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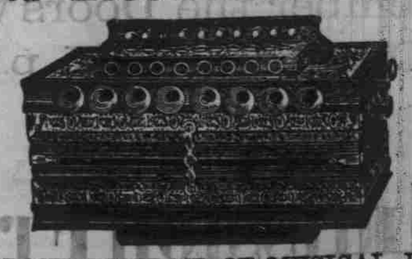

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—o—

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EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, . Dec. 19, 1883.

VOLCANIC PHENOMENA.

SIXTEEN ISLANDS APPEAR—A MOUNTAIN TOPPLES INTO THE SEA—TOWNS ANNIHILATED — 40,000 SOULS WAVED INTO FUTURITY.

The world had hardly finished reading detailed accounts of the calamity that befell Ischia, when there occurred near here a catastrophe so appalling that the Cassamicciolo disaster sinks into insignificance. Here the dead are numbered by tens of thousands and the loss of property cannot be estimated. Nature has not for centuries shown such contempt for the lives of her subjects. Populous towns, centres of flourishing trade and immense districts of agricultural property were, without a moment's warning, completely annihilated, and not a vestige remains to mark their former sites. The volcano Krakatoe, in the straits of Sunda, which separate Java and Sumatra, having been dormant for 200 years, was supposed to be extinct, but, during the beginning of May last gave signs of renewed activity, and later in the same month, emitted huge volumes of smoke and an occasional shower of stones. No danger was, however, anticipated, for it was an uninhabited island, miles from either shore On Sunday, the 26th August, heavy detonations were heard, which were at first thought to be thunder, but finally the sharpness peculiar to volcanic disturbances was noticed, and as the sound came from the direction of Krakatoe, it was considered probable that an eruption was in progress. At 7 o'clock p. m., unmistakable evidence came in a concussion so severe as to extinguish the gas and all lights, and the doors were burst open. The houses trembled and vibrated from the force of the shock, although unaccompanied by any shaking of the earth. At 9 o'clock, another, and at 1 a. m., Monday, another still more terrific than the two which had preceded it. The very air seemed to be exploding, and the noise was something never to be forgotten by those who heard it. Sleeping was not thought of. Groups of terrified people were gathered before the houses and in the streets, peering in vain into the darkness. Time never before seemed to pass so slowly, and when daylight appeared there were handshakings and congratulations, and rejoicings that the night had ended.

THE SUN HIDES HIS FACE.

There was then no premonition of the intensified darkness which was shortly again to fall upon the earth. The sun rose as usual, but a little later became overcast, giving less and less light, until at 11 o'clock Egyptian darkness enveloped the city, and positively nothing could be seen. The fright of the natives was pitiful; although it could not much exceed that of the Europeans, they had a more forcible manner of expressing it. Falling prostrate on the ground, their cries to Allah were loud and long, and deep wails of anguish resounded through the gloom. At 4 p.m., daylight was again welcomed with demonstrations of great joy, the crowing of chanticleers and the shrieking cries of *booroong*. Still there was no news from the scene of action, as telegraphic communication had been destroyed while the operator was "wiring" the fact of an awful eruption of Kratakoe going on. "Must stop, building fa——." Vague surmises of the probable wreck and ruin were made and discussed, but none thought that they could be very disastrous, owing to the location of its volcano in the sea. When information reached here, however, it was of the most horrifying description and told a tale of death and destruction which has seldom been equalled. The island of Krakatoe, 2,600 feet high, had given forth a series of extensive belchings of smoke and ashes, fires and stones, and then sunk into the sea, disappearing altogethe; 16 new islands had arizen from the depths of the sea, all active vo canoes; and an island near had been divided into three. The immense disturbance caused a displacement of water, which, in the form of a tidal wave, 100 feet high, desolated the north west coast of Java and the southern part of Sumatra. With a speed exceeding the swiftest race horse and a force incalculable, it rolled upon the land a mighty ocean, making muddy waters of fertile areas, and cemeteries of towns and villages. Of the 10,000 people residing in the city of Anjer, not a single one escaped an instantaneous death and a watery burial. There is not a survivor of Telakbeloog, and its 3,000 residents are floating corpses, putrefying beneath an equatorial sun Many other towns and villages were almost entirely destroyed, but in all these were some people who escaped with their lives. The exact number of the slain can only be estimated from the size of the Kampoong or village. The most moderate estimates place it at 40,000, which number it may exceed or possibly fall short of.

