

GREAT EASTERN OF MODERN TIMES

FURNACES SMOLDER ON LAND AND SEA

Professor Hill Explains Cause of the Disaster on Martinique.

CALL BUREAU, 1406 G STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, May 9.—Professor Robert T. Hill to-night gave The Call correspondent a description of the characteristics of the Caribbean Sea islands, especially of Martinique, and the cause of seismic disturbance there.

Across the throat of the Caribbean extends a chain of islands (Caribbees) which are really smoldering furnaces with fires always banked up, always ready to break forth at some unexpected and inopportune moment.

The northern islands of the necklace, like Saba and St. Eustatius, are simple crater cones, but the center of the chain consists of four larger islands, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, each of which is a complicated mass of old volcanic vents whose peaks attain their greatest height in Mount Diablotin of Dominica, 4747 feet above the sea.

The island of Martinique is composed almost entirely of old volcanic material, and is dominated by three conspicuous peaks which have probably been volcanic in the past. Mount Pelee, the highest of these, is 4243 feet in height and dominates the northern end of the island.

Behind the sheltering lee of Pelee is St. Pierre. This city, with its 25,000 inhabitants, isolated from the rest of the island and the world, except by the call of an occasional passing steamer, led a tranquil and quiet existence. So narrow was the sloping bench upon which it is situated there was hardly room for its population, crowded in houses of antique pattern built in old French colonial days.

While explosions by which the mud and cinder type were ejected have been sudden, they have taken place only at long intervals of time, each one adding its pile to the surface debris and obliterating the previous landscape.

It has been so long since any explosions have occurred that most geographers as well as inhabitants of the islands had considered that the forces which produced them were spent, and classified them extinct volcanoes.

It is true that the Soufriere of Guadeloupe has sent up steam, and that upon Dominica and other of the islands there were a few hot springs, but for nearly a hundred years there has not been the least sign of an explosion. There is also an old crater or soufriere on the island of St. Lucia which contains some boiling springs.

Within human history there has been but one serious eruption in the Caribbee islands, but this, like the present catastrophe, was one of the most destructive the world has ever seen. In 1812 the mountain of Morne Garon, on the island of St. Vincent, about ninety miles south of Martinique, exploded.

In Caracas ten thousand people were buried in a single moment, and after this event ruin was wrought all along the line of the Andes by earthquakes. Morne Garon completed vast clouds of dust, which darkened the sun for an entire day and spread over a hundred miles of sea and land.

The evening papers yesterday either refrained from commenting on the disaster or confined themselves to printing histories, ancient and modern, of similar events. The morning papers to-day do little better.

The Figaro follows the cable dispatches with a geographical history of the island of Martinique and speculates whether the catastrophe is due to an eruption or an earthquake or to both, winding up with the statement that it is not France alone, but humanity as a whole, that is plunged in mourning, as such calamities call up the feeling of solidarity uniting all who think and feel.

The Matin says it is one of the most frightful catastrophes recorded, and that we must go back to Pompeii to find a parallel for such a calamity.

WARSHIP PICKS UP SURVIVORS Officers of Cruiser Suchet View the Horrors at St. Pierre.

S. T. THOMAS, D. W. I., May 9, 9:35 a. m.—The French cruiser Suchet arrived at Point-a-Pitre, island of Guadeloupe, French West Indies, this morning bringing several survivors. She confirmed the report that the town of St. Pierre, Martinique, was entirely destroyed at 8 o'clock on Thursday morning by a volcanic eruption. It is supposed that most of the inhabitants of St. Pierre were killed, that the neighboring parishes were laid waste and that the residue of the population of St. Pierre is without food or shelter.

The commander of the Suchet reports that at 1 o'clock on Thursday the entire town of St. Pierre was wrapped in flames. He endeavored to save about thirty persons, more or less, from the burning, from the vessels in the harbor. His officers went ashore in small boats, seeking survivors, but were unable to penetrate the town. They saw heaps of bodies upon the wharves and it is believed that not a single person resident in St. Pierre at the moment of the catastrophe escaped.

