

flowed calmly on without obstruction. Elsewhere the case was reversed: rocks rose amid a river, whose peaceful course was previously retarded by no obstacle. A man walking in the fields suddenly perceived the earth yawn open near him: he fled, and the fissures seemed to follow him. There was generally less motion on the mountains, but there an incessant din was heard.¹

1663.

The wonder was, that in such a strange convulsion, lasting more than six months, no one perished. God doubtless wished to convert sinners, not destroy them. Accordingly, great conversions occurred everywhere. All made general reviews of conscience, in many cases with streaming eyes and contrite hearts. Scandalous sinners publicly avowed the abominations of their past life; enemies were reconciled; evil associations ceased, and for a time there was nothing said of that odious traffic which had been the primary source of all the evil. Fasting, alms, pilgrimages, the frequentation of the sacraments, nothing was forgotten to disarm the wrath of Heaven, which was at last appeased.²

No one is killed, and all are converted.

But although the earth recovered its pristine tranquillity, men did not deem all their evils ended. Many feared that the subterranean fires which had caused such great shocks would burn up the earth and long prevent its producing any crop. Besides this, the planting season was followed by such heavy rains, that there was every reason to suppose that the grain had rotted; but to their agreeable surprise the harvest was abundant.³

Consequences of the earthquake.

It was also feared that so much moving of the earth, such revolutions in the waters and exhalations in the air,

¹ M. Marie de l'Incarnation, *Choix de Lettres*, p. 294; *Relation de la N. F.*, 1663, p. 5. The same observation was made in the earthquake of 1860: *Ferland*, p. 488.

² *Rel. de la N. F.*, 1663, p. 7; M. Marie de l'Inc., *Choix de Let.*, p. 299; *Boucher, Hist. Verit., Avant Propos.*

³ M. Marie de l'Incarnation, *Lettre* 18th Aug., 1663. The shocks lasted till late in the year: *Ib.*, Aug. 20; *Faillon, Histoire de la Colonie Française*, iii., p. 52; *Relation*, 1663, p. 26. For the seven known earthquakes in Canada, see *Dawson, Notes on the Earthquake of 1860.*