A DESOLATE WASTE.

The Dutch Government immediately despatched steamers to aid the survivors, and stationed a gun-boat at each entrance of the Straits to warn approaching vessels of the complete change in the passage. The water was in some parts so thickened with ashes as to prevent the steamer passing through, and large blocks of pumice-stone were floating about—some of them three or four feet square—being sustained by the consistency of the *ashed water*. On the land at a distance of thirty miles, ashes fell to the depth of three feet, and even here, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, they fell two inches deep The wave had extended far inland destroying everything in its track, except upon the higher levels where the force was broken. The water receded from the higher areas, leaving a thick deposit of mud, and making the land as valueless as those portions which are still submerged. Property owners were thus stripped of everything, and many thousands are now dependent on the government and charities for even the small quantity of rice that suffices for their daily wants. Fortunately the climate and the customs of the country are not such as to make the loss of clothing a serious matter, so that food and some *sarongs* (loin clouts) are the only prime necessities of present relief. Government is doing its duty and all in its power to alleviate the sufferings. Private benevolence and public subscriptions are rapidly swelling the amount at the disposal of the committee of disbursement, and soon all will have their immediate wan's supplied. The distance at which the detonations were heard is almost incredible, being no less than 500 miles north and 800 miles south. It has only been exceeded once in the world's history, and that was in 1815 when the eruption of Tambora, in Sumbana was heard at a distance of 1,000 miles each way.

AN AWFULLY SUBLIME SPECTACLE.

The eruption, as seen by those on the high coast of Sumatra, was one of magnificent grandeur. Huge and dense volumes of smoke, which ascended high into the heavens, were followed by immense columns of fire thrown up from two rifices. These joining together a fiery arch was formed of great height and splendor. Rocks, at a red heat, were thrown like projectiles from a gun non, and meeting the air, exploded with great noise. The whole heavens seemed to be on fire from the illumination of the burning mountain, and it could well be imagined that the end of all things had come, when the earth was to melt away in the heat of the internal kingdom. A terrific and deafening explosion rent the mountain in twain, and molten matter ran from the crevice which extended from the top of the elevation to the water's edge, and probably far below. After a grand commotion, one-half the mountain seemed to raise up, and falling outward into the sea, disappeared altogether.

Several gunboats are cruising about the Straits, and when their reports come in, official information can be compared with that from private sources, and the full results of the phenomenal upheaval wholly know.

H. E. R. D'OUINDSOR.

Batavia, Java, Sept. 10, 1883.—[Family Herald and Weekly Star.

DISCOMFITED PIRATES.

HOW A SHREWD YANKEE TAUGHT THE MALAYS A LESSON.

Both by sea and by land, steam has all but destroyed the picturesque robber of former generations. But in the good old times it was apt to go hard with any luckless sailing vessel which, lying becalmed in this illomened spot, saw creeping out toward her from the shore a mosquito swarm of proas (Malay boats), long, low, swift-sailing, with bamboo masts and rattan cordage, each manned by 20 to 30 strong, sinewy, keen eyed fellows, with a fierce, tiger like elasticity in every line of their long, gaunt limbs, and hands well used to wield the cleaver-like parang (sword), and the deadly kris (dagger), with its zigzag blade poisoned with the prepared juice of the pineapple On one occasion, however, these sea lawyers met their match. A shrewd New England skipper, when beset by them during a calm, strewed his whole deck fore and aft with broken bottles, and the shouts of triumph with which the pirates leaped on board were speedily changed to howls of pain, as the sharp glass mangled their bare feet. Meanwhile the American sailors, secure in their thick sea-boots, felled their dismayed enemies right and left with handspikes and capstan-bars, and but few escaped to tell of the rough welcome which they had received from the "orang puti" (white men.)—*N. Y. Times.*

THE WORLD IN A NUTSHELL.

Mario, the famous tenor, is dead.

