

of Mexico were as accustomed to hear the thunders roll beneath their feet, as we are to witness the vivid flash in the region of the clouds. Confidence easily springs up in the human mind; and we end by accustoming ourselves, on the coast of Peru, to the undulations of the ground, like the sailor to the tossing of the ship caused by the motion of the waves."

Some idea of the frequency of earthquakes in some parts of South America may be formed from the fact stated by Captain Bagnold, that during his residence at Coquimbo, on the coast of Chili, there were, during one year, not less than sixty-one earthquakes, not calculating the slighter ones, which were even more numerous.

The effects of earthquakes are sometimes felt over a great extent of country. During the earthquake at Lisbon, in 1755, the seas in every part of Europe were agitated, and in some places became thick and turbid. Lake Ontario also felt the shock, and the sea round the Eastern Antilles. But the shocks are invariably most violent in volcanic countries, though not generally in those parts which are nearest to the seat of active volcanoes, and are seldom felt in countries which have not been, at some period, the scenes of volcanic activity. In Morocco, and on the coast of Barbary, earthquakes are frequently felt; and although there is no active cone in either of these countries, or near them, yet there is geological evidence that the volcanic force has been active at some past period. It has consequently been supposed by many persons, that there is a subterranean connexion between many distant places, and that a country once the scene of volcanic influence is liable to a repetition of its effects. Earthquakes are not always most violent in countries where active cones exist, for in such places every crater may act as a safety valve, and thus prevent the destructive effects produced in other countries by the vast expansive force of the confined vapours which struggle to escape from their prison.

It is difficult to imagine the character, much more the influence, of the phenomena which attend earthquakes, from any abstract description that could be given. We are most likely to approach to an accurate estimate of this terrible convulsion of nature from the perusal of the accounts which have been given of the phenomena by which they are attended, and the effects they have produced upon the districts in