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Feb 10, 1870—tf.

D. S. BRISCOE,

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(From Hallou's Monthly Magazine)

Earthquakes And How Caused.

BY PROFESSOR JAMES MACKINTOSH.

Earthquake action is nearly related to volcanic, and frequently one of these natural forces may pass into the other. Long-continued experiments in deep mines, in all kinds of rocks, have plainly proved that the heat increases as we descend. This increase of heat cannot be ascribed to the heavier column of atmosphere which must press down at the bottom of deep mines. If we ascend some mountain-side from the sea-level, the cold increases about one degree for every 300 feet. We might, therefore, conclude that the heat in deep mines, if it were due to atmospherical pressure, would increase at the same rate. It gains, however, much more rapidly—sometimes as much as one degree for every forty-five feet of descent, and seldom less than one degree for every seventy.

If the heat goes on increasing continuously at the same rate, it becomes an easy matter to calculate to what depth we should have to go to reach a point where all the known solid substances are in a state of fusion. Chemists can tell us exactly what heat is required to melt iron, copper, etc., so that it would not be difficult to estimate the depth in the earth where, if the heat increases at the average rate of one degree for about sixty feet, these well-known substances are constantly in a molten condition. For various reasons of a mathematical character, it is believed that the thickness of the earth's crust is much greater than it would be if the heat continued to increase as above-mentioned. It is thought that as we go deeper through the strata, the increased pressure which ensues withstands the tendency to a molten condition; so that at great depths the enormous pressure of the overlying rocks resists the tendency of the great heat to melt them. According to the calculation that heat increases one degree Fahrenheit every sixty feet of descent, if there were no counteracting agency, all solid substances would be in a molten state at the depth of about thirty miles. This is known to be too thin a crust, however, for a planet 8000 miles in diameter, and so it is usually regarded as not less than 100 miles in thickness, owing to the pressure withstanding the liquefying influence of the earth's internal heat.

The oblate shape of the earth, and of all the planets of the solar system, is explained on the ground that they were originally in a molten condition. Since then they have lost heat and cooled down. The external stratified crust, however, still encloses the greater part of the originally molten planet. A loss of heat is yet slowly going on, known as the "secular cooling of the earth." The heat from the interior is conducted upwards through the rocky crust, and thence radiated into space. We have not to consider the *slowness* of this operation, but the fact that it is taking place. With loss of heat comes a shrinking or contraction of the earth's interior. The hardened crust everywhere enveloping it cannot shrink in the same degree, and it is necessary it should be constantly fitted to the contracting interior, otherwise there would be a broken space between it and the crust.

It is along the weakest part of the earth's crust that fractures usually happen. Hence it is that earthquakes and volcanoes generally run in lines extending over enormous areas of the earth's surface. The *force* generated by the fracturing or folding is that usually designated as "earthquake shocks." Mr. Mallet has shown that the friction which ensues during a fracturing of deep-seated solid rocks, and when the walls are rubbed against each other, will develop heat enough to melt rocks. In this way earthquakes pass into volcanic action. These two forces extend over the same areas, and are often transmitted from the same spots, or foci. Volcanic action is nearly always preceded by earthquake shocks, whose intensity increases until volcanic energy is developed, after which the former subsides. On Mr. Mallet's theory, this near relation is easily understood, and he has shown that the amount of heat which must be annually developed by the secular cooling of the earth's interior, is more than is required to produce all the volcanic energy. Mr. Mallet, however, does not think the interior of the earth is molten, but in a heated solid state, the molten lava which issues from the volcanic craters having been formed by the fusion of the solid matter where heat has been developed during shrinkage. In either case, however whether we acknowledge a molten interior or a highly-heated solid one, we have equally to explain the origin of earthquakes and volcanoes on the theory of the secular cooling and contraction of the earth as a whole.

