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A TROPIC TREMBLER. The Lively Visitor That Has Shaken Up Panama.

A Graphic Narrative of the Great September Earthquake by One Who Saw Its Effects.

San Francisco Chronicle. It is rather remarkable that Panama, lying as it does within the earthquake zone, has been comparatively free from tremors of even moderate severity, and almost entirely unvisited by those of dangerous violence. The telegraphic dispatches of the 7th of September showed, though meagrely, that this rule of happy exemption was on that day broken through, and that the whole isthmus had been shaken up to the damage of much property and to the strighting of the free Colombians. Desires of going to additional information from some one who was present at the time on the earth's aque fit, a Chronicle reporter called yesterday afternoon upon Capt. Austin of the steamship San Jose, just in port from Central America and the isthmus. With but slight variation the following is the skipper's story:

ACCOUNT OF AN EYE WITNESS. "I went down from San Francisco on the 'Clyde,' he said, 'to take command of this steamer. We arrived in Panama bay at 8:30 o'clock on the night of the 6th of September and anchored about two miles off shore. Shortly before 3 in the morning of the 7th I was awakened by a loud, queer noise, which I knew at once, from a former experience in Valparaiso betokened an earthquake. Immediately after the sea became violently agitated, though there was no tidal wave, as was the case at St. Thomas, and the steamer took a motion and a shock just exactly as if she had been running at full speed and had come ashore on a pebbly beach. Then all was quiet and still, except that from the shore we could hear the cries of the frightened people. I did not turn in again, and as soon as it was light I ordered out a boat and was pulled ashore. The town I could see was still standing, but the town's people were praying and shrieking and bellowing as though the end of the world were about to come and the preliminary trumpet had been sounded. Everybody was so badly excited that I could get no two stories alike concerning the duration and direction of the shock, but finally, by comparing notes with a few of the moderately self-possessed, I managed to make out that the shock had lasted between forty and forty-five seconds; that it had come from the north and proceeded in a southerly direction, and that the motion had been of a most sickening, oscillatory character. There seemed to have been no great shock in the nature of a climax, so to speak, but rather a long, horrid quiver of the ground, that changed the solid earth into a fluttering, flimsy thing, and took the spirit out of a man and left him like water."

A CITY IN REINS. "In a walk I took about the city I found that, almost without an exception, every house in the city had been more or less damaged. It is the fashion in Panama as perhaps you know, to cover the houses with heavy red tiles, and these were thrown around broadcast, as though the roofs had been taken off by a heavy wind, or blown inside out like so many umbrellas in a gale. The churches were all more or less injured, crosses were tottering, bells were awry, windows were smashed, niches were emptied of their statues, and the flagstones of the floors thrown up into uneven surfaces like a lava bed. The two churches that showed the most serious wrecking were the cathedral and St. Anna's, the latter losing its bell, which came toppling down almost with the first vibration. The damage sustained by the cathedral was rather more extensive, the facade between the two towers was rent from top to bottom, the campanile was overthrown, and ugly looking cracks were to be seen in the southern walls. Venturing within, I saw that the southern aisle was almost a ruin, the whole row of heavy arches separating it from the nave being badly sprung, while the roof was dangerously warped."

EFFECTS OF THE TREMBLE. "I don't know," pursued the captain, "if you have ever been at Panama. You have! Well, then, you will remember that while the Grand hotel and the cathedral occupy two sides of the plaza, on the third there stands, or stood, a solid structure used for municipal purposes, and rather grandly styled El Cabildo. On this building the force of the earthquake in the city seemed to have centered. The edifice was of the Hispano-Mauresque style, quite common in the Central and Southern American cities, but not withstanding its massive and immense bastion-like pillars, the whole front was thrown bodily out into the street, as though it had been a house of cards. One of the firmest houses in Panama was supposedly that of the American consul; but the visit it received from the temblor was one which its inmates will not soon forget, for not only was it rocked about to the imminent danger of the permanent opening of the walls, but once in a sort of cross-rock the sides gave sufficiently to let down the whole ceiling in a mass. I tried to make a tour through the lower quarters of the town, but found it impossible to do so on account of the alleys being all blocked with fallen walls, with every now and then an addition to the general ruin as some shaky old rattler came tumbling down, when all in the neighborhood would shriek out prayers anew, and call upon the firmest saints in the calendar.

THE EARTH OPENS. "But Panama," continued the captain, lighting a fresh cigar, "was not the only place on the isthmus that felt the touch of this rough visitor. The earthquake, I have said, ran about due north and south, and so struck the neck of land on the quarter, or ran across it diagonally, if you will. Aspinwall was roused from its sleep by a violent concussion, and, like the people of Panama, the Colonese ran praying and bawling into the streets. The little port on the Atlantic has no such spring buildings as the city on the Pacific, and consequently there was not so much wall-falling but all the houses, and especially the raigra house, were badly shaken, while the roofs were ventilated in the same unceremonious fashion. At Aspinwall, too, there was a new element of danger, from which Panama escaped. At Panama the ground only trembled; at Aspinwall the earth opened, the main street cracking abroad the whole of its length with a fissure which in all probability will take another earthquake to close. Strangely enough, also, while the only fatality that I heard of in Panama was that of an old woman who died from fright, and the only casualties were those which resulted from terrified people jumping from the windows, in Aspinwall there were at least two men killed from the collapse of awnings, and when I left the reports were by no means complete. Leaving Aspinwall, the earthquake went rattling obliquely from ocean to ocean, nearly following the line of the railroad I should imagine from the way in which things got knocked about. At some points the road-bed sank down bodily to a depth of five feet, carrying the embankments with it; at others it rose up in hillocks, as though it had risen in waves. The abutments of the culverts over the various water-courses were jerked out of plumb, and straight of all, in many places the rails were twisted into great cork-screws. Traffic was suspended for four days, and the mischief done will take some thousands of dollars to repair. From all the village's news received of the temblor, but as the wretched hut of the Ohagres river man is earthquake proof, the only results were a shaking up and a general fright."

How's the Baby? "How's the baby?" His cry is better this morning, thank you. We save him some of the Iron Bitters. He is now more in the hour or so. Next day the doctor pronounced the youngster cured.

New Life is given by using Brown's Iron Bitters. In the Winter it strengthens and warms the system; in the Spring it enriches the blood and conquers disease; in the Summer it gives tone to the nerves and digestive organs; in the Fall it enables the system to stand the shock of sudden changes.

In no way can disease be so surely prevented as by keeping the system in perfect condition. BROWN'S IRON BITTERS cure's perfect health through the changing seasons, clears the danger from impure water and miasmatic air, and it prevents Consumption, Kidney and Liver Disease, &c.

H. S. Berlin, Esq., of the well-known firm of H. S. Berlin & Co., Attorneys, Le Droit Building, Washington, D. C., writes, Dec. 5th, 1881:

Gentlemen: I take pleasure in stating that I have used Brown's Iron Bitters for malaria and nervous troubles, caused by overwork, with excellent results.

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