
ELECTRIC STORMS AT SEA.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE INTERNATIONAL.

The steam-ship International, Capt. Simpson, which arrived from Trieste yesterday, experienced a severe shock, supposed to be caused by an earthquake, and encountered two heavy electric storms, during the voyage. At 11 o'clock A. M. on Oct. 3, when the vessel was in latitude $35^{\circ} 18'$ and longitude $50^{\circ} 16'$, Chief Engineer Hall felt a violent shock, which led him at first to believe that one of the boilers had exploded. Two of the firemen rushed from the stoke-hole and cried out that something had exploded. The officers on the bridge called down through the speaking-tube asking what had exploded. The shock was felt throughout the vessel, and several of the crew said they heard a report like the discharge of a cannon. An examination showed that the boilers were all right and that the ship was not leaking. Had a sunken wreck been struck the International would have made considerable water. Capt. Simpson and his officers think that the shock must have been caused by an earthquake. The sea was rather heavy at the time, and no unusual agitation of the water was observed.

At 8 o'clock that night an electric storm set in. It was comparatively calm, but lightning flashed in all directions; and lit up the sky as brightly as if it had been day. Only one peal of thunder was heard during the electric storm, which continued for nine hours. Last Saturday night the International encountered another electric storm. This began at about 10 o'clock and continued until 3 o'clock next morning. Lightning flashes blazed in all directions. The sea was not heavy, the wind was not high, and there was no thunder. Electricity ran down the rigging and along the railings. The officers could feel it running down their arms. Their fingers frequently tingled as if they had touched a galvanic battery. The sky was kept constantly ablaze during the whole storm.

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