

A true
RELATION
of the Terrible
EARTHQUAKE
AT
WEST-BRUMMIDGE
IN
STAFFORDSHIRE,
And the places adjacent.

On *Tuesday* the 4th of this Instant *January*, 1675-6
As it was lately communicated by several
Letters from those parts to divers eminent citi-
zens in *London*.

And likewise a true Account of the Terroure of
the Earthquake at *Kidderminster* in *Worcestershire* as it
was communicated in a Letter to an Eminent Artist
in *London* from his correspondent there.

*Lætatur Deus in operibus suis qui respicit
Terram, & facit eam Tremere qui Tangit
montes & Fumigant. Psal 103.*

With Permission *Roger L'Estrange.*

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A

RELATION

Of the late great

Earthquake, &c

WE cannot certainly forget the very blustering tempestuous Weather which happened here at *London* on the third and fourth days of this Instant *January*; the winds blowing with that impetuous fierceness & violence, as if all *Æolus* his two and thirty sons had been in an uproar; and though the damages thereby susteyned at Sea in several parts were very great, yet we shall pass them by with a silent pity, and onely mention a very rare and wonderful Accident which happened at the same time at Land; which was thus.

At a place called *West-Brummidge* in *Staffordshire*,

(4)

fordshire, within four miles of *Brummingham* (that famous Town for Iron-ware, scituate on the edge of *Warwick-shire*,) on the said *Tuesday*, the fourth of *January* instant, in the afternoon, the wind thereabouts for several days before having been very calm, and more still than is usual for the season; On a sudden a strange rushing noise was heard in the Air, and so continued for some time, to the great admiration of many people that heard it, which was the more increased for that they could not perceive any very sensible blast or strong gust of wind, which might be the occasion of such an uncouth murmur; but this their wonder was by and by forced up to the highest pitch of amazement and terror, when they began to perceive the Ground to quake and tremble under their feet.

Which it did so evidently, that Pewter-dishes fell from off the Shelves on which they were placed, in several houses; nay as it is attested by divers credible Eye witnesses, it made the very Stones in the Streets and lanes to beat and knock against one another. The Inhabitants in fear run out of their houses dreading they would be shaken down upon their heads; but blessed be God no harm was done, that we hear of. The Earthquake was not onely in this single Town, but at all other Villages neer, for several miles, in *Staffordshire*, and divers parts of *Warickshire*.

This Account was sent up to a person of good

(5)

good Repute, by Trade an Ironmonger in *Whitechappel*, from one of his correspondents, desiring to know if any such thing was observed at *London*; they in the Country apprehending it might be general.

The continuance of the Earthquake was above half an hour. which was followed by mighty violent and tempestuous Winds for two or three days together.

The true Copy of a Letter sent to an
Eminent Artist in *London*.

Sir

HERE was here this last night viz Jan. the 4th about six in the evening a noise as of motion, taken to be an Earthquake, which frightened us as if the Houses would have come on our heads; but 'twas soon over, and was perceived in most parts of this Town, and as I hear, it divers other places. Several Credible persons affirm they saw or felt the Ground rise or move, and the Windows shake strangely; but I do not yet hear of any harm susteyned. If this Intelligence may pleasure those profound Speculations into the mysteries of nature, which I understand compose a great part of your happy Studies, I am Sir, so far

Yours,

Kidderminster

Jan 5th 1675-6

T. B.

For

2 For the assisting weaker understandings, the better to apprehend the cause and reason of these Tremblings of the Earth, they must know, that Naturalists define an Earthquake to proceed from Winde or dry Vapours shut up within the Earth, and heated there by the penetrating Influence of the Sun, which puts them forwards to finde or make their passage out of caverns; and with the violence of their Irruption, the Earth to a vast distance, is moved and shaken. They happen more usually in Spring or Autumn, than Summer or Winter. and especially after great Droughts succeeded by hasty Rains. For the Earth being before chapt and cleft, the Wind and Vapours in vast quantities insinuate and get into the same, which by a sudden glut of Wet being stopt and shut up, they are forced to break their way forth in manner aforesaid. The Signs of an approaching Earthquake are either *Astronomical* or *Physi- cal*: Of the first sort are bad Aspects of the Planets *Jupiter* and *Mars* in any of the Earthly signs, as *Taurus*, *Virgo*, or *Capricorn*: Of the Second, Extreme Cold, unusual Stilness of Air, Clouds drawn out to a great length, Water in Wells troubled and stinking &c

Pliny 2 Book Chap 84. and *Gellius* Lib 2 *Noctium*, relate, That the Ancients were so struck with fear when an Earthquake happened, that they alwaies set aside a Thanks-giving-Day for their Preservation; but kept silent

(7)

silent the name of the God to whom they dedicated such festival, because they were not certain to which of their feigned Deities they were to attribute that stupendious power of shaking the Earth. And 'tis conceived by many of the Learned, that upon that most prodigious and universal Earthquake which happened at the Crucifixion of our blessed Lord and Saviour, the affrighted *Athenians* might (by reason of such their Custom) erect that Altar *Ignoto Deo* (to the unknown God) observed afterwards by *St Paul*, and mentioned *Acts* 15. Which terrible Pangs of Nature, when the God of Nature suffer'd, 'tis very probable *Pliny* means, when he saith; L, 2 Cap 84 in these words: The greatest Earthquake that has been known in the world since the memory of Man, was in the Reign of *Tyberius* Cesar, whereby in one Night Twelve famous Cities of *Asia* were thrown down and destroyed.

We shall conclude with one Story out of Ecclesiastical History; It is from *Nicephorus* Lib 13 Cap 3 who relates, That in the daies of *Justinus* Cesar, there was such an Earthquake at *Antioch*, that it demolisht a great part of the City; And that about thirty Months after, there hapned another greater than that, under *Euphemius* then Bishop there: And that at that time it was revealed by Divine Oracle, or Inspiration, to a devout and religious man inhabiting there
That

(8)

That they should write the Name of God
over their Doors in this manner,

Christus nobiscum stete.

That is in *English*

Christ is with us stand ye ;

And that this being done the Earthquake
ceased, without doing any damage.

The same Author tells of another
earthquake at *Constantinople* when *The-*
odosius Junior was Emperour, which
continued Six Moneths together, and at
last was driven away by the Peoples sing-
ing through the streets this *ANTHEM*
taught them miraculously by Angels ;

Sanctus Deus, Sanctus Fortis, Sanctus
Immortalis, miserere nobis.

F I N I S .