The shocks propagated through the earth's crust will vary in their degree of intensity in proportion to the amount of fracture or contraction. In every case the shock is propagated in waves, analogous to those which ripple the surface of a smooth pond when a stone has been thrown in, only vertical instead of horizontal. These are termed "earthquake waves," and when powerfully felt, the surface of the earth will actually be thrown into a series of temporary undulations, like that of a field of corn when a gentle breeze is passing over it. Not unfrequently, if the surface rocks be of a nature that does not readily transmit the wave, they will be rent and fissured to a considerable depth. It is to the undulation produced by violent earthquake waves that so much destruction is due. Houses and large public buildings are thrown to the ground, and a "fenced city" suddenly "becomes a heap."

Earthquakes are of three kind—*undulating, perpendicular* and *horizontal*—according to the direction in which the wave or force is propagated. It is the former to which we have been chiefly alluding, as this is the most frequent, but, as a rule, also the most harmless. This, however, is not always the case, as the great earthquake which destroyed Lisbon in 1755 plainly shows. That earthquake was of an undulatory character. The perpendicular earthquakes are not so frequent as the last, but when they attain any unusual development they are more destructive. Sometimes they have the character of an explosion, and objects in the neighborhood are suddenly projected into the air, owing to the vibrations succeeding each other rapidly, and passing through the earth's crust in a perpendicular direction. The earthquake which occurred at Riobamba, in Ecuador, South America, in 1797, was of the perpendicular class. During its occurrences, rocks, trees, together with shattered buildings, and their inhabitants, were projected into the air as from the explosion of a mine. People were actually hurled hundreds of feet upwards.

Horizontal earthquakes are the rarest in their occurrence, but they are the most destructive of any, as the motion which originates them is due to a combination of the two just mentioned, producing a kind of horizontal twist. The great Calabrian earthquake, investigated by the French Commission, which took place in 1783, was of this kind. In its course it destroyed two hundred towns and villages, and killed a hundred thousand people.

As will be understood from this classification, the undulatory earthquakes are felt over the most extensive areas. That of Lisbon extended from Bohemia to the West Indies, east and west, and from Algiers to Sweden, north and south. The Calabrian earthquake was confined to an area of only six hundred square miles. We have referred to the ripples produced by throwing a stone into a pool; the waves extend themselves in circles, succeeding each other, and becoming fainter further away from the centre of disturbance, owing to the friction of the water. This is very similar to the way in which many earthquake shocks are propagated. They form huge circular waves of force, which traverse the rocks, and lose their violence far away from their origin, from the resistance of the rocks through which they pass. That the origin of these waves is due to the weak lines in the earth's crust, is evident from the fact that earthquake waves usually follow the same directions in the same districts. In Great Britain, what few shocks are experienced are due to the earthquake undulations traveling in a south-westerly direction. In Scandinavia it is the same; whilst in Spain the direction the waves take is southeast. In the Alleghany mountains, the course is north-westerly.

It has been found that certain rocks conduct away the earthquake waves better than others, just as some metals are better conductors of electricity or heat than the rest. Granite and primary rocks allow the shocks to be conveyed through them without much disturbance. On the other hand, the latter tertiary strata (which are usually loose and unconsolidated), and soft alluvial deposits, are the worst conductors of earthquake movements, and therefore cause the greatest destruction to towns and villages that may be built upon them. Moreover, a still greater degree of violence is experienced at the junction of old primary rocks, and where the later tertiary beds rest upon them. The careful examination of the great Calabrian earthquake proved that the greatest destruction always occurred under such circumstances. This conclusion is not without a practical value in earthquake-visited countries, for it plainly shows which areas would be the best for building upon, and which the worst. It is not difficult to understand the cause of such destruction where the denser rocks and the looser strata come together. Just as electricity can be safely conducted away along a copper wire, whilst it will manifest itself as if it had to leap a short interval to the end of another wire, so would the earthquake undulations travel at a certain speed, and with a certain rhythm, if the rocks through which they passed were everywhere alike in density and structure. At the point where a change takes place, as at the junction of primary and tertiary beds, the waves passing through the former are suddenly altered when they have to traverse the latter, and this sudden alteration is then powerfully manifested on the surface.

