DISASTERS.

FRIGHTFUL DISASTER IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Extraordinary Natural Convulsions—Destruction of Arequipa, Iquique and Towns, Villages and People swallowed up.

NEW YORK, Sept. 11.—The steamship Guiding Star, from Aspinwall, brings the following intelligence:

On the 13th ult., a terrible earthquake visited the cities along the coast of Peru and Ecuador, whereby thirty-two thousand lives were lost, and property valued at $200,000,000 was destroyed. A rumbling sound preceded the earthquake, and the sea was terribly agitated, and flooded the land for a great distance.

Arequipa, a city of thirty-five thousand inhabitants, has passed away, scarcely a vestige of it being left. Only 400 lives were lost there. Arica, a town of twelve thousand inhabitants, was also destroyed, not a house being left standing. In this town 500 persons perished. A tidal wave, forty feet high, rushed with terrific force on shore, carrying ships further on land than was ever before known. The United States steamer Wateree was carried, and all on board were lost. She had on board a cargo valued at $1,800,000. She was rolled over and smashed to atoms.

The United States steamer Wateree was carried half a mile inland, left high and dry, but only one sailor was drowned. Owing to her great distance from the sea, she can never be got afloat again.

The Peruvian corvette America was also carried ashore, and thirty-three of her crew were drowned. The American under-writer Ross, Rivera, the English ship Chancellor and the French bark Edinda were carried ashore.

The towns of Iquique, Moquego, Locumba and Pisagua, were all utterly destroyed. Over 600 people perished at Iquique. The Americans lost heavily, and nearly all the goods ruined. The towns of Ilavra, San Pablo, Atmatiqui, and Imudad, are in ruins. Where the town of Coalitada formerly stood is now a lake. The people of these towns were almost all drowned. Arica, the town of Pacacho, Pualiaro and Cachiquajo were also destroyed. The dead bodies are so numerous that the survivors have been forced to flee from the stench of the putrefying bodies.

FROM SOUTHERN SOURCES.

HAVANA, Sept. 12.—Advices have been received from Arequipa, that Arequipa, Iquique, Arica were visited with a most terrible earthquake. The shocks occurred on the 13th ult., and lasted only five minutes, but in that time over 25,000 people perished, and 25,000 were made homeless. The cities of Arequipa, Iquique, Chile and Chincha were entirely destroyed. The loss of property between Tacona and Arica is estimated at $15,000,000. The Government has promised assistance to the sufferers.

FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—Letters from Lima give additional details of the earthquake and its effects.

The shocks commenced at half-past five P. M. on the 13th of August, extending from Bolivia to the southern coast of Chile in one, and over one hundred miles inland. The towns and cities mentioned in the despatches of last night were literally destroyed. The loss of life is believed being so badly damaged as to require demolition for prudential reasons. All the towns and villages in Arica were destroyed, including the custom house, which contained over $4,000,000 of goods, all of which were lost.

The loss of the Tredonia and landing of the Waterce are described as follows:

They were both driven from the harbor of Arica, near each other. After the first shock had occurred, and while people were gazing with astonishment on both vessels, Dr. Dubois, the Surgeon, and the Captain of the Tredonia took a boat and went on shore, to inquire for the welfare of relatives and friends and to secure some of the ship. In a few moments after leaving the vessel a great wave came in shore and the boat was commenced, and the Tredonia, parting her chains was dashed about in the mercy of the sea, and finally was dashed to pieces on a reef. Nothing of the vessel was saved, and her officers and crew—twenty-seven, and twenty boys—all lost. Also Mrs. Dyer, wife of the Lieutenant Commander.

The officers names were:—Lieutenant B. Dyer, D. Organ, Master; J. G. Cromwell, Paymaster; S. Lunt, Secretary to the Commander.

The vessel was worth two million dollars worth of naval stores on board, all of which were totally lost. The Wateree was moored very anchored, but dragged her anchors, and the great tidal wave carried her one hundred and fifty yards inland, about two miles north of the ruined town. She now lies between two houses, and is very slightly injured, and it will be utterly impossible to extricate her from her position. It is only hopeful of saving her battery and stores. Only one sailor was washed overboard and drowned Lieutenant Johnson, of the Wateree, was ashore at the time, and hearing the shock while he was asleep, ran to his place of safety, she was struck by a portion of a falling house, and instantly killed.

