

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE.

Sinking of a Tract of Land in Trigg County, Kentucky.

CHICAGO, August 3.

A Times special from Evansville, Ind., referring to the sinking of land in Trigg county, Ky., since the earthquake of Monday night, says: From a gentleman who has just arrived from Hopkinsville, the following particulars were obtained. He says that the country about the scene is low and swampy and almost inaccessible in places, save by old, beaten paths. Much of it is wild and contains large, dense woods. Golden Pond is a mere hamlet containing two settlements of negroes, who eke out a living by working on several large farms owned by non-residents. Monday night, about 6 o'clock, several of them felt the earth tremble, but thought nothing serious had occurred beyond a slight tremor, and, after gossiping over it, went to bed.

About 12 o'clock everybody was awakened by a sharp shock and had barely jumped to their feet when the earth, with a shaking, dizzy motion, suddenly sank a distance of five feet, carrying houses and terrified darkies with it. The scene that ensued baffled description. The negroes fell on their knees in frenzied tones, "praying the Lord to save them." Others began shouting and began to bubble upward and ever and anon casting an upward glance to see if chariots of fire were not descending. Added to this pandemonium was the intense darkness which pervaded, the moon being completely obscured by heavy black clouds which hung very low and like a pall over the doomed district. Rumbblings were heard from the depths below, which gradually became louder, and numerous springs, hidden for years, suddenly found an opening and began to bubble upward in constantly increasing streams. The terrified inhabitants, not pausing for household goods or chattels, gathered their offspring hurriedly and rushed away from the doomed spot, and some of them are still putting as much distance between them and the sinking land as possible. More courageous ones only fled until they reached safe ground and there waited until daylight, when they ventured back to the scene of the night's terror and gazed sadly upon the ruin spread before them. Over 250 acres of fine farm land, including one magnificent plantation owned by Z. A. Hayden, lay from five to six feet below the level of the surrounding country, and contained about three feet of water from the springs started by the earthquake. A large area of tobacco and corn will be a total loss. Nearly all the cabins are torn loose and are floating about in various parts, while household goods are mixed up in inextricable confusion. Fortunately no lives have been lost, but the loss to property is incalculable.

The catastrophe was undoubtedly caused by the earthquake, which was noticeable in Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana at 12.37, as the rumbling sounds and vibrations felt were similar to those of a seismic disturbance. Golden Pond is about 100 miles distant from the spot where a similar catastrophe occurred about 70 years ago, when a lake of large area suddenly disappeared, leaving nothing but the bed, in the centre of which was a hole of unfathomable depth and several hundred yards in diameter.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

The barn of Elias Reist, in Penn Township, Lancaster county, Penna., was consumed by lightning on the evening of the 30th ult. All its contents, including several animals, were destroyed. Loss \$5000. Mrs. Abram Witmar while looking at the fire, dropped dead from excitement. The barn of Henry Haller, at Richville, was also destroyed, and the Port Deposit Railroad bridge at Octorara was washed away. The barns of Aaron Yeager in Pike Township, Berks county, and Daniel Wonsitner, near Hopperville, Montgomery county, Penna., were consumed by lightning on the evening of the 31st ult. Loss \$10,000. Grim's dam, covering two acres, near Boyertown, burst through its breast, eighteen feet high, on the morning of the 1st, and the torrent destroyed everything in its path. A South York, Conn. fire, on the 31st ult., lightning wrecked a dwelling, killed a young woman on the road, and made a man a boat on the river totally blind. A young woman named Sheehan, 18 years of age, was killed by lightning while standing in a yard during a storm at Yates Centre, Kansas, on the evening of the 31st ult. During a thunder storm at Hadensville, Kentucky, on the afternoon of the 29th ult., three colored persons—Solomon Snowden, Moses Watkins and Alice Cross—took shelter from a thunder storm under a tree, and all were killed by lightning. A telegram from Easton says that about twenty houses in Northampton county, Penna., and eight in Warren county, New Jersey, were damaged by lightning on the 31st ult. Many cellars in Easton were flooded, and the damage to streets and pavements by washouts is estimated at \$12,000.

