

the top to the bottom, like a road hollowed out, but which at a distance appears like a path.”*

The history of the French Academy mentions in the following terms, the earthquakes that took place in 1702 and 1703. “The earthquakes began in Italy in October 1702, and continued till July 1703; the country which suffered the most by them, and where they began, is the town of Norcia, with its dependencies under the ecclesiastical government, and the province of Abruzzo, which are situated at the foot of the Apennines on the south side.

“ They were often accompanied with terrible noises in the air, which also were heard without any dreadful effects, when the sky was serene. The earthquake which happened on the 2d of February 1703, was the most violent; it was accompanied, at least at Rome, with a great serenity of sky and calmness in the air. It lasted at Rome half a minute, and at Aquila the capital of Abruzzo three hours. It destroyed the whole town of Aquila, buried 5000 persons under the ruins, and made great havock in the environs. The vibration of the earth, according

* See the Hist. of the Conquest of the Malaccas, vol. ii, p. 318.