

1663. Then, however, although there was no wind, their sloop began to toss as though it were on a most stormy sea.

Earthquake

Unable to understand what could produce so singular a result, they looked towards the shore, and perceived a mountain which, according to the expression of the prophet, bounded like a ram, then turned around for a time as if by a whirlwind, then sank down and disappeared altogether. A ship in the wake of this sloop was not less tossed; the stoutest sailors could not keep their feet without laying hold of something, as happens in a very heavy swell; and when the captain cast anchor, his cable snapped.¹

Quite near Quebec a fire, a full league in extent, appeared in broad day, coming from the north, crossed the river, and disappeared over Isle Orleans. Opposite Cape Tourmente, there were such torrents of wild waters descending from the tops of the mountains as to carry away every thing they met. There, too, and above Quebec, the river was diverted, a part of its bed was left dry, and its loftiest banks sank down in some places to the level of the water, which for more than three months remained muddy and of the color of sulphur.²

New England and New Netherland were not spared more than the French territory;³ and throughout this vast extent of land and rivers, during the period between the great shocks, a pulsation was felt, quickening unequally, but commencing everywhere at the same hour. The shocks were sometimes headlong plunges, at others only a kind of swaying, more or less violent; sometimes they were very abrupt, at other times they increased gradually, and not a shock ended without producing some evident result.⁴ Where a rapid had existed, the river now

¹ Lespinay's sloop with Mr. de Mazé: M. Marie de l'Incarnation, *Choix de Lettres*, p. 289. 1663, p. 5; Morton, *New England's Memorial*, Jan. 26, 1663 (O. S.), p. 289; Josselyn, p. 58; O'Callaghan's *New Netherland*, ii., p. 483.

² *Ib.*, p. 296.

³ *Ib.*, p. 297; *Relation de la N. F.*, ⁴ *Relation de la N. F.*, 1663, p. 5.