

were standing, and rang the bells." Another took place in 1179, when the ground was raised up at Oxenhall, near Darlington, to a prodigious height, and after a few hours suddenly let sink again ; another in 1185 ; others in 1199, 1246, and one especially in 1247, which did much damage on the banks of the Thames, and was distinguished by a supernatural—or preternatural—tranquillity of the seas on our English coast. In the following year the west of England was visited ; a cupola on the tower of Wells Cathedral was dashed down upon the roof. In 1250 we read of a shock in Buckinghamshire ; in 1275, of one which shook almost all England, and injured many churches ; and, passing over 1298 and 1318, of an earthquake in Kent and elsewhere in 1382, which a contemporary poet made the theme of his muse :—

" Forsooth ! this was a Lord to dread,
So suddenly made men aghast !
Of gold and silver they took no heed,
But out of their houses full soon they past.
Chambers, chimneys, all to burst,
Churches and castles foul 'gan fare ;
Pinnacles, steeples to ground it cast,
And all was for warriors to be ware."

John Harding, in his metrical " Chronicle " for 1361, describes—

" On St. Mary's Day
The great wind and earthquake mervellous,
That greatly gan the people all affraye ;
So dreadful was it then, and perilous."

The same chronicler speaks of the one in 1382, already recorded :—

" The earthquake was, that time I saw,
That castles, walls, towers, and steeples fyll,
Houses and trees, and crags from the hill."

In 1426 all " Great Britain " was shaken by an earthquake ; and in 1551, on the 25th of May, various parts of Surrey were visited. On the 17th of February 1571, an earthquake took place near Kynaston, in Herefordshire :—" A hill, called Marcle Hill, with a rock under it, made at first a mighty, bellowing noise, which was heard afar off, and then lifted up itself a great height and began to travel, carrying along with it the trees that grew upon it, the sheepfolds, and flocks of sheep abiding thereon at the same time. In the place from whence it removed, it left a gaping distance 40 feet wide, and 80 ells long ;—the whole field was almost 20 acres." In 1574, on the 26th of February, York, Worcester, Gloucester, Bristol, and some other towns, were affrighted out of their propriety by a severe shock ; and on April the 6th, 1580, London was so grievously visited, and, indeed, nearly all the country, that Queen Elizabeth judged it needful to issue a form of prayer for the use of all heads of families before they retired to bed. In 1666 Oxfordshire was afflicted ; in 1677 and 1688, Staffordshire ; in 1683, Oxfordshire again ; in 1690, Bedford ; and in 1692, September the 8th, most of the metropolitan counties were alarmed by an earthquake, which Evelyn has described, and which suggested numerous predictions of the approaching end of the world. In 1703 Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, in 1712 Shropshire, in 1726 Dorsetshire, and in 1727 Kent, were con-