

to their fury, then drew them in.² At the same instant, 1663. the heavens being perfectly serene, a noise was heard throughout the city like that caused by a great fire. This caused all the people to run out of their houses.¹

They were then extremely surprised to see all the buildings shaken with such violence, that the roofs almost touched the ground, first on one side, then on the other; doors opened of themselves, and shut with greatest violence; all the bells sounded, though no one rang them; the posts in the palisade were fairly dancing; walls split open; boards started off and fell; animals uttered fearful cries and howls; the surface of the earth assumed a movement like that of a stormy sea; trees were twisted together, and many torn up by the roots and flung to a distance.²

It begins.
Its effects.

Then noises of all kinds were heard: now, as of a sea in fury bursting over its bounds; then like that of a number of carriages rolling over a pavement; and again, the crash that mountains of rocks and marble would make as they burst open and came crashing together. A thick dust, which rose spontaneously, was taken for smoke, and spread fears of a general conflagration. Finally, some imagined that they heard Indian yells, and were convinced that the Iroquois were about to swoop down on the colony in all directions.³

So great and general was the panic, that not only men but the very animals seemed thunderstruck: nothing was heard but cries and lamentations: men ran about in all directions, without knowing whither they wished to go, and wherever they went they met what they sought to escape. The fields presented only yawning chasms, and they expected to see the ground every moment open again

¹ Relation de la N. F., 1663, p. 6; 1663, gives a very moderate statement, and says the shocks lasted from Feb. 5 to March 15.

² Relation de la Nouvelle France, 1663, p. 3. Lalemant, Journal, Feb.,

³ M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Choix des Lettres, p. 281.