The public debt statement for July, issued on the 1st shows a reduction of \$4,844,394. Total cash in the Treasury, \$456,304,301.

John Beall, aged 13 years, who has been in jail at Eaton, Ohio, for six weeks, on suspicion of having murdered his mother, has confessed the crime. On June 13th his father took his sister to town, leaving him with his mother. While they were alone in the farm house he shot her twice and then nearly beheaded her with an axe. He gave an alarm to the neighbors, saying three tramps killed his mother while he was asleep, and he awakened in time to see them leave with a watch and some money. The watch has since been found in a vault, where the boy admits signed for his crime, except anger at some favoritism he supposed was shown to his sister. During an emancipation celebration in Nicodemus,

Graham county, Kansas, on the 1st, several fights occurred, in which one man was killed and another mortally injured. The man killed was a bystander, not a participant. A fight occurred between whites and negroes on an excursion steamer, near Hickman, Kentucky, on the 31st ult. Five men were severely wounded, one of whom died on the 1st.

At Tuscola, Illinois, on the 1st, Mrs. James Hynes was gored and trampled to death by a mad bull which she was trying to drive out of her front yard.

One of the most terrible storms ever known in Berks county passed over Stroudsburg on the evening of the 1st. Many fields and buildings were flooded. In the midst of the storm four vivid flashes of lightning were seen, each followed by loud peals of thunder, and immediately afterwards Christ Lutheran Church, a mile from the town, was discovered to be on fire. The historic building was leveled, only the Sunday School organ being saved. The edifice was one of the Lutheran landmarks in this county. Its corner-stone was laid in 1743, and it was rebuilt in 1758. Two years ago it was damaged by a dynamite explosion, but was repaired. Ex-Governor Andrew Schultz was born in its parsonage, and the Muhlenbergs frequently preached there. A terrible storm passed south of Knoxville, in Tioga county, Penna., on the afternoon of the 1st. Grain was leveled and forest and fruit trees were torn up by the roots. Mrs. William Gest was killed by lightning while standing in her husband's store, at Zimmermantown, Penna., on the evening of the 1st. The foremast of the schooner Neptune, of St. John, New Brunswick, was shattered by lightning off the mouth of the Connecticut river on the evening of the 31st ult. A seaman, who stood near the mast, was killed. G. F. Fales & Co.'s dry goods store, in Milford, Massachusetts, was fired by lightning on the morning of the 2d. Loss, \$12,000. A violent storm raged near New Brunswick, New Jersey, on the afternoon of the 2d, for an hour and a half. The streets were deluged with rain and badly washed, and a dwelling had one end torn out by lightning. The boiler fires were put out in the factories of Janeway & Co., the Empire Machine Works and other buildings. Several barns in the surrounding country were struck by lightning, and the corn crop was badly damaged. A heavy wind and rain storm visited Charleston, West Virginia, on the evening of the 2d, uprooting trees, blowing down fences, unroofing buildings and overturning small houses. Great damage was done in the country around. There had been no rain in that section for four weeks.

Mrs. W. H. Lisle, of Lansingburg, being in too great a hurry to get off a train at Fort Edward, New York, on the evening of the 1st, threw off one of her children and then jumped from the coach with her infant in her arms. The mother and child fell under the cars and were killed. The other child was hauled out from under the wheels just in time to save its life.

The latest returns of the election in Kentucky, held on the 1st, indicate a light vote, with some Democratic losses. General Buckner's majority for Governor is estimated at less than 20,000, and his plurality over his Republican opponent at about 30,000. The labor vote, except in Kenton county, was "nominal." Local options carried two and perhaps three counties. There will be about 90 Democratic majority in the Legislature on joint ballot. Two Labor candidates and perhaps four Prohibitionists are believed to be elected to the Legislative Districts show the following result: Democrats, 49; Republicans, 13; Labor, 1; Prohibitionists, 1. An almost unanimous vote has been cast in favor of a Constitutional Convention, and Fayette county has voted against the whipping post.