The rate at which these movements or waves are propagated has been ascertained chiefly through the researches of Mr. Mallet. The great earthquake wave of Lisbon travelled twenty miles a minute. When earthquake foci are situated near the sea, then, in addition to the destructive undulations which pass through the earth's crust, we have subsequent inundations, which not unfrequently cause even more mischief than the original shocks. This was the case at Lisbon, and still more recently in Jamaica. In the former place, when the earthquake had shaken down the buildings, such people as could escape found shelter on the new quay, away from the falling houses, where they were congregated in thousands, when a huge wave of water, [illegible] feet high, came sweeping in from the sea, and drowned most of them. These waves are caused by the earthquake shock travelling more rapidly through the solid crust of the earth than through the volume of sea-water. The shock is propagated with great rapidity, but water is a worse conductor of the force, and the friction to which the wave is subjected retards the progress, and thus changes it as shown. [illegible] even after the original shock has done all the mischief it could.

Mr. Mallet's researches in the phenomena of earthquakes have led to certain conclusions which are now generally accepted by physical geographers. These views are based on the theory of the secular cooling of the earth, although they do not necessitate a belief in a molten nucleus. When a strain is produced, by the outer crust of the earth being adapted to the contracting interior, a crack will result, the shock of which is conveyed away in every direction as an earthquake wave. It has been ascertained that these shocks are rarely generated at a greater depth than thirty miles, and frequently at a much less depth than that. The focus of the earthquake at Naples, in 1857, was only eight miles from the surface. In addition to knowing the depth at which any earthquake shock may have originated, the angle at which the wave emerges from the focus, and the rate of its movement are also calculable. Earthquake shocks are always of such a nature as would result from a blow or concussion.

In various parts of the world we have areas where slow upward and downward movements of the earth's crust are taking place without any violent shocks accompanying them. In 1855, along the coast of New Zealand, a tract of country was uplifted as much as nine feet. Singularly enough, this elevation was bounded on one side by a crack, on the other side of which there was comparative rest. Here, therefore, we have the first trustworthy account of one of those singular movements so common in the older rocks called "faults," where the rock masses on one side of a crack or fissure have been uplifted. The northern coasts of the Baltic are being elevated at the slow and gradual rate of about three feet in a century. The coasts of South America, on the western side of the Andes, are in a very unsettled condition. In 1822, over a large area of country, there was an elevation of from four to nine feet; and again in 1837, the same area was uplifted eight feet. These successive elevations added a strip of dry land equal to half the entire area of France. How long the elevation of the Baltic coasts has been going on, ever since the close of the last geological epoch known as the "glacial," is best shown by the fact that Baltic shells are found one hundred feet above the present level of the sea. It is by such slow elevatory movements as these that all the dry land has been elevated from the floors of the seas and oceans where, as the fossils in the rocks plainly testify, it was originally laid down. Earthquake shocks and movements, therefore, have played an important part in the history of the globe, in thus elevating areas to a higher level, and so compensating for the wear-and-tear to which the dry land is continually subjected by atmospherical agencies.

A GEM.—Sidney Smith cut the following from a newspaper, and preserved it for himself:

"When you rise in the morning, say that you will make the day blessed to a fellow creature. A left off garment to the man that needs it; a kind word to the sorrowful; an encouraging expression to the dejected—trifles in themselves as light as air—will do at least for the twenty four hours. And if you are young, depend upon it, it will tell when you are old, rest assured it, will send you happily and gently down the stream of time to eternity. By the most simple arithmetical sum, look at the result. If you send one person away through the day, that is three hundred and sixty-five in the course of a year, and suppose you live forty years only after you have commenced that course of medicine, you have made fourteen thousand six hundred persons happy—at all events for a time."

WATER FOR DOGS.—A writer in an English newspaper says that the great neglect in not providing water for dogs to drink no doubt is the cause of frequent hydrophobia. They do not throw off their heat by perspiration like many other animals, but from panting and throwing out the tongue. He says there are many dogs kept in Portugal, and there are not many instances of hydrophobia, although the climate is much hotter than ours. It is there understood to be a municipal regulation to cause troughs or vessels to be provided near each house containing a supply of water. There would be little of dogs going mad were they regularly supplied with water, unless bit by some other animal.

