

“Thou comest from Cairo,” said the dervish; “what hast thou done there?”

“I have killed 15,000 men.”

“Thou liest, for 30,000 have perished.”

“I killed but 15,000 of them; the others died of fear.”

[The writer in the *Spectator*, already quoted, makes some judicious remarks on the change which would probably be effected in our solid English character if earthquakes were as frequent and destructive in these islands as in tropical regions. “We suspect,” he says, “that a deep physical distrust of nature would operate on Englishmen very much like their recent deep moral distrust of commercial enterprise—that it would simply paralyze and narrow their active powers, but in no way contribute to enlarge their spiritual life.” In the presence of constantly recurring catastrophes which no skill or audacity could prevent or control, the Englishman would probably fold his hands, and sink into a blind fatalism or a degrading superstition.]