapid progress. Planting operations are practically finished, except on bottom lands that have been either too wet or too hard to cultivate.

It is the exception this year to have poor stands of corn reported, and much less than the usual amount of planting has been necessary owing to birds and worms. Corn has a healthy appearance, and is well cultivated, most of it having received its first and some its second working. As yet, the dry weather has not hurt corn to any appreciable extent.

Cotton is up, or coming up, from "very good" to "fairly good" stands over the whole State, with slight exceptions limited to late plantings, where the ground is too dry for germination. Much has been chopped to stands, and considerable has been cultivated. The plants are sturdy and healthy in appearance.

Tobacco is not doing so well as last week, owing to the prevailing dry weather that injured stands but where sufficient rain fell the crop continued in excellent condition. Wheat failed materially and will be below the average. It is heading and some is turning color. Oats are exceedingly variable, but generally stand in need of rain. Harvest has made slow progress. Truck and sea island cotton were benefited by the rains along the coast. Rice planting is practically finished; stands are good, most favorable in the Georgetown district. There is an increased number reports on peaches dropping. Sweet potato slips are being set out. Orange buds are white, but there are more numerous and destructive than ever before known. Gardens, pastures and minor crops need a general soaking rain.

Scenes in the City of St. Pierre Just Before the Eruption.
Relatives and friends of Thomas T. Prentiss, United States consul at St. Pierre, whose home is at Melrose, Mass., are in grave fear that he and his family were among those perished in the lake of molten lava that swept over the city. With him were his wife and two daughters and no word has been received from them since the destruction of the island city.

Friends of the family have not entirely abandoned hope that they may have escaped with their lives, arguing that the severing of the cables and general demoralization in Martinique and St. Vincent could easily account for the absence of news from Consul Prentiss. Miss Alice Fry, a sister of Mrs. Prentiss, who lives in Melrose, received a letter from her on Friday, the 10th inst., of April 25. The letter was in part as follows:

"This morning the whole population of the city is on the alert and every eye is directed toward Mont Pelee, an extinct volcano. Everybody is afraid that the volcano has taken into its heart to burst forth and destroy the whole island.

THE WEATHER AND CROPS.

The Past Week Has Been Favorable

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BROKE THE SABBATH

Missouri Man Fined for Working on the Lord's Day.

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