

ing fire! Unfortunately, the first shock occurred about the dinner hour, and the fire then lighted in the kitchens was communicated to the different combustible materials found among the débris of the demolished houses. The king's lieutenant and his troop immediately hastened to the spot; but the total want of workmen and necessary implements rendered all attempts at assistance useless; and it was impossible, not only to extinguish the conflagration, but even to offer any effectual resistance to the progress of the flames, which continue to devour the melancholy remains of a city formerly the glory of its sovereigns, and the most flourishing in the kingdom.

"To these numerous disasters, all occurring simultaneously, must be added a thousand others, whose horror outstrips description. The magazines of grain being destroyed, bread, that most important article of food, fails us. The Senate have hastened immediately to remedy this misfortune, by laying an embargo on the vessels in port loaded with corn; but how is it possible to make bread when the bake-houses and baking utensils are buried under the ruins, and the bakers have perished or taken flight? The water-courses having been diverted, the public fountains have run dry, and the mills can no longer grind the grain.

"This crowning disaster has nearly reduced to despair the surviving inhabitants, who ask with loud cries for bread to sustain them. Some mourn the loss of all their property; others of their relatives and friends. Despite the zeal and activity of the magistrates in the prevention of robbery, individuals have been found so devoid of humanity and religion, so regardless of the Divine anger which everything should have recalled to their minds, as to plunder not only the houses of private individuals but also the public buildings and the *Monts-de-Piété*. It is, then, only the powerful protection of your Majesty that can remedy the numerous misfortunes which have followed so rapidly one upon another, and endow with a new life this city, which needs to be re-established.

"The Senate implores your Majesty to send with all speed the necessary assistance in men and money, so that the roads and highways, now covered with ruins, may be rendered passable. The Senate likewise beseeches your Majesty to send supplies of all kinds of provisions for the sustenance of the inhabitants dispersed in the plains, and who, for want of food, will be reduced to take flight, to the considerable detriment of your royal treasury."\*

Let us pass in review the principal localities of Calabria which suffered simultaneously with Messina from these formidable attacks; dwelling particularly upon the physical modifications which were effected in the surface and continuity of the ground.

The town of Rosarno, situated on a hill of sand, at a short distance from the river *Metramo*, was almost entirely razed to the ground. The prince's *château*, the churches, and the houses were reduced to a heap of ruins. The *Metramo* for a moment ceased to flow.

\* "Nouveaux détails historiques et météorologiques des tremblements de terre arrivés depuis le 5 février 1783, dans la Sicile et la Calabre ultérieure, &c.; avec une idée générale de la ville de Messine, de son administration, de son commerce et de ce qui s'y voyait de plus remarquable avant sa destruction," &c. &c.