The Peruvian corvette America shared the same fate as the Wateree, and was carried forty and thirty men. Commander Gillis, of the Wateree, after the disaster, went to the City of Winslow and Dr. Dubois, of the Tredonia, were of great service to the inhabitants, dividing their provisions among the sufferers without distinction, and employing all their medical and surgical skill.

A letter from Arica, dated August 22, says that two other vessels—the Chilean corvette and barque Eulandro—are also high and dry. The former losing her rudder. The same bagged description—rifle, cars, machinery, gun carriages, household furniture, bedding, dead bodies and mutilated corpses are lying about in confusion.

The city of Arica numbered seven thousand inhabitants, and is emblazed and almost hopelessly beggared on the beach. Three hundred lives are lost in the town. The Custom House burned nearly all that was not demolished by the earthquake, and a drunken rabble robbed and despoiled what remained. Heavy cannon were carried by force into the Custom House, and now lie buried in the sand far from the shore.

At Lima there was not much damage done, although the island heaved about four minutes, creating the utmost consternation, and the inhabitants fled to the open plains, where they sought protection from the Almighty.

Admiral Tucker with the frigate Tenebatan, left Lima with a full cargo of provisions and had arrived at Arica to succor the Americans there, and the inhabitants also. She will also save the effects of the Wateree.

The Kearsarge also reached Arica from from Coquimbo, with provisions. A French man-of-war also left Lima to aid the inhabitants at Arica and Chile to address you, and I regret that here we

Mr. Rowey, the American Minister at Lima, was energetically acting to the best of his power, in alleviating the distress. The merchants and citizens of Lima are contributing, by thousands of dollars, to supply and load vessels with clothing, provisions, &c., and the government is most energetically using all its means to alleviate the distress caused by the terrible calamity.

The Congress of Peru has unanimously passed a resolution giving the President unlimited power to succor the inhabitants of the sea-coast, and the President has issued a proclamation, and has addressed a patriotic letter calling upon Peruvians for liberal contributions, which have already been responded to—over $1,000,000 having been raised. The business houses of Lima having connections on the coast have suffered immensely; one house, that of Coles & Co., has lost over $150,000, besides all the towns and villages in the mineral province of Huanta were destroyed. What would be country ruins. The cities of Puno and Cuzco were not damaged.

The port of Mollendo, where was stored the Mexican for building Mr. Meiggs' railway, was completely destroyed, nearly all the tools, rails and provisions being ruined by the earthquake and the succeeding tidal wave.

At Callao the sea is driven over the line of houses skirting the shore at ten P. M., on the 13th, completely gutting the place, and causing the panic was extreme. Several vessels collided, but no damage was done. Next day all putting to sea. The next night a fresh shock, and in two hours the inhabitants of the place were destroyed, emulating the portion of the city No. 2 was not so much injured.

The Chincha Islands felt the earthquake and wave, but no serious damage was done there as far as known.

The cities of Ica and Pisco also suffered severely. Forty houses being overthrown, and twelve lives lost at the former place. Nearly all the people of Callao have fled to Lima. The steamship Santiago, bound from Callao to Valparaiso, put into the port of Chala, when, on the 17th, she was seized by the great wave, her chains parted and she drifted out to sea. She was lost, a few moments the wave returned towards the shore, carrying the ship with it and carrying her with all her passengers safely over a high cliff, landing her safely inside in the channel.

The town of Chala was completely covered by water. At Caldera, the wave and earthquake completely destroyed everything in the forgeer, dwellings being left a heap of rubbish, and no trace of stores to be seen. The inhabitants fled to the mountains, but many were drowned or killed. Thirty-seven dead bodies have been discovered at the last advices. At Iquique, the shock came, and destroyed all the quarters of the city, many lives, and nearly all the provisions and the condensed machinery which supplied the people with drinking water. Provisions and water have been sent from Valparaiso. The German house at Iquique lost over $100,000 worth of provisions. Here, over six hundred people were drowned.

At Arequipa, the earthquake commenced a few minutes after 5 P. M., and in a few minutes nearly every house in the city was levelled to the ground. The tower of St. Catalina's Church was the only thing left standing, and it will have to be pulled down. Nearly all inmates of the convent were killed, and the Bishop, the benefactor of those buildings. The shocks occurred at intervals, nearly one hundred having occurred in three days. The city is a mass of ruins.

The river rose in the channel, and Moses Hall is totally pouring out lava, smoke and quantities of mud. The river emits a sulphurous odor, and rocks and earth are constantly falling from the mountain crater. No one dares to go where the city was, and the survivors are living in tents on the banks of the river Pancarpa. Hundreds of persons were killed by the falling houses when the earthquake occasioned.

