

which they have occurred. We shall therefore select one or two examples.

The earthquake that destroyed Lisbon, in the year 1755, was the most violent that ever occurred in Europe, at least within the record of authentic history. On the 1st of November, at forty minutes past nine o'clock in the morning, a violent shock of earthquake was felt, which, although it did not last more than a tenth of a minute, threw down one fourth of the dwelling-houses in Lisbon, and all the large public buildings. This shock, though short, probably produced all the mischief, but was instantly followed by two others, and they all succeeded each other so rapidly that they are frequently spoken of as one shock. About twelve o'clock the earth was again shaken. A gentleman who was present, and escaped the destruction by which the great mass of the people were overtaken, states, that at this time, standing in the Terra de Pasco, he saw the walls of several houses open from top to bottom more than a quarter of a yard, and close again so exactly as to leave no sign of injury.

During the first shocks, the Tagus receded five furlongs from its usual boundary, but afterward advanced in an enormous wave fifty feet above the ordinary level of the tides, and then instantly retired. At Cascais, Setuval, Penische, and in Algarves, many persons were drowned by the sudden advance of the sea; for the effects of this terrible earthquake were felt all over Portugal, and also in other countries. The mountains of Arebeda, Estretta, Julio, Marvau, and Cintra, were shaken to their foundations; the summits of some of them were split, and huge masses were thrown down into the valleys.

The destructive effects of this earthquake cannot be adequately described. At least 30,000 persons were destroyed in Lisbon by the first fall of houses. Such scenes can be painted only by an eyewitness. "The sight of the dead," says Mr. Wolfall, "far exceeds all description; for the 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 most loved, though many might have been saved by so doing: but nothing was thought of but self-preservation; getting into open places, and into the middle of the streets, was the most probable security. Those lost in houses and streets were very unequal to those that were buried in