

This awful convulsion was followed by several others, so that not less than thirty shocks, of which some were very violent; occurred in the space of one month.

Hence, at first, men were unwilling to engage in rebuilding a city which seemed doomed to destruction, or to fix their homes on a soil which was liable to such terrible disasters. But after awhile their minds grew more calm; and as there appeared no reason to expect a return of the scourge, the government addressed itself to the task of reconstructing or repairing the houses, the churches, and the palaces. For a long time, however, the city showed only an unsightly mass of ruins, through which a few practicable passages had been opened up by the simple process of piling up the stones and rubbish on either hand. As none dared to erect any substantial

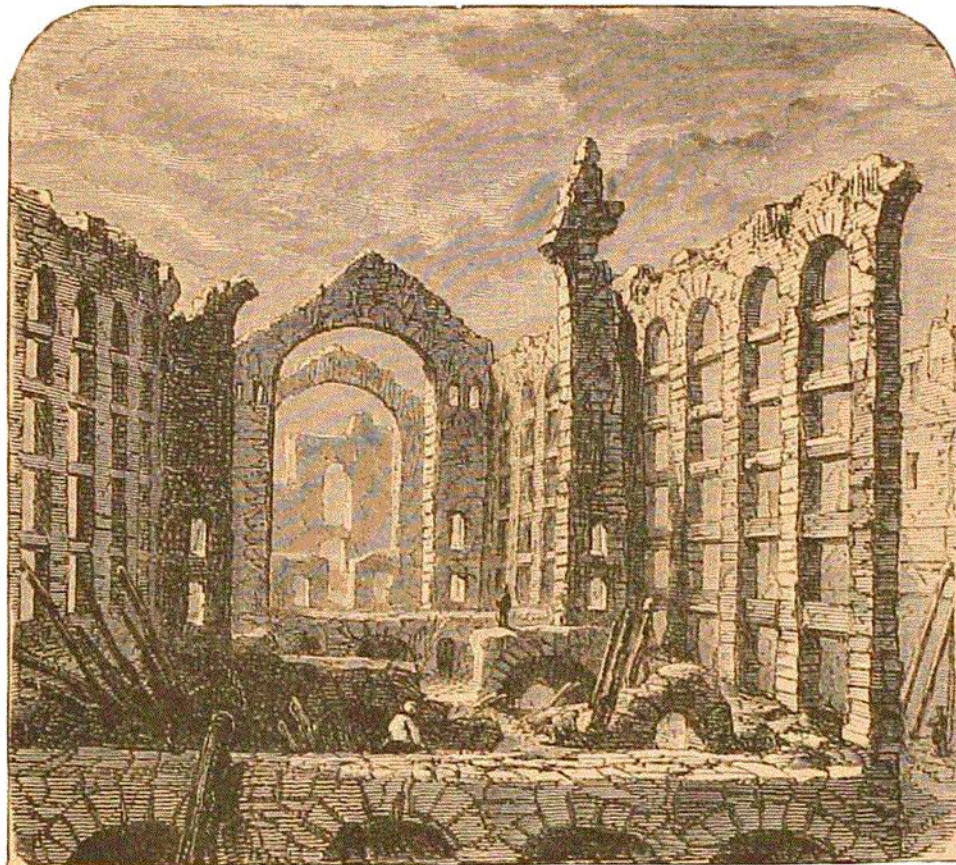


FIG. 125.—RUINS OF THE OPERA.

edifices, the first buildings were mere huts and barracks of timber. These were got ready in Holland; were shipped in pieces on board the vessels engaged to transport them, and put together on arriving at their destination; a coat of plaster being laid over them as a protection against atmospheric influences.

At the end of about twelve years, however, the city was entirely rebuilt, and became, as it now is, one of the handsomest capitals in Europe. Nor, since 1755, has it been visited by any similar affliction.

In our preceding chapter, when treating of the general phenomena of these convulsions, we remarked that the Lisbon catastrophe was far from being a local event, and that the earth-wave which produced it propagated its influence over a very