☞ A major in the United States army was crossing from England in one of the Cunard steamers, when one afternoon a band on deck played "Yankee Doodle." A gruff Englishman, who stood by, asked whether that was the tune the old cow died of. "Not at all," retorted the major: "that is the tune that the old Bull died of."

CONFLICTING TESTIMONY.

In the year 1706 Lord Altham, a dissolute Irish peer, was married to Mary Sheffield with whom he lived for three years, when he removed to Ireland, leaving his wife who four years after joined her husband in Dublin. They subsequently resided together near Ross, but in the year 1716 separated under circumstances to be narrated and never met again. Altham died the following year and was succeeded in his title and estate by his brother, Richard Annesly. The wife survived her husband about two years, in sickness and poverty, without taking any step contesting Annesly's claim to the estate which rested on the assumption she had no children by her husband.

When Admiral Vernon was at Porto Bello commanding the British Fleet, in the year 1743, a young man named James Annesley made his appearance, claiming to be the son of Lord Altham, stating he had been acknowledged and educated as such until he was nine or ten years of age; that upon the death of his father he had been kidnapped and sold as an apprentice to America, where he had passed thirteen years in servitude, but had after many adventures effected his escape. Vernon hearing his story supplied him with the means of proceeding to England, where on his arrival he established himself at a Lodge at Staines in the neighborhood of Windsor. One of his associates was gamekeeper to the lord of the manor, and it happened while Annesly was shooting small birds, the game-keeper called him to assist in capturing a net with which a man named Eggleston was fishing in the river. In the scuffle which ensued the gun was discharged, killing Eggleston. There could be little doubt the discharge of the gun was purely accidental, but Altham's brother, now Lord Angelsea, seized the opportunity to destroy, as supposed, the claimant to his title and estate. He instituted proceedings against Annesley for murder, was prodigal of money and promises to witnesses, declaring he would willingly give ten thousand pounds to get him hanged. He was acquitted, however, and Angelsea's machination recoiled upon himself, and no doubt influenced Court and jury in the subsequent trial.

In November, 1743, the trial for the recovery of the estate came on in the city of Dublin. It lasted fifteen days, and about ninety witnesses were examined. The issue between the parties was of the simplest and boldest character. On the one hand it was asserted, in the spring of 1715, Lady Altham had been delivered, at Dunmaim, of a son and heir, and all the customary solemnities and rejoicings had taken place: that the child was uniformly acknowledged and treated by Lord and Lady Altham as their son: that he was shown to and spoken of as such to friends and visitors: that when the separation between his parents took place, the mother entreated she might be permitted to retain the child, which the father refused, keeping the boy and educating him as the heir to his title and estate. On the other hand, it was denied the lady ever had a child and it was asserted the very ground of separation between them was his disappointment and annoyance at having no heir: that it was known to every servant, visitor, and relative she never had a child: that the servant who had attended her from her arrival in Dublin to the hour of her death, who had dressed and undressed her, morning and evening, and had never been absent more than a single week during the entire period, was living and would prove not only no child was ever born, but there was never the slightest chance or probability Lady Altham would have a child.

It is impossible to conceive a simpler issue or one easier of conclusive proof, one way or the other, yet two juries came to diametrically opposite conclusions, and so positive is the testimony on each side that even now it seems impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion.

It will be noticed the question raised by the issue is not one of personation or disputed identity. If Lady Altham ever had a son, it was virtually admitted the claimant was he. The case was not one of conceded or doubtful marriage or obscure birth. From the arrival of Lady Altham in Ireland until her separation, a period of three years, she resided publicly with her husband, who kept a large establishment of servants, and visited and associated with persons of the most varied rank and position in the neighborhood. It seems incredible any doubt should arise upon a point so easy of proof.

Major Fitzgerald deposed in 1715 he was in the town of Ross and met Lord Altham who insisted he should dine and drink with him, "for that his wife was in labor." He declined, and next day Lord A. sent him word that "his wife was brought to bed of a son": that the same day he dined with him and the nurse brought in the child, which he kissed and gave half a guinea to the nurse, and some of the company at dinner toasted the heir apparent.—He further testified he saw to-day the nurse to whom he gave the money, and then mentioned many circumstances confirming his story. His character was unimpeached, and no motive can be assigned for falsehood.

