

among these poor wretches might be seen persons of rank and wealth, rejoicing yesterday in their prosperity, but reduced in the twinkling of an eye to the most frightful destitution. For some days after the catastrophe, a pound of bread was worth an ounce of gold! All the corn which could be collected in the environs of Lisbon was purchased by the government, and sold at reasonable rates to those who could pay for it, distributed gratuitously to those who were penniless.

Provision had also to be made for the lodgment of the numerous individuals so suddenly deprived of a home, and still afraid to seek an asylum in the shattered



FIG. 124.—RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS.

houses. For this purpose wooden barracks were hastily constructed. Tents were also pitched in the open fields, and hay and straw distributed to serve as mattresses, that the inhabitants might not be compelled to lie upon the ground.

Finally, efforts were made to rescue the poor unfortunates buried underneath the ruins; and a great number were saved, who though they had passed many days in so frightful a situation, were nevertheless restored to life. It has been estimated that, in all, 40,000 persons perished through the immediate effects of the earthquake, and that 20,000 afterwards succumbed to their wounds or were killed by want and hunger. Twelve hundred lost their lives in the public hospital alone, and 800 in the civil prison. In many convents, which each contained 400 inmates, not one escaped.