

THREE FISHERS.

Three fishers went strolling away to the stream
To the babbling brook where the fishes swim;
Of speckled beauties they all did dream,
And each felt certain they'd bite for him.
For men will tramp from morning till night,
And suffer for the fierce mosquitto's bite,
And drink to stop their groaning.

Three fishers strolled into the market place,
'Twas some two hours after the sun went down,
And a look of gloom was on each man's face,
For at empty baskets they each did frown.
For men will fish but may get no bite,
And tired and ugly go home at night,
And vent their wrath in groaning.

Three fishers strolled into the beer saloon,
Where the crowd sat round and the gas was bright,
And each gaily whistled a merry tune,
And showed his fish with assumed delight.
For men will fish, you, and men will lie,
And boast of catching the fish they buy,
While inwardly they're groaning.

—Boston Post.

THE SCIENCE OF SEISMOLOGY.

The Most Remarkable Earthquake on Record.

Zadkiel in his "Voice of the Stars" for April did not make a precise prediction of the earthquake reported this morning, for though Asia Minor is one of the regions exposed to malefic influences through the near conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, the seat located his earthquake at Cabul. Such a catastrophe was, however, confidently expected by better authorities than Zadkiel, Tao Sze. Those who have not given the subject attention will be surprised to learn how closely earthquakes are observed nowadays, and how frequently they occur. Prof. Rockwood noted 60 days between July 18, 1877, and November 23, 1878, on which one or more shocks were felt on the American continent. Fuchs in 1878 recorded the unusually large number of 12 volcanic eruptions at places far apart and mostly from little-known volcanoes, and 103 earthquakes, though this enumeration includes as units many complete periods. One earthquake at Tanna lasted four weeks; in Catania the ground trembled almost continuously from October 1 to November 19.

The year 1879 was marked by a great number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, many shocks being reported almost at the same instant from places widely separated. Thus on the 8th of January severe shocks were felt in the Caucasus, in the Tyrol and in Luxembourg; on the 9th, the most violent earthquake since 1868 was experienced at Arequipa, Peru; on the 10th shocks were felt at Cologne and throughout Southern Germany; on the 11th, more at Vienna; on the 12th, another violent shaking at Arequipa. In the middle of May eruptions began from Vesuvius; Etna sympathized on the 25th, pouring out ashes and lava for a fortnight; simultaneously a similar outburst was noted at Geisfuglie, Iceland, and on the day that Etna broke into activity a violent eruption of the Czobancz mountain in Hungary, long regarded as extinct, was chronicled. As the eruption of Etna was followed by continuous earthquakes in Sicily until the end of June, so the outbreak of the Czobancz Mountain was accompanied by severe convulsions in Hungary, Bosnia and Bessarabia, throwing down houses and trees and opening fissures from which water poured in floods, and culminating in the violent shocks at Agram, June 21-22, while tremblings were observed at Aix and Nassau, May 26-27, and at Hastings May 21. Thereafter Europe had a comparative rest till about the 1st of November, when all the south and east of Hungary, Servia, Roumania and Bessarabia felt incessant earthquakes of considerable intensity, some shocks even lasting a minute. At the time of least activity of volcanic forces in Europe—July 11—three strong shocks were felt in Cairo and near the Pyramids, something unknown in Egypt since 1857. In Persia, March 22-April 2, there were twenty-one villages destroyed and fifty-four greatly damaged; of the 1,200 inhabitants of Manan and Tark but few escaped. Java was visited by several disastrous shocks between March 28 and June 5, its volcanoes being also in active eruption. China had its turn June 29-July 11, with after-shocks of sufficient violence, though not nearly so destructive in

August and September. There were very serious eruptions and shocks extending over a large area in Central America soon after the new year, after which the great center of volcanic activity was comparatively quiescent. In the Pacific there were disturbances in the early part of the year, culminating in the eruption of Kilauca in June.

