

1663. at their feet. Whole mountains were uprooted and moved from their base; some were thrown amid rivers, blocking up their course; others sank so deep, that the very tops of the trees that covered them were no longer visible.¹

Trees were hurled through the air as stark as though a mine had exploded under their roots; and some were found planted roots up. Men deemed themselves no safer on water than on land: the ice, which covered the Saint Lawrence and the rivers, crashed as the pieces came together; vast splinters of ice flew up into the air, and from the spot they left, sand and mud in abundance spirted forth. Many springs and small streams dried up; others were impregnated with sulphur: in some cases, the bed where the water had run could no longer be discerned.²

Here the waters became red, there yellow: the water of the Saint Lawrence from Quebec to Tadoussac, that is to say, a distance of thirty leagues, became perfectly white. The air, too, had its phenomena. A constant hum was heard; men saw or imagined spectres and fiery phantoms bearing torches. Flames appeared, taking every kind of form, some of pikes, others of lances, and wisps of fire fell on roofs without setting them on fire. From time to time, plaintive voices increased the terror. Porpoises, or sea-cows, were heard moaning in front of Three Rivers, where none of those creatures had ever been seen; and these bellowings in no wise resembled the noise of any known animal.³

In a word, throughout an extent of three hundred leagues from east to west, and of more than one hundred and fifty from south to north, the earth, the rivers, and the shores of the sea were for quite a time, but at intervals, in that agitation which the Royal Prophet portrays to us, when relating the wonders which attended the de-

¹ Relation de la N. F., 1663, p. 4.

² Relation de la Nouvelle France,

³ M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Choix de Lettres, p. 286.

1663, p. 4; M. Marie de l'Incarnation, Choix de Lettres, p. 286.