

SAW AN ISLAND BORN.

Startling Yarn Spun by Sailors of a
British Steamer.

A SEQUENCE OF MARVELS.

Island Proves on Inspection to Be
Purely of Volcanic Origin—Re-
sembles Giant's Causeway
to a Great Extent.

Philadelphia, Nov. 8.—The British steamer Breconshire, which has arrived from Java with a cargo of sugar, brings a remarkable tale of phenomenon witnessed while the vessel was but two weeks out of port and in the southern part of the Indian ocean.

According to the story, which is told in a manner so graphic and so free from exaggeration as to leave little doubt regarding its genuineness, the captain and crew saw thrown up by a mighty upheaval of the subterranean strata of the ocean's bed a curious island of basaltic formation and which came into existence almost in the twinkling of an eye. These curious volcanic eruptions occurring far below the surface of the sea are extremely rare, and the account given by eyewitnesses at this date, when such manifestations are supposed to have ceased, cannot fail to be of general interest.

On Sept. 15 there was noticed by the man on the lookout, just after eight bells, or 4 o'clock, a cloud looming up directly ahead and presenting a most menacing front in the pathway of the advancing craft. As far as the eye could see to the westward the entire horizon was encompassed by this wall of steam into which the captain did not care to venture until the sun would rise in the morning and he could count on at least 14 hours of daylight. The steamer accordingly hove to during the few remaining hours of the waning afternoon.

A Dooming Sound Heard.

Shortly after 10 o'clock, when a fitful moon had arisen and shed an erratic luster over the deep, a tremendous booming sound was heard. At the same moment, borne upon the bosom of an immense wave, the Breconshire mounted vertically to a point at least 20 feet above her former position on the ocean bed and to the accompaniment of an immense upheaval of water an island appeared to leeward, where all previously had been but the sea and sky.

The suddenness of the event almost deprived the crew of their senses, but they had little time to comment on the phenomenon, being obliged to look to the safety of the vessel. It was many anxious moments before that safety was assured, but apparently as though nature had exhausted herself the sea in a few moments returned again to its wonted tranquillity, the looming clouds of vapor disappeared like magic.

When the day dawned, a clear view was afforded of the island, and its volcanic origin was clearly established. It consisted of vertical columns of hard mineral arranged with wonderful geometrical exactitude, resembling very strongly the pictures of the famous Giant's Causeway. It was found to be only a small island, possibly not more than one-quarter of a mile in circumference, and at its highest point not at a greater altitude than 100 feet. In all probability the new island has been in formation for many years below the surface, and only by an upheaval of extraordinary intensity did it emerge above the surface.