But it was in 1880 that the series of seismic convulsions which had been taking place in Europe since early in 1879 reached their climax. On the 30th of December, 1879, several smart shocks were felt throughout Switzerland. A month later similar manifestations took place in Germany and Italy. February 6 Vesuvius was in full action and four days later Etna sympathized, as did the mud craters at Paterno. Almost weekly came reports of convulsions in various parts of Europe, Portugal, Spain and France, and, especially, Italy and Switzerland, the manifestations of seismic force becoming more frequent and forcible, and extending over a wider area as autumn came on, until a culmination was reached in the terrible convulsions of November 9-22, affecting all southeastern Europe from Venice to the Black Sea, Bohemia to the Balkans. At the Croatian capital, Agram, was the greatest damage done. Though there were few lives lost, hardly a building in the town remained uninjured, the damage amounting to several millions of forins. Hot springs burst out of the earth, and two active mud volcanoes were formed. It is curious to note that while Vesuvius had been showing particular activity during each of the earlier periods, and so late as the fortnight, October 26-November 19, during the Agram manifestations it remained nearly quiescent. It may be added that on the 3d of February, 1881, Agram was again visited by an earthquake. Japan—where, by the way, a most valuable series of observation has been taken—experienced two severe earthquakes—one at Tokio in December, 1873; another in February, 1880 (Yokohama, 22d; Tokio, 25th), the most violent felt since the country had been opened to foreigners. On the Alert, which was anchored in the harbor, it was thought that the vessel was dragging her anchor in a squall. At the beginning of May the earthquake season opened in Asia Minor, the village of Heledli, near Sinope, being engulfed by the sea so that not a trace of its buildings remained. But the convulsions reached their height toward the end of July (July 28-August 4) when Smyrna and the surrounding places suffered enormously. In one town, Menemen, of 1,149 houses, 665 were demolished, and the seven mosques and churches were laid in ruins. In the six neighboring villages, of 900 houses, barely half a dozen were left standing. The earth opened in 160 places to vomit for three hours floods of green water; the Hermus sank three feet below its usual level; the streams of the Gipyra range lost four-fifths of their water, while at Bourmabat the long-dried fountains flooded the plain. Almost at the same time (July 13-24) the Philippine Islands became the scene of notable convulsions. At Manila not a single public edifice was spared; the inhabitants were forced to fly to the fields outside, and 320 lives were lost. The water in the river rose 3½ feet almost in a moment, and sank again as suddenly. The shocks, some lasting more than a minute, were felt all over the Island of Luzon; the volcanoes started into activity; the earth opened to emit hot ashes and jets of boiling water. In September violent shocks threw down pagodas and light-houses near Rangoon and along the coast of Java. In America the manifestations were unusually numerous and violent, beginning at San Salvador January 1-10. Hopango was destroyed and its lake, the crater of an extinct volcano, boiled up with mud and sulphurous vapors, a crater being eventually formed in its center. On the 4th the boiling lake in Dominica burst into fresh activity, and toward the close of the month all western Cuba was visited severely—"General Grant's earthquake." On the 1st of February severe shocks were felt at Vuelta Abajo and in Mexico; on the 9th, a volcanic eruption in Santo Domingo had an echo in the shape of a smart tremblement in the Ottawa valley. On the 14th of April San Francisco experienced the heaviest shock known for years. June 29 the eruption of the volcano del Fuego in Guatemala marked the commencement of an era of terrible activity. A column of flame shot up to the height of 500

feet, throbbing with strong regular pulsations for nearly two hours, at intervals of fifty seconds; the River Guacalate rose suddenly and ran warm. July 23 much damage was done to New Amsterdam and other parts of Guiana, and August 14 a terrible convulsion visited Chili, though, happily, the loss of life was not proportionate to its severity. The shock was felt on the highest points of the Andes, where the telegraph wires were broken and thrown down, and at Mendoza, east of the Cordilleras, earthquakes occurred on the 16th and 19th such as had not been known since 1861. It was about this time that an earthquake was felt in the Azores, followed by the emergence from the sea of a new island of 18,000 square yards area. With the horror of the earthquake at Casamicciola in the first week of March our readers are familiar.

The most notable and disastrous earthquakes on record, it may be said, are those of Italy (526), when 120,000 persons perished, and of Sicily (1683), when 60,000 lost their lives. According to Gibbon towards 542 each year was marked with the repetition of earthquakes of such duration that Constantinople was shaken above forty days—of such extent that the shock was commemorated to the whole surface of the empire. At Antioch a quarter of a million persons are said to have perished. This period of earthquake and plague (542-7) was the period when the superior planets were in perihelion, as they are now. Arabian and Persian chronicles record 111 earthquakes between the seventh and eighteenth centuries, some lasting from forty to seventy days, and nearly all accompanied by winds or floods, or terrible storms or lightning and thunder. Readers of the "Relations des Jesuites" will remember the great earthquakes of 1663, which shook and tossed the earth for six months from Gaspe to Montreal, the rival of our own earthquake of 1811 in the Mississippi Valley. The severest of the earthquakes felt in this region was that of November, 1755, an echo of the convulsion that tumbled down Lisbon—and saved the Pomba Ministry, through the fact that the Minister's house was almost the only one left uninjured and his family one of the few not bereaved of a member. Hein, in his interesting opusculum on earthquakes, estimates that on an average two earthquakes a day occur on the earth. In 1870, though there was no severe single shock, 2,225 houses were destroyed or greatly damaged in Italy, ninety-eight persons killed and 225 wounded. The same shock may last for years; instance that of Viege, in the Valais, which endured from July, 1855, to 1857. At Cabul 33 severe shocks have been felt in one day; at Honduras, in 1856, 108 were counted in a week, and at Hawaii, in 1868, 2,000 shocks occurred in one month. Hein, it may be said in conclusion, opposes the theory of a connection between earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and considers that of their coincidence with atmospheric phenomena as better supported by facts; for they are occasionally preceded or accompanied by thick and widespread fogs at seasons when fogs are not frequent, by sudden falls of the barometer and equally sudden changes of temperature. Their occurrence, however, in the majority of cases coincides with normal meteorological conditions. Earthquakes are more frequent after sunset than in the daytime, in autumn and winter than in spring. The influence of the moon is insignificant.—N. Y. World.

