

## ON EARTHQUAKES.

It has been remarked that at the time Lisbon was submerged by the sea, and other places were much desolated, earthquakes were quite rare. More recently they have been frequent, and as one writer says, of almost daily occurrence, extending over nearly the whole earth's surface. The British Association have resolved to make the subject one for scientific study, and have established a Committee on Volcanoes and Earthquakes, whose labors will be full of interest to all sections which are in the way of being visited by these elemental agents. It might be well for some persons in San Francisco, who are fond of scientific research in this connection, to get up a sub-corresponding association which should note the phenomena occurring on this coast, transmit the same to the British Society, and seek a return of like information. A writer in the New York Commercial Advertiser has the following on the general subject matter:

Of the great earthquake which, on the 3d of June last, in less than thirty seconds threw down two-thirds of a large and populous city, we have unfortunately no precise and scientific information. The suddenness of the shock is its best established feature, and this contrasts it most strikingly with the earthquake of last year at Rhodes, which began March 17th and did not fairly end till June 30th. In the interval of a hundred days the inhabitants were almost daily terrified by a new shock. On the 22d of April the paroxysm of the earthquake occurred, and a shock about forty seconds in duration threw down every house but one in the village of Messeri, and buried two-thirds of the population under the ruins. The next day a new shock occurred, very slight in Rhodes, but quite severe on the coast of Anatolia. In this case, too, we lack precise observations, though the French Vice Consul has testified to one very interesting fact, that the level of the streams on the island was higher than usual before this season of earthquakes set in, and subsided after its termination. This suggests a movement analogous to that which has just thrown up again between Malta and Sicily, an island called by the English, who have hurried to take possession of it, Graham's Island. This is simply a vast volcanic cone of nearly a mile in circumference. The crater, still filled with sea water, resembles a vast boiling cauldron. Torrents of vapor and sulphurous smoke pour from the crater, while the sea is marked by a hot and blackish current issuing from some rift in its sides beneath the surface of the waters. This island has appeared and disappeared several times before. As the earthquakes began to subside in Rhodes, their center of explosion was plainly discerned to be in motion from west to east. The last shock was felt June 30th, and the shock of that day was felt as far as the island of Cos, in the direction of Sicily. Nine days afterward a new crater opened in Mount Etna, above the unhappy city of Catania, and a volcanic eruption followed. Now Etna stands above the great volcanic fissure which traverses the Mediterranean from Turin to France, Auvergne, England and the Northern Ocean to Mount Hecla. About a month after the eruption of Etna a violent shock was felt at Turin. About a month later again the inhabitants about the Mont Dore, in Auvergne, the grandest volcanic peak of France, were started from their homes by repeated though not very violent shocks of an earthquake during two successive days. Eighteen days after this again the force revealed itself in England. On the night of the 5th and 6th of October, all England sprang from its couch in an alarm unfelt before since the accession of Queen Victoria. Britain has had her share of earthquakes, her annals establishing 225 authenticated cases, of which more than one-half, 137, were confined to Scotland. During the earthquake of 1863, an astronomer at Greenwich, who was studying the motion of a star, was astonished by a sudden and inexplicable movement on its part. The star did not move suddenly and inexplicably; it was simply the jar of the instrument by a shock so slight as not to be directly perceptible.

A communication made to the Institute of France by Alix, after a careful study of these phenomena of 1863, predicts the approach of a violent volcanic eruption in Western Europe, from Vesuvius to Hecla. It will be curious to watch the fulfillment or disappointment of this prediction; but its verification would hardly add to the importance of the light which has been already thrown upon the regular and orderly production of the great fissures of the earth. Elie De Beaumont has undertaken to prove that these fissures follow certain arcs of a great circle, which can be rigorously determined by geometric co-ordinates. Possibly the correlation of the Plutonian shocks would furnish us with the means of verifying the exactitude of the numerical values given by De Beaumont for sixty-one principal grand circles of the pentagonal network, and ninety-eight auxiliary circles. As a matter of immediate material interest the study of the earthquakes and of the fissures of the globe is much more than simply curious. The position of the metallic ferrous "leads," has necessarily a most intimate connection with the geographical distribution of the terrestrial envelop. Whether the metallic salts were brought down by the waters, or whether the metals were forced along in a state of fusion, is a matter of slight

consequence, for in either case the penetration must have taken place through the interstices, and consequently the repartition of these previous substances must depend upon the situation of these profound and interior solutions of continuity. In this connection we may observe that in studying the bituminous deposits of Seyssel, De Chancourtois was surprised to find that they were arranged in a line rigorously parallel to the system of elevations to the low countries. And Gaudree Biolleau, now French Consul-General at this port, in his report to his Government on the petroleum wells and springs of the United States, has established the fact that the chief deposits lie on the prolongation of the system of fissures, which has given a passage of the River St. Lawrence. This system prolonged, thinks De Chancourtois, will end upon the Peninsula of Apcheria.