John Turner deposed he was senichal to Lord Anglesea. He had visited Lord Altham in December, 1714, and observed his lady was pregnant, and the next time he saw her she told him she had a son: that when the child was a year and a half old the mother led him across the parlor, when he kissed him: that Lord A. also kissed him, calling him Jimmy: that he saw the child repeatedly both before and after the separation of his parents, and he was always treated as the legitimate son, and once the father said, "You may be seneschal to the child."

The sponsors of the child at baptism were dead, but the christening and the attending festivities were proved repeatedly by servants who had lived in the house. Over fifty witnesses were called, of every rank,—persons present at the birth, others to whom Lord A. has conversed repeatedly about the child as his son. The testimony all harmonizes, and no effort was made to impeach it.

A woman named Joan Laffau deposed she entered Lord Altham's service in 1715, as nurse maid to the child, as soon as he came from the wet nurse.—He was then three or four months old, and remained in her charge for about eighteen months: that Altham and his wife always showed great fondness for the child, and she was accustomed each morning to carry him to their chamber. She then detailed the quarrel which led to their separation, saying she "was present when they parted, and saw my Lady at the door with the child in her arms: that the father snatched the child, swearing he would not part with it upon any condition, when my Lady burst into tears and begged she might give one parting kiss, to which he reluctantly consented. Her story was confirmed by another witness. The case would thus seem to have been conclusively established. But let us turn to the other side.

W. Pattison, who was accused by Lord A. of improper intimacy with his wife, testified that one day as they were riding together that gentleman informed him he was determined to part with his lady, as he found his brother whose heir he was, would not be friendly while he lived with her, and added, "Since I have no child by her I will part with her." Pattison then confirms many portions of the nurse's story, but adds that no child was present at the separation, and he never saw a child in the house. The Court here had these two witnesses confronted. Each repeated the story, and each was equally clear, distinct and positive. The story of the nurse was confirmed by another person who witnessed the parting of the mother and child, while Pattison's testimony is substantiated by Mary Health; Lady Altham's waiting woman, who most positively swore that no such child was ever in existence. With the exception of a single week this woman had attended Lady Altham for the period of sixteen years, from her arrival in Ireland until her death. She had dressed and undressed her daily, yet swore in the most distinct and positive manner she never had a child! It seems enough to destroy confidence in all human testimony to find evidence so clear and unimpeachable on each side, to feel on one or the other there must be deliberate perjury, and yet be unable to decide where it rests.

We have said in the beginning, the defence made a general denial: that Lady Altham never had a son, but now the whole evidence changes in character.

After the separation, Lord Altham removed to a place called Kinnas, and there it is admitted a child appears on the scene. He is treated by Lord Altham as one of the family and educated at his expense, but it is claimed he was illegitimate. During the first period the existence of the child is denied: during the second it is admitted. When Mary Health swears her mistress never had a child; while Eleanor Murphy swears both she and Health were present at the birth, one or the other must be perjured. But we will follow the fortune of this boy, the pretant claimant.

By the influence of his mistress, Lord Altham was induced to turn the boy out on the streets, and after some adventures he was taken charge of by an honest butcher, named Purcell. Purcell testifies that the defendant called to see the boy, who recognized him as his Uncle, and expressed fear of him. The Uncle said he was Lord Altham's son. He further testifies his Uncle, the defendant in the case, endeavored to obtain possession of the child, first by stratagem and then by force. Fears of repetition induced the lad to leave the butcher and take refuge with Mr. Tigh, but the Uncle discovered his retreat, captured and forced him on a ship bound to Philadelphia, thinking no doubt this would be the last of him. All the details of the nefarious transaction are given by the agents employed by the Uncle on the occasion. This act would appear to us to turn the wavering balance of evidence against Lord Anglesea. If the boy was really illegitimate, the proof could have been readily obtained, as Lady Altham was then living. If, on the contrary, he was the legitimate son of Lord Altham, we preceive strong reasons why he should endeavor to remove him out of the way.