The Governor of the colony and his staff and wife were in St. Pierre and probably perished. The extent of the catastrophe cannot be imagined. The captain of the British steamer Roddam was very seriously injured, and is now in the hospital at St. Lucia. All of his officers and engineers were killed or dying. Nearly every member of the crew is dead. Surgeon Campbell and ten of the crew of the Roddam jumped overboard at St. Pierre and were lost.

PARIS, May 9.—The commander of the French cruiser Suchet has telegraphed to the Minister of Marine, M. de Lanessan, from Fort de France, island of Martinique, under date of Thursday, May 8, at 10 p. m., as follows: "Have just returned from St. Pierre, which has been completely destroyed by an immense mass of fire, which fell on the town at about 8 o'clock in the morn-

THE GREAT DISASTERS OF HISTORY

APPENDED are the great disasters of history due to volcanic disturbances:

- Pompeii and Herculaneum, destroyed by eruption of Mount Vesuvius, A. D. 79. Earthquake in Constantinople, thousands killed, 557. Catania, Sicily, 15,000 persons killed by earthquake, 1137. Syria, 20,000 killed by earthquake, 1183. Cilicia, 20,000 killed by earthquake, 1268. Palermo, earthquakes, 6000 lost, 1726. Canton, China, 100,000 lost by earthquake, November 30, 1741. Kuchan, North Persia, 40,000 lost, earthquake, 1755. Lisbon, city ruined by earthquake, 25,000 killed, November, 1755. Aleppo, destroyed by earthquake, thousands killed, 1822. Canton, earthquake, 6000 lost, May 27, 1820. Calabria, earthquake, 10,000 lost, 1857. Island of Krakatoa, volcanic eruption, 36,380 lives lost, May 27, 1883. Isle of Ischia, earthquake, 2000 lost, 1883. Eruption of Mauna Loa, Hawaii, 79 killed, 1880. Bandanisan, volcanic eruption, 1000 killed, July, 1883. Island of Hondo, Japan, earthquake, 10,000 killed, October, 1891. Venezuela, earthquake, 3000 killed, April 24, 1894. Charleston, S. C., earthquake, 41 lives lost, August 30, 1896. Guatemala, earthquake, loss of life not yet ascertained, April, 1902.

Company sent out the following notice at 8:34 p. m.:

"St. Lucia advises us that a chartered sloop will go to St. Vincent when the office at St. Lucia closes to-night. Being asked for an explanation, the cable operator said the message meant that the cables are interrupted both north and south of St. Lucia. The Commercial Cable Company this evening made the following announcement: "We are advised that the approximate delay by steamer from St. Lucia to British Guiana is from twenty-four to forty-eight hours."

GO DOWN WITH LOST STEAMER Passengers Who Lived in West Indies Lost on Roraima.

NEW YORK, May 9.—There were three passengers on the Quebec Steamship Company's steamship Roraima, which was lost with all on board in the harbor of St. Pierre. These passengers were F. Hince, Mrs. J. Hince and Mrs. Stokes. All lived in the West Indies. At the Quebec Steamship Company's offices here no news had been received here either from Captain Mumab, the commander of the vessel, or from any of the West Indian agents of the line.

CRATER SMOKES ON ST. VINCENT Refugees From Threatened Districts Fed by the Authorities.

LONDON, May 9.—The Colonial Office here has received a dispatch from Sir Robert Llewellyn, Governor of the Windward Islands, in the Caribbean Sea, dated from Kingston, St. Vincent, yesterday, in which the Governor says that the Soufriere volcano, in the northwestern part of the island of the northwestern part of the island, has been reactivated in activity. Earth shocks had occurred for a week past, but not actually in Kingston. On Wednesday a big cloud of steam hung over the Soufriere and the inhabitants, who were greatly alarmed, were flocking to Chateau de Belaire. There were nearly 300 refugees there, who were being fed by the authorities.

NEW ENGLAND MEMBERS SAFE None but Native Employes of Hamlen & Co. Among Victims.