From Guayaquil, under date of August 20th, we have brief accounts of the earthquake in that place. Edinda was carried ashore, but no damage was done.

The towns of Ibarla, the province Imbatura, San Pablo and Atuntaqui are in ruins. The inhabitants have fled to the open plains, and are announcing to thirty thousand souls, have perished.

At Quito the earthquake commenced at 1.20 P. M., August 16th, and continued for two minutes of a few hours up to the last dates, on Aug. 20th.

All the churches, public buildings and private dwellings are already in ruins, and the people are living in tents in the great square.

The towns adjoining Quito, named Versche, and the towns of Cochaquay, have almost entirely disappeared, with their inhabitants, the few left alive are flying for their lives to escape the miasma arising from the putrefying bodies. The towns of Ambato and Latacunga are destroyed. The number of deaths in the city of Quito is not known, but the general impression is that many inhabitants had died from pestilence or disease.

A Valparaiso letter, of August 21st, says: We received there from Talcahuano state that at Mar Z. on August 14, three shocks were felt, the second of which raised an immense wave, which swept away the town of Tome, and reduced the other half uninhabitable. At Tome the same thing occurred, but here the wave did not but little damage was done. The port of Talcahuano suffered from the wave, but was not much damaged. Several small vessels were stranded, and five men drowned. The town of Talcahuano was also much damaged. At Lota, the Meritiones Islands, Pisagua, and all the cities and towns, in fact, from Copiapo to Ecuador, to the Magellan Straits, suffered more or less from the terrible calamity.

One report states that an American barque, loaded with guano, name unknown, was washed up completely in the harbor of Arica, and nothing remained of her but the keel. Terror, and desolation reigns where Arica once was. The town of Pisagua is also totally destroyed.

Tacopia, in the same neighborhood, lost sixty houses, and one hundred and fifty lives, mostly children and women, the men being at sea. The town of Chejia (?) was swept away, and only one house and one hundred inhabitants escaped. The earth has opened in several places in the plains and pampas, and water has appeared in some places; in some places hot water was poured forth from the chasms. All the habitations at Tilo were destroyed, and twenty lives lost. Three vessels with their crews were also lost. All the wharves in Arica were destroyed, as well as those in its suburbs, entailing great loss.

Among those killed at Iquique, was the British Consul, Mr. Dunlop. The American Consul Conifer was lost at Mejillones, but the crew were saved. The loss here at Iquique will cover $2,000,000.

At the Chincha Islands there was first a hurricane, then an earthquake, and then a tidal wave. Some three hundred persons perished, and a Peruvian barque was wrecked.

Four hundred tons of silver ore, with all the extensive works of the Peruvian Mineral Company, at Huantajaya, in Tarapaca, disappeared entirely away at Iquique.

The towns of Cabeta, Chancay, Caparra, Chacha, Cabecera, and other smaller places, were also destroyed. The port of Los Lomas was washed inland to the islands in the bay of Callao, by the terrible force of the earthquake. Five thousand thousand persons are without shelter, and Committees are being formed, and the ladies are making clothes, and the Government of Peru is straining its utmost to alleviate the distress.

Gen. Kilpatrick left for home on August 17.

POLITICAL.

Meeting in the Twenty-seventh Ward on Saturday Night.

A large meeting of the friends of Grant and Colfax, residing in the Twenty-seventh Ward, was held Saturday evening, at the Comanche Hall, Thirty-second and Market streets. The West Philadelphia Brass Band was in attendance, and enlivened the proceedings with a number of popular airs. The Boys in Blue of the fourth Ward marched in a body to the hall, and were greeted with great cheering by the assembly.

Gen. Chas. M. Prevost, chairman of the Grant Club, made a pleasant hour speech, in which he said that he did not propose to make a speech, and he did not think that one was necessary. There were speakers present who would interest them better than he could. He said that now is the time to labor earnestly, if we hope to vote General Grant to the Presidency. We feel that his election is certain, yet it is important that we should thoroughly organize for the purpose of securing victory in this fight, and to-morrow night, unless we fail in vigilance and duty.

The speaker retired until the enthusiastic cheers of the meeting.

Hons. Wm. D. Kelley, and James H. Campbell, and Christian Kneass, Esq., made short addresses, after which the meeting adjourned with cheers for Grant and Colfax, and the whole Republican ticket.

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