

I looked, and I saw one of the finest of modern cameras, with tripod and all conveniences. He directed his servant to put it up for us, and Mr. Weldon took the picture while he posed. As the button was pressed the call for the act came, and he left the room for the stage. We took out the plate holder and went back to our seats. It was not a minute after the picture was taken before we reached them, and the house was in roars of laughter. Shinzo was playing one of his great parts, and 3,000 people were doubling themselves up in ecstasy over his acting.

HOW IT FEELS TO BE BLOWN UP.

It was indirectly in connection with this theater that I had my first experience with a Japanese earthquake. The great earthquake at Tokyo occurred about two days later, and I came within a stone's throw of being killed in it, while I was getting the photograph of Donjuro, of which I spoke. I had long wanted to be in an earthquake, just to see how it went, you know. My longing is satisfied, and I laugh at earthquakes no longer. Japan is the land of earthquakes. The country has at least five hundred shocks every year, and there have been years when the shocks have reached as high as three thousand. The most of these shocks are very light, and I laughed at the terror which the people showed at the least vibration, and could not understand it. This big earthquake, however, opened my eyes. It ruined thousand of houses and killed many people. It was one of the greatest earthquakes that Tokyo has ever had. It caused great fires.

It cracked the earth, and it came near ruining the American legation. This is a large frame structure, and it is surrounded by a big brick wall. In the same compound is the house of the secretary of the legation, Mr. Herod. The earthquake threw over the chimneys. It moved the walls so that they left their places and bent over as though they would topple. It cracked the plastering all over the house, and it sent the china and the bric-a-bac flying. It was the same in Mr. Herod's house, and in all of the foreign buildings of the city. I went through the houses of parliament. They were filled with mortar and debris, and there was a hole through the roof big enough for an elephant to have passed down through without touching the edges of the hole. The great club house of Tokyo had a portecochere of store, and within this a coachman was sitting with his horses at the time of the shock. The structure went down, and the horses were killed. At the first evidence of the shock the driver tried to whip the horses onward, but they were paralyzed with terror and refused to move. At the Imperial Hotel, where I was stopping, the heavy chimneys came flying down through the roof and one of them fell into the dining room just after it had been vacated.

THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE PALACES.

The shocks came at about five minutes past two in the afternoon. I had an appointment with Mr. Tokioka, of his majesty's imperial household department, and I had gone inside the palace grounds, and was in the building at the time. It was an old fashioned European building built of stone and brick, and badly constructed. Mr. Tokioka and myself were talking together on the second floor, and he was giving me the photograph of Donjuro, which he had

gotten for me, when there was a rumble like thunder and the walls began to move. The air was thick and stifling, and I could feel the floor rise and fall. At the same time, the halls were filled with hundreds of running clerks, and Mr. Tokioka sprang to his feet, and said, "It is an earthquake. Let us run." And we ran. We went down two steps at a time, and just got outside when nearly the hall of the building went down. Many were injured, and one man was killed. Stones were thrown hundreds of feet away from the building. Outside the shock continued. The ground rose and fell. Men riding in jinrikishas were thrown over, and when I called the same afternoon at Count Ito's, who has a large foreign residence not very far from the American legation, I found that his house had been badly injured, and that his wife was terribly prostrated by it.

THE OLD INHABITANTS DON'T LIKE THEM.

I found in discussing the earthquake that those who had been longest in Japan feared the earthquakes the most. The face of one man connected with the legation, who had been there for many years, became as white as chalk when the shock occurred, and some of the older Japanese were prostrated with terror. Those who know what an earthquake is appreciate its terrible possibilities, and during the remainder of my stay in Japan I trembled whenever a man walked across a floor over me, thinking that there was going to be another earthquake, and wondering whether I was to be swallowed up in it. This earthquake affected the railroads. It twisted the rails here and there, and people on the trains said that it sounded as though two trains had come into collision. It ruined one large tea factory containing many girls, who were killed in the debris. It was a curious earthquake in that there were only two or three shocks, and in that it was confined almost to the vicinity of Tokyo. Many of the earthquakes have from nineteen to twenty shocks following each other, and there is always more than one shock. This earthquake caused several big fires, and there is never an earthquake in Japan which does not result in more or less conflagration. The houses are, you know, nearly all of wood, and coal, oil is now used very largely for lighting. Lamps are thrown over, and the burning oil runs through the buildings. Thousands of houses are destroyed, and the damage by fire is often as great as that by earthquake.

TALKS ABOUT EARTHQUAKES.

I met during my stay in Japan the greatest earthquake authority on the globe. This is Prof John Milne of the Imperial College of Engineering at Tokyo. He has made a great study of earthquakes, and has invented machines which show just how the earth moves at such times, and as to its effect upon all sorts of structures. According to him, it makes a great difference as to how the buildings are built, and the Japanese are now resting some of their foundations on rollers and iron shot so that they will move as though they were placed on the ball-bearings of a bicycle, when an earthquake occurs. He suggests that the chimneys should be made of sheet iron instead of bricks, and people living in earthquake countries should have heavy tables under which they can crawl

in case of a shock. They should have earthquake-coats which are stocked with provisions, and which lie beside their beds, and in which they can skip out into the open air with some kind of protection at the slightest warning. The ordinary Japanese house is of wood, and instead of having laths and plaster, it is lined inside and out with a wattle-work of bamboo, and this is plastered over with mud. It is more like a basket than a house, and it is much safer than brick and stone.

EARTHQUAKE HORRORS.

Still, the damage that is done by earthquakes in Japan is terrible. All through Japanese history you find records of villages being swallowed up, and of thousands of men being killed. I have a list of Japanese earthquakes before me. Almost the whole of the city of Tokyo was destroyed between two and three centuries ago, and at this time it is said that 200,000 people lost their lives. At other times mountains fell and lakes took their places. The last great earthquake that Tokyo had was in 1855. There were eighty shocks felt within a month, and the city was one blaze of fire. One hundred and four thousand people are said to have perished, and 14,000 houses were reduced to match-wood. The earthquake in which I was was by no means so serious. Still, it was not to be sneered at, and my own Japanese servant came to me in great trouble, saying that his house had gone down, and that his wife and boy had been injured.

THE BIG EARTHQUAKE AT GIFU.

One of the biggest earthquakes that Japan has ever had occurred about three years ago. I had a number of friends who were in it, and it was horrible beyond description. Thousands of buildings went down, and thousands of people were killed. The railroad was twisted as though it had been made of sticks of half melted taffy. Great factories were thrown to the ground. Some of the most famous potteries of the country were destroyed. Temples were burned. The embankments of rivers fell in, and about 200 Buddhist temples were reduced to ruins. This occurred near the great city of Nagoya, and it affected buildings in Kobe. One man whom I know was the French teacher in a school in Nagoya. His house fell down, and his wife and himself had to flee in their night clothes. They lost everything, and in this earthquake 250,000 people were rendered homeless, and a vast amount of property was destroyed. The horrors of the earthquake cannot be described. People were cut all to pieces by the ruins. The earth half swallowed some. Great cracks and fissures existed everywhere, and the earth was seamed and wrinkled and torn.

Frank G. Carpenter

MAKING—KEEPING, RESOLUTIONS.

There is a jocular as well as a serious side to most seasons and to most men, a time for excitement—of enjoyment, and then somewhat of a collapse. Every Adam experiences his fall, and knows repentance and remorse. Promises and resolves are then "the order of the day;" wisdom is gained by experience, strength comes after effort,