

burning cinders and ashes having been brought into contact with all kinds of combustible material. To increase the misfortune, a strong breeze, which succeeded the morning's calm, so stirred up the flames, and so carried them in every direction, that the conflagration soon became universal.

Thus, earth, and water, and fire seemed to have combined their forces to consummate the destruction of this most unfortunate city. From the chaotic depths of the ruins, by every way of egress—every lane or street still left standing—there might you have seen men and women emerging, spectre-like, pale, disfigured, half paralyzed with terror, some carrying with them a valued heirloom or darling child, others scarcely able to drag along their wounded limbs ; nearly all, with voices half-strangled by despair and terror, calling upon the dear ones whom they loved, but should see no more. A father, a mother, sought distractedly for their children ; a wife vainly appealed for help to her missing husband ; the weeping child invoked in vain its parent's succour. The aged and the infirm were suffocated in their beds, or consumed by the flames ; some mad with despair, and lost to all consciousness of the scene around them, lay stretched upon the earth, motionless and almost dead. Others, kneeling, implored the mercy of an angered and avenging God.

On the occurrence of the first convulsion, many persons, in the expectation of finding a secure asylum on the waters, had made towards the harbour, to precipitate themselves on board its boats and vessels ; but the great ocean-wave of which we have spoken hurled ships and boats upon the shore, and drove them one against another in wild confusion. The ebb and flow lasted with great violence throughout the night, apparently rushing with intense force at intervals of five minutes.

The harbour was embanked with a splendid quay of white marble, recently constructed at a very great expense. Here a multitude of individuals took refuge, hoping to be safe from the falling ruins. But the whole quay sank suddenly ; it disappeared under the waters, and so completely, that not a single one of the victims who were carried down with it ever rose to the surface. A great number of boats, and some small craft which were moored to the quay, disappeared in the same abyss, and not a fragment of their wreck was ever seen. We must suppose, to explain this extraordinary event, that a certain extent of soil sank into a chasm which opened suddenly, and almost immediately closed. The fact has been attested by the direct evidence of an eye-witness who escaped the disaster.*

Although the convulsion was universal, it was much severer at some points than at others. All the old, or Moorish town, was completely overthrown, and in the new town about seventy of the principal streets. Earthquake and fire together destroyed the cathedral church, eighteen parish churches, nearly all the convents, the palace of the Inquisition, and the most splendid public buildings—such as the royal palace, which was the first to fall, and that of Braganza, the Treasury, the mansions of the Dukes of Cadaval, of Lafoens, and of others. The loss experienced by English commerce from this disaster amounted to several millions sterling. The docks, all the warehouses full of merchandise, and the public grain stores were consumed.

The conflagration lasted for four days, and at last died out from want of aliment.

* [Quoted by Sir Charles Lyell, "Principles of Geology," 10th ed., bk. ii., c. 11.]