

siderably disturbed.* But that of 1750, which repeated its shocks in February, March, April, May, July, August, and September, disturbing nearly the whole of England south of the Mersey, is better known, owing to the lively accounts left on record by Horace Walpole.† Describing what he himself experienced, he says:—"I had been awake, and had scarce dozed again—on a sudden I felt my bolster lift my head. I thought somebody was getting from under my bed, but soon found it was a strong earthquake, that lasted nearly half a minute, with a violent vibration and great roaring. I got up, and found people running into the streets, but saw no mischief done. There has been some; two old houses flung down, several chimneys, and much earthenware."‡

Several slight earthquakes have been noticed of late years, especially in 1852 and 1863. Mrs. Somerville, writing in 1858, states that 255 are recorded *in toto* as having occurred in the British Islands, but this is undoubtedly far below the truth. At Comrie, in Perthshire, a shock occurs once or twice every year; in the winter of 1839-1840, one hundred and forty shocks, or nearly one a day, were experienced. These, however, are assigned to a district of very small extent, which seems to be situated at a point where the earth-wave expends its lingering force, and are productive of little damage.§

On Friday, October 30, 1868, a considerable portion of England was visited by an earthquake, which appears to have been most severe in Wales and the western counties, and occurred between ten and eleven at night. In some places two distinct shocks, each lasting about six seconds, were experienced. Their effects were, happily, of no great importance; no lives were lost, no buildings thrown down, no disturbance of the earth's surface was produced; but beds rocked, and bells suddenly jangled, and window-frames rattled, accompanied, in a few localities, by a low, rumbling sound, like that of a subterranean explosion, and which may very probably have been due to some explosion of the gases in the carboniferous strata.||

Mr. Plant, the meteorologist, remarks:—"The earthquake of November 9, 1852, occurred early in the morning. Both the barometer and thermometer were high. The former rose half an inch. The earthquake of October 6, 1863, was at four in the morning. After the earthquake the temperature rose considerably. The earthquake of Friday, October 30, 1868, was at 10.40 P.M. Both barometer and thermometer were high; the latter rose remarkably."

A shock of earthquake was felt in the Midland counties in the early part of the present year (1869).]

* ["Quarterly Review," No. ccli., p. 84. There were also shocks at various places in 1731, 1732, 1736, 1738, and 1748.]

† ["Letters of Horace Walpole," to Sir Horace Mann, Bentley's edition.]

‡ [An earthquake occurred in 1775, which produced so much impression as to suggest to the Rev. John Newton one of his popular Olney Hymns.—See Book ii., No. 68.]

§ [Upon this subject the reader may consult Mr. Mallet's "Report on Earthquakes to the British Association" (1850-58); Burton's "General History of Earthquakes;" and Sir Charles Lyell's "Principles of Geology," tenth edition.]

|| [In this connection we may record that a shock of earthquake was felt at Cologne, at a quarter past four P.M., Nov. 17, 1868, simultaneously with the eruption of Vesuvius described in a succeeding chapter.]