## INTERESTING DATA OF THE THIRTY EIGHTH CONGRESS.

In a late number of the *Troy Daily Times*, we find the following interesting data concerning the members of the present Congress, from its Washington correspondent:

In our opinion—

The best speaker on the Union side is Hon. William D. Kelley, Pennsylvania; on the Democratic side, Hon. D. W. Voorhees, Indiana.

The best parliamentarian, Union side, Hon. E. B. Washburne, Illinois; Democrat, Hon. S. S. Cox.

The readiest debater, Union, Hon. John A. Kasson, Iowa; Democrat, Hon. George H. Pendleton, Ohio. In the last Congress, Hon. John A. Bingham, Ohio, C. L. Vallandigham, Canada.

The member with the best blood is Hon. John Low, Indiana, who's patriot grandfather was a member of the old Continental Congress 1776—His maternal grandfather was a member of the first Congress, under the Constitution, his father was a member of Congress during the war of 1812, and Mr. Low, the present representative, is now serving his second term.

The oldest convention member is Hon. E. B. Washburne, Illinois, who has held his seat for eleven years. In the last Congress, was Hon. John S. Phelps, Missouri, who was a Colonel in the Union army, and had been in Congress for eighteen years.

The oldest man is Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, Pennsylvania, who is almost 72 years old.

The youngest is Gen. James A. Garfield, who is only 32 years old. Hon. Ignatius Donnelly, Minnesota, is just sixteen days older.

Hon. Walter D. McDow, Wisconsin, a very efficient gentleman, has only one hand.

The General of highest rank is Maj.-Gen. Robert C. Schenck, whose commission dates from August 39th, 1862. The other Generals are Garfield, Ohio; Dumont, Indiana; Blair, Missouri.

The Colonels are Col. Green Clay Smith, Kentucky; Col. Amasa Cobb, Wisconsin; Col. Ephraim R. Eckley, Ohio; Col. Henry C. Demming, Connecticut. Col. Demming was Mayor for over two years, of New Orleans, under the reign of General Butler. The other Colonels are Col. Robert B. Van Valkenburgh, New York; Col. Sempronius H. Boyd, Missouri; Col. Joseph W. McClurg, Missouri; and Col. John F. Farnsworth, Illinois, who acted as General for some time.

The handsomest man is Hon. William Windom, Minnesota.

The wealthiest man is Hon. Oakes Ames, a manufacturer from Massachusetts, who is worth over two millions.

The most rapid speaker is the Speaker, Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Indiana.

The tallest man is Hon. Brutus J. Clay, Kentucky.

The shortest members are J. W. McClurg, Missouri; Augustus Brandegee, Connecticut; Nehemiah Perry, New Jersey; Francisco Perea, New Mexico; the difference to be decided by the respective thickness of the soles.

The smallest member is the Hon. S. S. Cox; the largest is Hon. John D. Baldwin, Massachusetts.

The most productive—Gen. Ebenezer Dumont, the father of nineteen children.

The most graceful man is Hon. William H. Wardsworth, Kentucky.

The most dignified man is Hon. Rufus F. Spaulding, Ohio.

The most sarcastic man is Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, Pennsylvania.

The most social man is Gen. F. P. Blair, Missouri.

The members who has sent away the most speeches is S. S. Cox, this Congress; the last, Hon. B. Wood, the speech Fernando wrote.

The cleverest man is Hon. James M. Marvin, New York.

The largest farmer on the Union side is Hon. Josiah D. Griunell, Iowa, who has six thousand acres of land, and keeps six thousand sheep. The big farmer on the "other side" is a good substantial Union man, Hon. Brutus J. Clay, Kentucky, who owns sixty-five hundred acres of land, and whose home farm contains two thousand acres, worth \$150 per acre. Mr. Clay has two hundred and seventy-five negroes, fifty mules, two hundred sheep, one hundred and fifty blooded cattle—some of the most famous in the United States. His usual stock of cattle is about four hundred head.

The still man is Hon. James C. Robinson, Illinois.

The member who never fails to move an amendment, is Hon. William S. Hollman, Indiana.

The member who lives the farthest east is Hon. Frederick A. Pike, Maine. West, Hon. John R. McBride, Oregon. North, Hon. I. Donnelly, Minnesota. South, Hon. Cornelius Cole, California, whose district reaches down to Mexico.

