

ing chinks and crevices, or larger and more considerable depressions, producing a miniature labyrinth of gorges, ravines, and little valleys.

But never was any town more completely devastated than the unfortunate Terranova; never was ruin accomplished under more singular and varied circumstances. Terranova was built above three deep gorges, at the extremity of a plain, and in the immediate shadow of a high mountain. This position explains the conditions of its destruction. In the earthquake of the 5th of February, a part of the site of the town gave way, and gliding down the declivity of one of the gorges, dragged with it the houses it supported; the débris of stones and timbers, mingled with the displaced soil, filled up a portion of the valley.

Elsewhere in the town the earth was cloven into a perpendicular gap; a part of the soil thus divided fell away, and descended in a mass into the ravine which yawned beneath. The houses were flung headlong into a gulf 320 feet deep, which was almost filled up with their wreck.\* Out of a population of 2000, 1400 persons were crushed beneath or buried among the ruins. They did not all perish; for, owing to the difference of weight, the materials falling along with human beings, the latter were precipitated *upon* the débris; some fell on their feet, and were able to make their way immediately into a place of safety; others, buried only up to the thighs or the chest, released themselves with a little assistance.

Such are the singular details of the demolition of Terranova, which was literally turned topsy-turvey (*sens dessus dessous*). In the three valleys half-filled by the landslips, and the ruins which they brought down, all was overthrown; it was impossible to recognize the site of a single house; the high places were brought low, the low levels were raised, owing to the depression of the surrounding parts. The masonry of a well in one of the convents was made to resemble, through this circumstance, a tower of 70 to 90 feet in height, somewhat diverging from the perpendicular.

The falling-in of the town and hills, by closing up the channel of a small stream, and that of a copious spring which welled out at the bottom of the gorge, formed a couple of lakes, whose stagnant waters, loaded with carcasses and organic deposits of every description, disseminated infection through the whole country, and destroyed, with putrid fevers, those of the population who had escaped the disasters of the earthquake. Considerable landslips occurred in the neighbourhood, on the border of the valleys; the entire plain which lay in front of the town was hollowed with gaps and crevasses; in certain parts there was not an inch of soil which could be regarded as firm and solid ground.

The village of Moluquello, situated opposite Terranova, and on the same level, upon a small platform hemmed in by two rivers which flowed between the two valleys, met with the same fate as Terranova. One part of the village fell into the right-hand valley, the other into that on the left-hand; so that of the former site of Moluquello there remained only a ridge, like an ass's backbone, which was so narrow that you could not walk along it.

\* [Surely this statement requires to be taken *cum grano salis*.]