

"I have spoken," says Dolomieu, "to many persons who were extricated from the ruins in the different towns I visited; they all agreed in the statement that they thought only their own houses had been overthrown, that they had no idea the destruction was general, and could not conceive why assistance was so long in coming. A woman of Cinque-Frondi was found alive on the seventh day. Two children lying near her, however, were dead, and their bodies had already begun to putrefy. One of them, resting on his mother's thigh, had occasioned there a similar condition of putrefaction. Many other persons had remained in this living death for three, four, and five days; I have seen them, spoken to them, and heard them describe their experiences of those fatal moments. Of all their physical sufferings the severest was thirst. The first want manifested by the animals which were rescued from the ruins, after a fast protracted in some instances for upwards of fifty days (?), was to drink; and they seemed wholly unable to satisfy themselves. Several persons, buried alive, supported their misfortunes with unexampled firmness, of which I could hardly believe human nature to have been capable without an almost total collapse of the intellectual faculties. A pretty maiden of Oppido, about nineteen years old, was, at this time, near the end of her pregnancy; she remained under the ruins for upwards of thirty hours; was rescued by her husband, and delivered, a few hours afterwards, as fortunately as if she had experienced no suffering. I was received on board her boat, and among numerous questions which I addressed to her, I asked of what she had thought during her fearful suspense. She answered: 'I waited.'"

This melancholy picture of the disasters of Calabria we shall terminate by a remark of a different character, which, however, is not without interest. That animals forebode the approach of an earthquake is a fact which has frequently been demonstrated. When no sign announces to unthinking man the coming Terror, these creatures indicate it by their agitation and their cries. Every animal without exception feels this singular presentiment, but it has been more particularly observed among the geese, ducks, and denizens of the poultry-yard. "During the shocks of the 5th of February," says Dolomieu, "the dogs howled so distressingly that orders were issued for their destruction." A similar restlessness is shown by oxen and horses in the open country.

Humboldt relates that, in the earthquakes so frequent in South America, oxen and other domestic animals stand with their legs placed wide apart, as if they hoped by this device to lessen the danger of being precipitated into a crevasse which might suddenly open under their feet. It is for this reason that men, in the same regions, are recommended, on the occurrence of an earthquake, to extend their arms from their bodies in the shape of a cross. The precaution is one which experience and tradition have impressed on the inhabitants of the New World. But who has endowed the patient steer, or the humble domestic fowl, with so extraordinary a presentiment? Is not this a powerful argument, among a thousand, to enforce upon naturalists who do not hesitate to deny the intelligence of the animal creation?