Hon. James Brooks is the best read man, and has a district of the smallest area—three wards in New York city.

Idaho is the largest Territory, and has an area of 326,373 square miles. Mr. Donnelly, of Minnesota, has the largest district of any member—his is 590 miles wide.

The House has twenty-five members with bald heads, thirty with mustaches and two with wigs.

Hon. Henry Winter Davis lives the nearest, thirty-nine miles, and \$32 for mileage. Hon. William H. Wallace, of Idaho, travels 7997 miles, and gets \$6397.60 for mileage.

The politest member is Hon. Reuben E. Fenton, New York.

The most gallant is Hon. F. W. Kellogg, Michigan.

The dullest joker is Hon. Robert Millory, Kentucky.

Three members represent each a State—Messrs. Smithers, Delaware; McBride, Oregon, and Wi der, Kansas.

There are seventeen members who are slave-holders.

There are twenty-four members from slave States, of whom fourteen vote with the Union party and ten with the Democrats.

The best penman is Hon. Augustus Frank, New York; the poorest, Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, Pennsylvania.

The most radical man is Hon. Owen Lovejoy, Illinois—[since dead.]

The most "conservative," running into "secesh"—this is where it always runs—is Hon. Benjamin G. Harris, Maryland.

The member who is always there, sound and true, is Hon. Henry L. Dawes, Massachusetts; the antipode, Hon. Benjamin Wood, New York.

The most venerable is Hon. Francis Thomas, Maryland.

The snow-capped and gold-bound district, Colorado—Hon. H. R. Bennet, delegate.

## USEFUL DOMESTIC HINTS.

If you get your feet or body wet, keep moving with sufficient briskness to keep off a feeling of chilliness until you get to the house; undress instantly by a warm fire, drinking, as soon as possible, a cup or two of hot tea of any sort, and remain by the fire until thoroughly rested.

When from any cause the bowels fail to act at the usual time, do not eat an atom more until they do act, at least for thirty six hours; the first meal after a fast should be very light, of bread and butter, and a cup of weak tea or coffee.

BILIOUSNESS is indicated by a bad taste in the mouth of mornings, a poor appetite, and a feeling of general discomfort, often accompanied with a headache and cold feet. The best cure is to work moderately, take but two meals a day, and these of bread and butter, with a cup of tea or coffee.

Poison of almost any kind swallowed will be instantly thrown from the stomach by drinking half a glass of water, (warm is best,) in which has been stirred a teaspoonful of ground mustard; as soon as vomiting ceases, drink a cup of strong coffee, into which has been stirred the white of an egg; this nullifies any remnant which the mustard might have left.

An inkstand was turned over on a white table-cloth, a servant threw over it a mixture of salt and pepper plentifully, and all traces of it disappeared.

Flour and meal of all kinds should be kept in a cool dry place.

The best rice is large, and has a clear fresh look. Old rice sometimes has little black insects inside the kernels.

The small white sago, called the pearl sago, is the best. The large brown kind has an earthy taste. This article and tapioca, ground rice, etc., should be kept covered.

To select nutmegs, pick them with a pin. If they are good, the oil will instantly spread around the puncture.

KEEP coffee by itself, as the odor effects other articles. Keep tea in a close chest or canister.

Soft soap should be kept in a dry place in the cellar, and not be used until three months old. To thaw frozen potatoes, put them in hot water. Frozen apples in cold water, but use them at once.

OVER EATING.—As soon as you are sensible that you have eaten too much, take a walk, gradually increasing its rapidity until there is a free perspiration, and continue at this gait until every feeling of discomfort about the stomach or lungs has disappeared, then cool off very slowly in a closed room, and eat not an atom until the second meal thereafter, thus omitting one.

SICK headache is always attended with cold feet, and the failure of a daily action of the bowels; and there is no permanent cure without the ratification of these.—[Dr. Hall's Journal of Health.

WHITEWASH.—White fences and out-buildings indicate the thrifty farmer and a tidy household. Put half a bushel of unslacked lime in a clean, tight barrel, pour over it boiling water until it is covered five inches, stir briskly until the lime is thoroughly slaked, then add more water until it is as thin as desired, next add two pounds of sulphur of zinc and one of common salt; then apply with a common whitewash brush, giving a good coat in April and October, or at least once a year.

[From Parton's Life of Butler.]