A freight train ran into a work train at Devil's Lake, Wisconsin, on the morning of the 2d, killing Henry Flynn, of Minneapolis, and fatally injuring Peter Garrison. Two others were slightly injured.

Earthquake shocks were felt on the 2d in portions of Alabama, Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana and Illinois. The shock at Nashville was felt at 12.37 A. M. It shook some articles off a table in the police headquarters and woke up members of a fire company in the eastern portion of the city. At St. Louis the vibrations lasted five to eight seconds, the movement being from south to north, and people in the western part of the city were awakened from sleep. At Evansville, Indiana, three tremors were felt. At Jonesboro, Illinois, a rumbling sound was heard and pictures were shaken from walls. At Cairo, Illinois, the tremors lasted thirty seconds and many clocks were stopped. A vibration from south to north was followed by a tremor of twelve seconds duration.

A fire at Evansville, Indiana, on the morning of the 3d, destroyed the Armstrong Company's lumber yard, with 2,900,000 feet of lumber; Armstrong's saw-mill, stables and two dwellings and the lumber yard of John A. Reitzel's Son, with 5,000,000 feet of lumber; fifteen cars of grain on the Peoria, Decatur, and Evansville Railroad, and a large warehouse containing tobacco, grain and general merchandise. The total loss is estimated at \$250,000, on which there is about \$100,000 insurance. Incendiarism is suspected. W. J. Hill's box factory, a quantity of timber in John's lumber yard, and a dwelling adjoining the box factory, in Chicago, were burned on the 3d. Loss \$300,000; partly insured. A fire in Montreal on the evening of the 3d destroyed a number of buildings in St. Jean Baptiste Ward, making about 50 families homeless. Most of the buildings were wooden. The loss is estimated at \$100,000.

Much damage was done in the vicinity of Elmira, New York, by a storm on the afternoon of the 2d. Trees were uprooted, window glass was smashed, and the crops were ruined. The total damage is estimated at \$20,000. A severe storm passed over Louisville on the morning of the 2d.

Rain fell in torrents and large local storms covered the streets. A ferry wharf was swept away and the boat blown over to the other side of the river. Several coal barges were sunk; several houses were injured and five persons were injured by lightning. A washout occurred on the Pittsburgh Railroad, near Greenfield, Massachusetts, on the evening of the 2d, a long trestle being damaged and fifty feet of it swept away.

Near Homer, Michigan, on the afternoon of the 2d, George Burton, aged 31 years, being jealous, killed his wife, wounded his mother-in-law and committed suicide. There was an election fight in Manchester, Kentucky, on the 1st, growing out of a dispute over a colored vote, in which A. J. Hooker was shot dead. It is reported that the colored man was also killed and his body thrown into a creek. Two other whites were wounded. Frank Howard, a colored barber, shot and killed Wesley Leland, also a colored barber, in the latter's shop at New Brighton, Penna., on the 2d.

Unofficial returns from 50 of the 119 counties in Kentucky, received in Louisville, show a Democratic loss of 7000 on Cleveland's majority of 34,000. "At this rate," it is estimated in Louisville, "Buckner's plurality will be between 20,000 and 30,000."

While twelve men were on the 3d shoveling away damaged wheat from the ruins of the St. Anthony elevator at Minneapolis, the south wall yielded to the pressure of the telegraph poles and the tracks were not cleared until the morning of the 4th. J. M. Coddington, a brakeman, was so badly injured that his recovery is doubtful. Two children of Mrs. Murray Wilson were killed and she was dangerously injured by being run over by an engine at a railroad crossing in Chicago, on the afternoon of the 4th. Several cars of a train on the Newport News and Mississippi Valley Railroad, in Virginia, were thrown from the track near Greenwood, on the 4th. B. W. Pettway, baggage master, was killed, and about twelve passengers were slightly injured.

