

LXVII. *An Account of the Earthquake felt at Glasgow and Dumbarton; also of a Shower of Dust falling on a Ship between Shetland and Iceland; in a Letter from Dr. Robert Whytt, Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, to John Pringle, M. D. F. R. S.*

Read Feb. 19,
1756.

THE earthquake at Glasgow and Greenock happened in the night between the 30th and 31st of December, nearly at the same time. It was felt at Glasgow, as I am informed, by almost every person that was awake, and out of bed, and also by some in bed, who were not fast asleep. There were, according to most accounts, three successive shocks, or risings as it were of the earth. It was felt not only at Glasgow and Greenock, but also at many other places in the neighbouring country; particularly at Dumbarton; as you will see by the copy of a letter I send you inclosed, which gives a more particular account of the earthquake there than I have been able to procure from Glasgow.

S I R,

Dunb. Jan. 17, 1756.

IN answer to yours relating to the earthquake felt here, there happened but one shock, and that very moderate, on the 31st of December, before one o'clock in the morning. The agitation was very sensibly

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sibly perceived by some who were in bed, and by Mrs. Weir and others who were still up. It had a sensible effect upon some birds in cages, and tame fowls; they seemed both alarmed, the first fluttering very much, and the latter making a croaking noise, as in a great fright. It shook the board out of one cage, and spilt the water which was in the glass. It was equally felt by those, who lived in ground-floors and in the second and third stories. Some sconces in Mr. Colquhoun's house were observed to vibrate during the shock: but nothing more happened worth notice. I am, &c.

As it may not be unacceptable to the Royal Society, or you, to be informed of the following fact, which I suppose you have not heard of, I was at some pains to enquire particularly into the truth of it; about which I think there can now be no doubt.

“ By a letter now in my custody, from a passenger on board the ship belonging to Mr. David Loch, merchant in Leith, and bound from Leith for Charles-town in South-Carolina, we are informed, that upon the night of the 23d or 24th of October last, when the weather was quite calm, a shower of dust fell upon the decks, tops and sails of the ship, so that next morning they were covered thick with it. The ship at this time was betwixt Shetland and Iceland, about 25 leagues distant from the former, and which was the nearest land.”

There were other letters came to this place, and to Leith, from passengers on board the same ship, confirming the truth of what I have related, and containing some of the dust. This shower was probably

bly owing to the great eruption, which happened to the mountain Hecla in Iceland, in October. I am, &c.

Edinburgh, Feb. 10,
1756.

Signed Robert Whytt.

LXVIII. *Extract of a Letter from Mons. Bonnet, F.R.S. to Mr. Trembley, F.R.S. dated at Geneva, 30 January 1756, concerning the Earthquake on the 14th of November, 1755, in Valais in Swisserland. Translated from the French.*

Read Feb. 19, 1756. **V**ALAIS is thought to have been more shaken by the earthquake than our city and its neighbourhood. I procured a letter to be written to Brigue for a particular account of it. The following is an extract of the answer of a merchant of that town, to whom the letter was addressed. I should have been glad to have had some information concerning Brigue itself, which is said to have suffered considerably; but you will find, that this merchant says not a word of it. I shall make a fresh inquiry.

Brigue, January 26, 1756:

THE earthquake felt here, happened on the 14th of November, at three in the afternoon. It proceeded from the North, and lasted a minute. The earth opened on the mountain; and the opening