The case seemed to rest here, and the jury, after an absence of two hours, found for the claimant. They must therefore have considered Health, Pattison, and others as having perjured themselves. The plaintiff followed up his victory, and an indictment for perjury was found against Mary Health.—The same evidence was introduced but the new jury found her "not guilty." They must therefore have considered all that swore to Lady Altham's having a child had sworn falsely.

The claimant does not appear to have taken any further steps to obtain the estate and honors. His Uncle was permitted to retain them, and Annesly dying without children, his title to them soon became perfect!!

PRIVATE ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN.—Don't be too sudden about it. Many a girl has said "no," when she meant "yes," simply because her lover didn't choose the right time and pop the question gently.

Take a dark night for it. Have the blinds closed, the curtains down, and the lamp turned most out. Sit near enough to her so that you can hook your little finger into hers. Wait until conversation begins to flag, and then quietly remark:

"Susie, I want to ask you something."

She will fidget around a little, reply "yes," and after a pause you can add:

"Susie, my actions must have shown—that is, you must have seen—I mean you must be aware that—that—"

Pause here for a while, but keep your little finger firmly locked. She may cough and try to turn the subject off by asking you how you liked the circus, but she only does it to encourage you. After about ten minutes you can continue:

"I was thinking, as I came up the path to-night, that before I went away I would ask you—that is, I would broach the subject nearest my—I mean I would know my—"

Stop again and give her hand a gentle squeeze. She may give a yank to get it away, or she may not: in either case it augurs well for you. Wait about five minutes, and then go on:

"The past year has been a very happy one to me. But I hope that future years will be still happier. However, that depends entirely upon you. I am here to-night to know—that is, to ask you—I mean I am here to-night to hear from your own sweet—"

Wait again. It isn't best to be too rash about such things. Give her plenty of time to recover her composure, and then put your hand on your heart and continue:

"Yes, I thought as I was coming through the gate to-night how happy I had been, and I said to myself that if I only knew you would consent to be my—that is, I said if I only knew—if I was only certain that my heart had not deceived me and you were ready to share—"

Hold on—there's no hurry about it. Give the wind a chance to sob and moan around the gables. This will make her lonesome and call up all the love in her heart. When she begins to cough and grow restless you can go on.

"Before I met you this world was a desert to me. I didn't take any pleasure in going blackberrying and stealing rare-ripe peaches, and it didn't matter whether the sun shone or not. But what a change in one short year! It is for you to say whether my future shall be a prairie of happiness or a summer fallow of Canada thistles. Speak, dearest Susie, and say that—that—"

Give her five minutes more by the clock and then add:

"That you will be—that is, that you will—I mean that you will be—be mine?"

She will heave a sigh, look up at the clock and over to the stove, and then, as she slides her head over on your vest pocket, she will whisper:

"You are just right, I will!"

☞ He was a young medical student, and he put on a good many airs, and had a good many technical terms at his tongue's end. He finally made a dead set to bring out the fat man in the seat opposite. Bending over, he asked, in a loud voice:

"What is your opinion of hereditary diseases?"

"My opinion," slowly answered the other, "is that where a father was a blamed fool, his son can't help but show the same failing."

That settled that young man as if he had been been struck with a ton of wet sand.

☞ "Don't put too much confidence in lover's vows and signs," said Mrs. Partington to her niece; "let him tell you that you have lips like strawberries and cream, cheeks like a tarnation, and eyes like an asterisk: but such things oftener come from a tender head than a tender heart."

☞ A party of belated gentlemen, about a certain hour, began, to think of home and their wives' displeasure, and urge a departure. "Never mind," said one of the guests, "fifteen minutes will make no difference—my wife is as mad now as she can be."

☞ When you try to carry home a heavy article, you should take every advantage of it. Some men who can carry a jug of whiskey home when it is kept in the jug, require the aid of two policemen when they attempt to carry it home inside 'em.

☞ "A passive verb," said a teacher, "is expressive of the nature of receiving an action; as "Peter is beaten."—"Now, what did Peter do?" "Well, I don't know," said the scholar, deliberating, "unless he hollered."