Gus Lester, a rough, residing near Parkside, Bucks county, Pa., shot his wife during a drunken brawl on the evening of the 4th, and it is feared she is mortally wounded. Emilie Revoire, one of the editors of the D'Opinion, and M. Larrien, Jr., President of the Club de la Democratie Francaise, fought a duel with short swords on the 5th on Sebastian Roy's plantation, St. Bernard parish, Louisiana. Larrien was seriously wounded in the breast and right hand by a single stroke. The difficulty was about an article in L'Opinion reflecting on the members of the club for endorsing Governor McEnery. While John Taylor, "Tim" Keenan, John Vance and Elliott Martin were on their way to court at Morehead, Kentucky, as witnesses on the 4th, they were stopped by a gang of masked men near Dry Creek. They refused to tell their business when asked, when the maskers opened fire, wounding John Taylor and John Vance, and killing Elliott Martin. It is thought their evidence could have damaged somebody connected with the recent murder of the young Logans. A sensation was caused in the court at Morehead, Kentucky, on the 4th, by a quarrel between D. B. Logan and Z. P. Young. Pistols were drawn by friends on both sides, but the cocking of the rifles of the soldiers on guard was heard. An order to load was heard from the outside, and the crowd knew that the first move on the part of either party would be followed by a deadly fire from the troops.

Fifty tons of rock fell on the 5th in the eastern end of the Cascade tunnel, now being built for the Northern Pacific Railroad in Washington Territory. Four men were killed and several were injured, but none fatally. The men assert that the contractors were careless and did not timber the tunnel fast enough to keep up with the boring.

Two of the injured in the disaster on the Newport News Railroad, near Greenwood, Virginia, on the 4th—Francis Nash, of Brooklyn, and Miss Sallie Carroll, of Roncoveet, West Virginia, are not expected to recover. Mrs. Tisdell, of New York, suffered internal injuries, the seriousness of which is not yet ascertained.

During a picnic of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers at Lake Monewa, near Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the 4th, a pleasure steamer was sunk by a squall. Five men were drowned and two or three others are missing. The bodies of Joseph Newman, George Cartright, C. H. Person and two unknown men have been recovered.

The St. James and Eastern Hotels, in Dunkirk, New York, were burned on the evening of the 4th. Loss, \$75,000. There is no insurance on the St. James Hotel, while that on the Eastern Hotel is small. The New Era Flour Mills, in Nashville, were burned on the morning of the 5th. Loss, \$45,000; insurance, \$32,000. The W. F. Washburne Brass and Iron Works, in Yonkers, New York, was damaged by fire on the morning of the 5th, to the extent of \$20,000.

The prairie fire which raged near Manhattan, Illinois, on the 4th, was got under control, but broke out afresh in another place, and swept over a thousand acres. One house was destroyed. "In some places the flame was from twenty to thirty feet high, and the running blaze an average of ten feet high. The fire went faster than a man could run." Everybody turned out to fight the fire, which was finally subdued near Matteson.

Near Etna, Penna., on the evening of the 4th, Mrs. Owen Hade left her four little children in the house while she took her husband's supper to him at a furnace, about a mile distant. During her absence the eldest child, Edward, aged 8 years, took the oil can and poured the fluid in the stove, as he had often seen his mother doing when she started a fire. An explosion followed, and the four children were covered with the burning oil. The neighbors rushed in and extinguished the flames, but the youngest child, aged 16 months, died in a short time, and the other three are not expected to recover.

Near Indianapolis, recently, John Volmor arranged a device by which, whenever a thief entered his poultry yard, a weight would drop upon Volmor. On the evening of the 3d, he was awakened by the alarm, and, when the thief refused to stop, fired at the fugitive. The latter was found to be a woman, named Sarah Ott. The whole load of shot entered her body.