PORTLAND, Me., May 9.—News of the catastrophe at St. Pierre, island of Martinique, has caused a great deal of interest to the firm of J. P. Hamlen & Co. of this city, which is said to be the only New England business house with an office at St. Pierre. Besides dealing in Northern lumber, the Hamlens are interested in the sugar industry there and have considerable property. Their loss will be heavy. J. C. Hamlen, the junior member of the firm, says there were no New England people at the island connected with the business and he believes that none but natives were killed. He also is of the opinion that no New England or American vessels were in port, as the season for shipping lumber, ice and coal is over.

MANY ISLANDS ARE ISOLATED Communication Is Broken by Earthquake and Cable Steamer Lost.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, May 9.—All the islands in the neighborhood of Martinique are isolated, apparently, by an earthquake. Cable communication with St. Vincent, Barbadoes, Granada, Trinidad, Madeira and St. Lucia is interrupted. Fears are entertained for the safety of the cable repair steamer Grappler, which was at Martinique prior to the disaster.

Files Cured Without the Knife. Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. No cure, no pay. All druggists are authorized by manufacturers of Pazo Ointment to refund money where it fails to cure any case of piles, no matter of how long standing. Cures ordinary cases in six days; worst cases in fourteen days. One application relieves pain and restores itching instantly. This is a new discovery, and is the only pile remedy sold on positive guarantee, no matter of how long standing. Write for sample with full particulars. Price, 50c. If your druggist don't keep it in stock send 50c in stamps and we will forward full size box by mail. Manufactured by P. H. MERRILL & CO., St. Louis, Mo., who also manufacture the celebrated cold cure, Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets.

HISTORY REPEATS STORY OF POMPEII

Bulwer-Lytton's Description Applies to Lost St. Pierre.

THE appalling disaster at St. Pierre, comparable in its immensity of destruction and horror with the historic tragedy of the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, over which dreaded Vesuvius poured its death-flood of lava and showered life-destroying ashes upon thousands of inhabitants, vividly recalls Bulwer-Lytton's rare description of that catastrophe. In the famous novelist's word picture, a portion of which is republished here, all the terrible features of a volcanic eruption and its accompanying loss of life and property are presented with an abundance of thrilling detail. This description may well serve to convey an idea of the horrors at St. Pierre:

The power of the praetor was as a reed beneath the wild wind; still, at his word the guards were drawn themselves along the lower benches, on which the upper classes sat separate from the vulgar. They made but a feeble barrier—the waves of the human sea halted for a moment to enable Arbaces to count the exact moment of his doom! In despair, and in a terror which beat down even pride, he glanced his eyes over the rolling and rushing crowd—when, right above them, through the wide chasm which had been left in the velaria, he beheld a strange and awful apparition—the beheld—and his craft restored his courage! He stretched his hand on high; over his lofty brow and royal features there came an expression of unutterable solemnity and command.

"Behold!" he shouted with a voice of thunder, which stilled the roar of the crowd; "behold how the gods protect the guiltless! The fires of the avenging Orcus burst forth against the false witness of my accusers!" The eyes of the crowd followed the gesture of the Egyptian as he beheld, with ineffable dismay, a vast vapor shelling from the summit of Vesuvius in the form of a gigantic pine tree—the trunk, blackness; the branches, fire—a fire that shifted and wavered in its hues with every moment, now fiercely luminous, now of a dull and dying red, that again blazed terrifically forth with intolerable glare!

There was a dead, heart-sunken silence, through which there suddenly brook the roar of the lion, which was echoed back within the building by the sharper and fiercer yells of its fellow beast. Dread seers were they of the Burden of the Atmosphere, and wild prophets of the wrath to come!

Then there arose on high the universal shrieks of women; the men stared at each other, but were dumb. At that moment they felt the earth shake beneath their feet; the walls of the theater trembled; and beyond in the distance they heard the crash of falling rocks, an instant more and the mountain cloud seemed to roll toward them, dark and rapid, like a torrent; at the same time it cast from its bosom a shower of ashes mixed with vast fragments of burning stone! Over the crushing vines, over the desolate streets, over the amphitheater itself, far and wide, with many a mighty splash in the agitated sea, fell that awful shower.