The Empress of Austria has sciatica.

Millais is painting a portrait of Lorne.

Salvini announces an American tour next year.

The Duke of Albany has composed and published a waltz.

One hundred thousand Scotchmen catch herrings.

Stock gambling among English ladies increases very slowly.

Queen Victoria is passionately fond of baked appled and walnuts.

Indiana's Vanderbilt, Mr. Shirk, of Peru, owns seventy-three farms.

Mr. Ruskin is going to lecture on "The Stormcloud of the Nineteenth Century."

The priests of Brittany have ordered the Breton girls not to sell their hair.

Advices from Zululand report Cetewayo sulking and the people in much distress.

Bismarck's son, attached to the German legation in London, receives great attention in society.

Worth's trade nowadays is said to be almost wholly confined to actresses and public characters.

Ex-Cadet Whittaker has started a military school for colored youths in Charleston, South Carolina.

Mrs. J. R. Gregory, of Atlanta, is to paint a portrait of Alexander H. Stephens for the State of Georgia.

The Chinese Ambassador at Rome addresses the Pope as the high priest of heaven—Tien Te Brama.

M. De Lesseps says that he has no time to refuse social invitations, therefore he goes wherever he is invited.

Mrs Dorcas Chapin, the widow of Chester W. Chapin, will endow a hospital at Springfield, Mass., with $25,000.

Hon. Randall Gibson, the new Louisiana Senator, is one of the most cultivated members of the Upper House of Congress.

Henry Irving began his engagement in Boston in "Louis XI." before a crowded house, and was received with much favor.

The Princess Louise will have, on her return to England, the rooms in Kensington Palace recently occupied by the Duchess of Teck.

Mrs. Abigail C. Pond, a sister of the famous "Sam Patch," died in Petersburgh, Va, on the 30th ult., in the 91st year of her age.

The mother of Joaquin Miller, who recently married a man considerably younger than herself, is not considered in her right mind.

Carl Schurz, it is said, has been favored with a flattering offer from the publisher of the *Atlantic Monthly* to become the editor of that sterling periodical.

Henry Watterson used to sing in a country choir twenty years ago, and once took a part in "Esther, the Beautiful Queen," for the benefit of a Louisville lottery.

Henry Ward Beecher paid a good deal of attention to the Mormon question during his recent visit to Utah, and will read up the subject and possibly lecture on it.

Queen Isabella] who has spent much of her time and all her money in Paris, is furious with the reception given to her son, with whom she is now on excellent terms.

William Andrews, an old farmer living in the suburbs of Saco, Me, has in his cellar nearly fifty barrels of wine. He will not drink it, sell it, give it, or throw it away.

The Rev. Thomas E. Greene of Chicago, whose subject on Sunday morning last was, "The Newspaper and How the Devil Uses It," said that Noah's dove was the first reporter.

Governor Hendricks considers Mr. Carlisle's election due to his views on the tariff, and believes the matter will in all probability be the leading issue in the coming campaign.

Ex-Senator Tabor, who has been in Washington this week, declares that he is in dead earnest about the new railway line which he and Cornell and Jewett have projected between New York and San Francisco.

Amos R. Eno has received $2,000,000 in rent from the 5th Avenue (New York) Hotel property since he erected the building years ago. Mr. Eno, now 90 years old, began life poor, but soon became a successful dry goods jobber.

At Bacup, in England, recently, a girl aged 7, died from inflammation of the brain, brought on from overwork at school. The medical officer in reporting the case strongly condemned the practice of making young children do home lessons at night. He said it worried them and made them restless in their sleep.

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Three blocks east from First Ward Schoolhouse. d16 1m

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☞ NO CURE NO PAY.

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Prepared from the choicest Fruits, without coloring, poisonous oils, acids, or artificial Essences. Always uniform in strength, without any adulterations or impurities. Have gained their reputation from their perfect purity, superior strength and quality. Admitted by all who have used them as the most delicate, grateful and natural flavor for cakes, puddings, creams, etc.

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TAME GEESE! TAME DUCKS!

TAME EASTERN QUAILS! WILD DUCKS!

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AT REASONABLE PRICES FOR THE

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