As a nine-year old boy was descending a fire escape on the tenement house No. 21 Spring street, New York, on the morning of the 5th, he fell to the pavement and received injuries which it is thought will prove fatal. The police learned that Saverio Vioino and Deborah Basilonia, the parents of the boy, always locked him in the fourth-story room, where they lived, when they went to work, at 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning, and left him without food. When the boy awoke on the morning of the 5th, his parents had gone out, and he had nothing to eat for 20 hours. Hunger impelled him to try to make his way to the street, in the hope of finding some scraps of food.

The Aged and Their Habits. To most people there is something peculiarly fascinating in a description of the habits and constitution of persons who have lived to extreme old age; even if the reader is not possessed by a secret hope that he may rival them in vitality, his imagination is stimulated by the history of men and women who were born in the last quarter of the eighteenth century, living on to witness the achievements, to share the sorrows and, in their own persons, to afford matter for the scientific speculations of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The series of fifty-two cases of reputed centenarians, got together by the Collective Investigation Committee, has been analyzed by Professor Humphry, of Cambridge, who is able to state positively that, in eleven cases, two males and nine females, the evidence left no doubt that these old people were really centenarians. In the large majority of the cases the evidence is not conclusive, but there can at least be no doubt that all had attained to a very great age. Swift, in his "Voyage to Laputa," has given a description of extreme old age so appalling, and yet so nearly in accordance with every-day experience, that it is a pleasure to find Professor Humphry championing our common humanity and describing centenarians who were cheerful, retained their faculties and their interest in relatives and old friends and even showed a marked liking for making new acquaintances. The centenarians generally consist of a long-lived family, and is a person of active habits, both of body and mind, a good sleeper, endowed with a good appetite and a tranquil, cheerful disposition. One centenarian collier had always drunk as much as he could, and expressed his intention of continuing this habit, but all the others were stated either to have been moderate or very moderate in the indulgence of this taste or to have been total abstainers. The majority also did not take tobacco in any form, but one chewed the drug, another of whom four were women, smoked a great deal. Perhaps the most interesting fact which has come out of the analysis of these cases is that, though centenarians, as a rule, have not suffered much from illness during their long lives, yet a considerable number of instances were met with where even severe illness had been recovered from at an advanced age. Indeed, some of these old people seem to take a new lease of life, as the saying is, after passing four-score years, and are not only able to resist fresh attacks of the disease, but even apparently to throw off some of the chronic maladies from which they have been previously suffering. It is interesting to note that women are in a decided majority in Professor Humphry's list; after making every allowance for their comparative immunity from accident, exposure and anxiety, and their greater temperance in eating and drinking, there still appears to be reason to believe that woman possess a greater inherent vitality than man. In conclusion, we may be allowed to express the hope that Professor Humphry may live to swell the list and improve the male percentage.

H. A. Rowland professor of physics in the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, has been elected an honorary member by the Philosophical Society, Cambridge, England.

THE STURGEON. How a Great Fish is Caught Off the New Jersey Coast.

A correspondent furnishes the following: There is at least \$100,000 invested in the sturgeon fishing interest in the New Jersey end of the line, with headquarters at Bay Side, Cumberland county. The sturgeon grows rapidly, and a fish of six years old weighs 300 pounds. A big sturgeon yields from four to six Yankee buckets of roe like unto shad roe, with larger eggs, which are first rubbed through a coarse sieve, then salted and rubbed through a finer sieve till the fibre is disengaged from the egg, and the remainder, after draining, is emptied into kegs and becomes what Shakespeare calls "caviare to the general." It is then shipped via New York to Europe, where the supply is not equal to the demand. The modus operandi with a sturgeon is to cut off his tail and let him bleed, the large artery running through the tail. The roe is then taken out of the live fish. A broilaxe is then used to decapitate the fish, then the skin is taken off, the backbone or cartilage is then taken out with a sharp knife and leaves two sturgeon sides boneless. The fish is thoroughly wiped out with a coarse whalebone broom, then the fish is put into an ice-box and is shipped to New York, where it readily sells as good "Albany beef." If the market is glutted the sturgeon meat is kept till Fall in the ice house at a temperature of 4 degrees below zero, and is then found good eating. The head, tail and backbone furnish the famous sturgeon oil.