—A bachelor too poor to get married, yet too susceptible to let the girls alone, was riding with a lady "all of a summer's day," and accidentally—men's arms, awkward things! are ever in the way—dropped an arm round her waist. No objection was made for a while, and the arm gradually relieved the side of the carriage of the pressure upon it. But of a sudden, whether from a late recognition of the impropriety of the thing, or the sight of another beau coming, never was known, the lady started with volcanic energy, and with a flashing eye, exclaimed, "Mr. B., I can support myself!" "Capital!" was the instant reply. You are just the girl I have been looking for these five years. Will you marry me?"

—Heine's grave at Montmartre is described as being in the most forlorn state. The weather-worn and leafless remains of a laurel wreath are all the decorations it possesses.

Fashion (Bit-Chat).

Steel appears on the straps of the low shoes.

Steel lace will be used to trim black grenadines.

Crepe is to be used in trimming summer bonnets.

Dark mixed straws promise to be very fashionable.

Flowers and feathers are both worn on hats at once.

The new spring pokes are in Tuscan and Leghorn braids.

Quantities of lace will be worn on the new spring costumes.

Brocaded gauzes will be among the elegant novelties of the coming season.

Young ladies still wear the plain round skirt and waist with sash at the side.

Red appears shaded from the deepest Vandyke, which is a very dark shade, to the palest pink.

Large round collars of the same material as the dress are worn. Some of these collars are shirred.

Some of the new gauzes have pin-like effects given to them by a heavy looping of silk threads.

The straws worn will be of the open-work varieties with lace crowns, and soft crowns of puffed silk.

Striped grenadines are shown with alternating stripes of satin and an open-work design like lace.

Shirring not only is seen on the mantles and dresses, but bonnets of shirred silk are fashionable.

Buckles will be very fashionable worn with sashes, and they match the buttons worn on the dresses.

Long trained dresses are still universally cut en prince, with shirred and puffed fronts, square corsage.

Woolen dresses are generally made with plaited skirts, the jacket being of the same material as the skirt.

Wide linen collars edged with lace three inches deep will be the fashionable collar for morning wear with summer dresses.

Very few overskirts are now worn; the trimmed skirt has all the effect of an overskirt and is more desirable as to economy.

New styles of linen collars are simply straight bands fastened with a gold button. The ends are slightly curved and are made to lap.

Among the new colors is "condor-brown," named after the condor of South America—a bird said to fly higher than any other bird.

Fruits will be used to trim bonnets this season as well as flowers. Small bunches of grapes are shown, looking very pretty and natural.—*Amusee Bazar.*

Peasant Life in Normandy.

Nearing Amiens, we begin to perceive, without doubt, that we are in a foreign country. True, the landscape is not unlike our English rural landscape, when especially inane, and the farmhouses and buildings are like most others we know; but there is dawning a difference. For instance, in England we never saw those huge, queerly-harnessed horses, with great sheepskins hung at their necks, on the top of their collars, and bits of shiny brass dangling and jangling about their forelegs in a fashion which British Dobbin would never submit to for an instant. And our indigenous British Hodge, how very unlike him is this Norman peasant, in his invariably blue blouse, which dots the view with a bit of refreshing color. He just stops in plowing or wagon driving—and what queer shaped wagons they are!—to look up as the train skins by; and, if near enough we perceive that he is spare-made, sharp-featured, generally bearded, but has a neatness of costume and intelligence of face rather beyond Hodge's. It sets us moralizing and speculating on his daily life—what sort of a cottage or hovel he lives in; what kind of people are his wife and children; and whether, supposing we were to drop in upon them at their supper to-night, we should in the least understand them, or they us, in language, habits or sympathies, any more than if we had dropped from the moon. This with only an hour and a half of sea running between! It takes down our insular pride considerably. Truly the world is a wide place.—*Mrs. Mulock Craik.*

—A hen flew into a house near Rockcastle, Pa., the other day, and knocked down a rifle that was hanging on the wall, which was discharged, killing a preacher that was visiting the family.