No longer thought the crowd of justice or of Arbaces; safety for themselves was their sole thought. Each turned to fly—each dashing, pressing, crushing against the other. Trampling recklessly over the fallen, amid groans and oaths and prayers and sudden shrieks, the enormous crowd vomited itself forth through the numerous passages. Whither should they fly? Some, anticipating a second earthquake, hastened to their homes to load themselves with their more costly goods, and escape while it yet lasted; others, dreading the showers of ashes that now fell fast, torrent upon torrent, over the streets, rushed under the roofs of the nearest houses or temples or sheds—shelter of any kind—for protection from the terrors of the open air. But darker and larger and mightier spread the cloud above them. It was a sudden and more ghastly Night rushing upon the realm of Noon!

Amid the other horrors the mighty mountain now cast up columns of boiling water. Blent and kneaded with the half-burning ashes, the streams fell like seething mud over the streets in frequent intervals. And full, where the priests of Isis had now covered around the altars, on which they had vainly sought to kindle fires and pour incense, one by one the forest of those deadly torrents, mingled with immense fragments of scoria, had poured its rage. Over the banded forms of the priests it dashed; that cry had been of death—that silence had been of eternity! The ashes—the pitchy stream—sprinkled the altars, covered the pavement and half concealed the quivering corpses of the priests!

A sudden flash of lightning from the mount showed to Burbo, who stood motionless at the threshold, the flying and laden form of the priest. He took heart, he stepped forth to join him, when a tremendous shower of ashes fell right before his feet. The gladiator shrank back once more. Darkness closed him in. But the shower continued fast—fast, its heaps rose high and suffocatingly—deadly vapors steamed from the ground. He gasped for breath—he sought to escape again to fly—the ashes had risen up to the threshold—he shrieked as his feet shrank from the boiling fluid. How could he escape? He could not brave its horrors. It were best to remain in the cell, protected, at least, from the fatal air. He sat down and clenched his teeth. By degrees the atmosphere from without—stifling and venomous—crept into the chamber. He could endure it no longer. His eyes, glaring round, rested on a sacrificial ax which some priest had left in the chamber; he seized it. With the desperate strength of his gigantic arm he attempted to hew his way through the walls.

Meanwhile the streets were already thinned; the crowd had hastened to disperse itself under shelter; the ashes began to fill up the lower parts of the town; but there and there you heard the steps of fugitives crunching them wretchedly or saw the pale and haggard faces, by the blue gleam of the lightning or the more unsteady glare of torches by which they endeavored to steer their steps. But ever and anon the boiling water or the straggling ashes, mysterious and gusty winds rising and dying in a breath, extinguished these wandering lights and with

PEOPLE OF DOOMED

er Anna J. Morse, Captain Parker, arrived at St. Pierre, Martinique, April 24, and fears are expressed in shipping circles here for her safety, as it was supposed to have been there at the time of the destruction of the city. The Morse was owned by J. S. Winslow & Co. of Portland, Me.

FRANCE GETS OFFICIAL NEWS Disaster Causes Colonial Office to Display Mourning.

PARIS, May 9.—The Colonial Minister, M. de Crails, received this evening two cable messages from the Secretary General of the Government

Schooner Morse Probably Lost.

BOSTON, May 9.—The Portland schooner-

ADVERTISEMENTS. Scrofula. It is commonly inherited. Few are entirely free from it. Pale, weak, puny children are afflicted with it in nine cases out of ten, and many adults suffer from it. Common indications are bunches in the neck, abscesses, cutaneous eruptions, inflamed eyelids, sore ears, rickets, catarrh, wasting, and general debility. Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills. Eradicate it, positively and absolutely. This statement is based on the thousands of permanent cures these medicines have wrought. Testimonials of remarkable cures mailed on request. C. I. HOOD CO., Lowell, Mass.

The Menus of the notable State and Social Functions, at Home and Abroad, demonstrate the Pre-eminence of Apollinaris "THE QUEEN OF TABLE WATERS."