The sturgeon has no weapons of defense against the shark and flies from this lawyer of the sea. I found two sturgeon in the haul made by moonlight with the entire nose bitten off by a shark. A net entirely dry weighs 500 pounds, the cotton laid twine alone weighing 300 pounds, costing 20 cents a pound. The meshes of the net are from thirteen to fifteen inches wide, and a sixteen-foot board twelve inches wide can be shot through the net, so no shad or small fish are ever caught in a sturgeon net. A sixty-pound rock is sometimes found in the sturgeon gill net. The net is 1,328 feet long, seven feet under water, with no lead or other sinker, the weight of the twine holding the net down. The float, or cork, remains on top of the water fast to the lanyard, which is fast to the float. At each drift stay two hours before low water, from one to ten sturgeon is the usual catch, and the cork indicates when a big fish gets his gills entangled in the meshes of the net. The fish yields easily to fate and shows no game.

The water at Tampa is transparent, and a spear is used to kill the fish, but the fisherman is desperately vexed with what he calls "foul fish," the sawfish and devilfish. The latter, weighing 1600 pounds, frequently tear a net to pieces, and the sight of a sawfish drives the fisherman to shore. Frequently a 400-pound green turtle is bagged—with no market for turtle.

The sturgeon feeds down on the bottom on the crustacea, and can be seen rooting like a hog on the bottom. The savants or scientists have never discovered where the sturgeon spawns, and it may be in the Black sea or in Delaware bay, where the huge she sturgeon has been seen to shed her spawn on the surface of the bay or river in the months of April and May. At Bay Side, as soon as the fish finds himself entangled in the fourteen-inch meshes of the net, he flounders to the surface, and the stalwart piscator, with an iron hook, strikes the fish on the head and hauls the fighting sturgeon into the boat. The fish strikes hard with his tail when landed in the boat.

Oil Used Instead of Water. Oil has a fluent part in the Oriental toilet. Mothers are fond of oiling their babies completely from the little head to the little toe, and then washing them off when the skin comes out very clear and soft. This item I have from a British widow and mother who has been here from childhood, writes Anna Ballard from British India. She also tells me that a bath can be given without danger of adding to a bad cold by first freely oiling the sore chest, and that it may even remove the soreness. They generally use coccoanut oil as being the oil of the country. Oil for the forehead or a hot head, is a better cooler than water. The water dries immediately and leaves the skin burning. But in a case of either a sun-baked or thought-heated head, if a soft oil is poured on with the lavishness of cologne or plain water, the scalp actually drinks it up is the experience of this country.

The Northern nose often turns upward at the use of coccoanut oil that is not fresh. The nose of the common people is less affected in that way. In truth, there are scents worse than stale coccoanut oil. From the universal contempt-using habits of the Oriental toilet comes the frequent reference to anointing in the Bible, as of Aaron, the high priest; as also Mary Magdalen's alabaster box. Possibly the supple hand-joints of all the Oriental people have received their faculty of bending backward from their universal use of oils. Oil plays a conspicuous part in the Hindoo worship. Also the Christian Catholic Church assembly annually blesses its "holy oils."

Treasury Department. The rogues' gallery of the treasury department includes photographs of over 3,000 counterfeit makers and "shovers." The subjects vary in age all the way from fourteen to seventy, and represent every nationality, even the Chinese. There are several of the latter nationally, and it is not surprising, as those mild-eyed pagans are considered the most expert imitators in the world.

There is nothing so sweet as a duty, and all the best pleasures in life come in the wake of duties done.

THE MARKETS.

Table with columns for PROVISIONS, FLOUR, GRAIN, and WOOL, listing various goods and their prices.