## A SOUTHERN DUEL.

The principals of the duel were Colonel Augustus Alston, a graduate of West Point, and Colonel Lee Reed; planters both; chief men of their country; politicians of course; long-standing, bitter feud between the families, aggravated by political aspirations and disappointments; the whole country sympathizing with one or the other—eagerly, wildly sympathizing. At length one of the Alston party, on slight pretext, challenged Reed, which challenge Reed refused to accept; no man but Alston for his pistol. Another Alstonian challenge, and yet another he declined. Then Alston himself sent a challenge—Alston, the best shot in a State whose citizens cultivated the deadly art with the zeal of saints toiling after perfection. This challenge Lee instantly accepted. Weapon, the rifle, hair-trigger, ounce ball. Men to stand at twenty paces, back to back; to wheel at the word one, to fire as soon as they pleased after the word; the seconds to continue counting as far as five; after which no firing.

Lee was a slow, portly man—a good shot if he could fire in his own way without this preliminary wheeling. He regarded himself as a dead man; he felt that he had no chance whatever of his life on such terms, not one in a thousand. He bought a coffin and a shroud, and arranged his affairs for immediate death. The day before the duel his second, a captain in the army, took him out of town and gave him a long drill in the wheel-and-fire exercise. The pupil was inapt; could not get the knack of the wheeling. If he wheeled quickly his aim was bad; if he wheeled slowly there was no need of his wheeling at all, for his antagonist was as ready with wheel as with trigger, from old practice at West Point. "Lee," said the captain, "you must wheel quicker, or you've no chance." Stimulated by this remark, Lee wheeled with velocity, and fired with such success as to bring down a neighbor riding along the road.

Lee sent his coffin and shroud to the field. Mrs. Alston accompanied her husband "I have come," she said, "to see Lee Reed shot."

The men were placed, and the seconds counted one. In swiftly wheeling, the light cape of Alston's coat touched the hair-trigger, and the ball whistled over Reed's head, who stood amazed, with his rifle half presented. The word two recalled him to himself; he fired, and Alston fell, pierced through the heart. Mrs. Alston flew to her fallen husband and found the ball which had slain him. In the sight and hearing of all the witnesses of the duel, her dead husband bleeding at her feet, she lifted the ball, and with a loud voice and fierce dramatic gesture, swore that that ball should kill Lee Reed.

In the afternoon, ten of the Alston party, headed by Lewis Alston, brother to the deceased, drew themselves up, rifle in hand, bowie-knife and pistol in belt, before the hotel of which the adherents of Reed assembled congratulating their chief. They sent in a message challenging ten of the Lee party to come forth and fight them in the public square. Much parleying ensued, which ended in the refusal of the Lees to accept the invitation.

A few days after, Lee was seated at the table of the hotel in the public dining room, at which also sat men, ladies and children—a large number—Dr. McCormack among them. Lewis Alston entered, drew a pistol and shot him through the liver. The wound was not mortal. After some months of confinement Lee was well again and went about as usual, the bloody-minded Alston still loose among the people. They met at length in the streets of the town, and Alston shot him again, this time inflicting a mortal wound.

Then there was a hideous farce of a trial. Every man in the court-room, except two, was armed to the teeth. These two were judge and the principal witness, Dr. McCormack. The jurymen all had a rifle at their side in the jury-box—twelve men, twelve rifles. The prisoner had two enormous horse-pistols protruding from his vest. The spectators were all armed—the Lees to prevent a rescue in case of conviction, the Alstons to protect their man in case of acquittal.

That night, the trial not yet concluded, the prisoner deemed it best to escape from prison. He went to Texas; met on the road an old enemy whom he shot dead in the saddle; and on reaching the next town, boasted of his exploit to the murdered man's friends and neighbors. Thirty of them seized him, tied him to a tree and shot him—all the thirty firing at once, to divide the responsibility among them. And so the brute's career was fitly ended.

VALUE OF A GREENBACK DOLLAR.—Some people imagine that when gold is worth 50 cents premium, or is rated in the coin market at 150, that a greenback dollar is worth only 50 cents, when its actual value is 66 2/3 cents—that is, paper is worth two-thirds as much as gold. A simple but arbitrary rule to find the value of paper at any stage of the gold market is as follows. Divide 10,000 cents by the value of a gold dollar in cents. To illustrate: gold is worth 169 to-day, and 10,000 divided by this number gives 59 cents and a fraction, the value of a paper dollar. The same rule with its reason is expressed as follows: Divide the quantity considered as the per centage (greenback dollar) by one per cent of the quantity on which the per centage is to be reckoned, (value of a gold dollar) and the quotient will be the per cent. Illustration: If gold stands at 200, one per cent. of this is 2 cents—one dollar or 100 cents divided by 2 gives 50 cents, the value of a paper dollar when gold stands at 200.