

and it was said that flame and smoke issued from their fissures, irradiated by electric flashes.

But words can convey no accurate idea of the spectacle presented by the ruined city, of the corpses piled under its débris, of the dying half-buried under the rent houses and fallen churches. So great was the panic that the most resolute durst not pause a moment even to remove the heavy stones which were choking the life out of the beings they loved most dearly, and whom a helpful hand might still have saved ; the cowardly sentiment of self-preservation alone prevailed at this terrible hour. The only means of safety seemed to be an immediate flight to the open country,

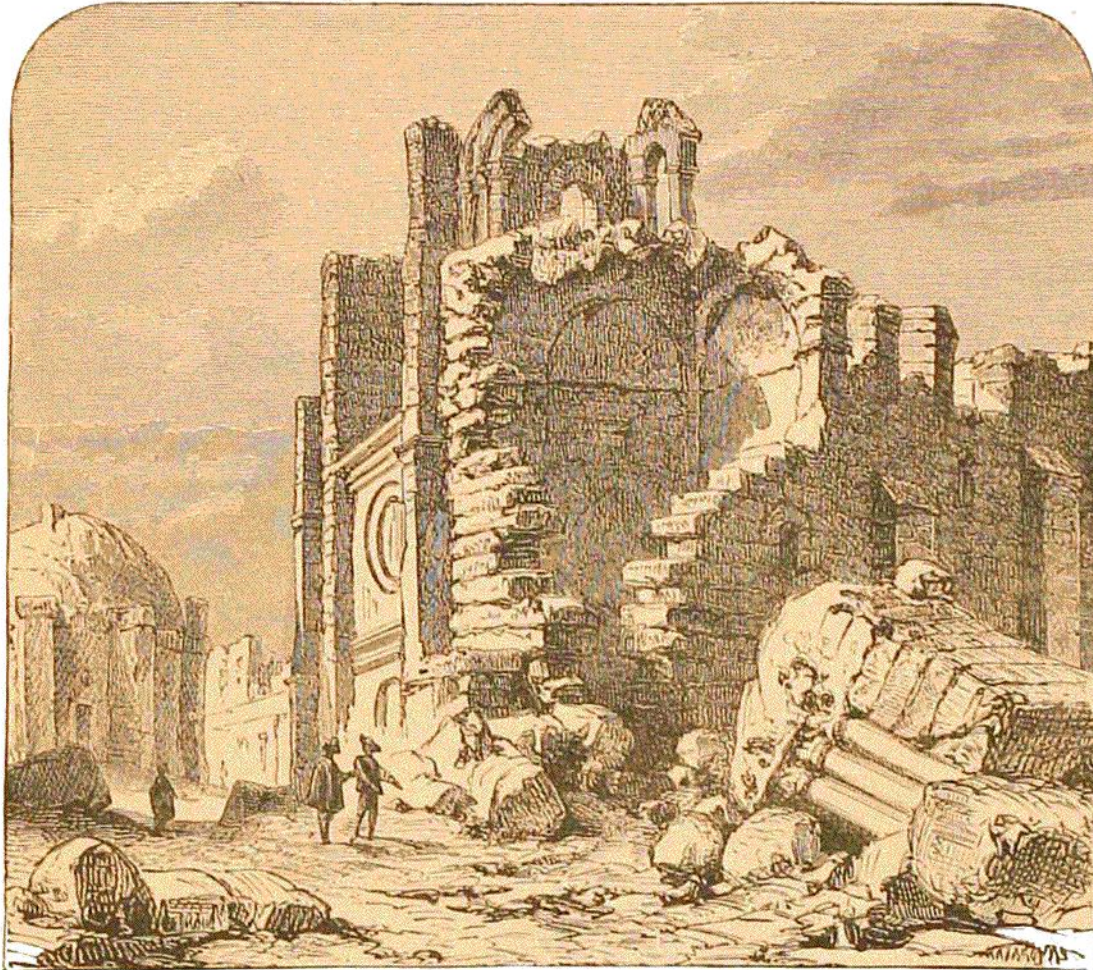


FIG. 122.—RUINS OF THE CATHEDRAL AT LISBON.

whither, with tottering but rapid steps, hastened crowds of weeping and wailing fugitives.

Those who inhabited the upper stories of the houses were more fortunate than those who had rushed out of doors into the crumbling streets. Persons on foot suffered more severely than those in carriages. But nowhere was the number of the dead, for reasons already stated, so appalling as among the ruins of the churches. At the first shock, moreover, hundreds had hastened, out of a not unnatural instinct of devotion, to take refuge in the sacred buildings, where they all perished, crushed by the fall of spire, and tower, and vaulted roof.

About two hours after the catastrophe, fire broke out at three points of the city ;