

EXPERIENCING AN EARTHQUAKE AT SEA.

A correspondent of an Eastern journal writes that experiencing an earthquake at sea is a nerve-wracking sensation. Steaming or sailing along quietly in a region where there is a great depth of water and not a suspicion of danger, all on board suddenly feel the ship grinding as over a reef of rocks and the entire vessel quivers violently as if about to go to pieces. Officers and crew rush to the sides to see what has happened, but the sea shows not the slightest sign of submerged rocks or of any other material danger, and it is at once realized that they are in the midst of an earthquake. Three days before the great Spanish earthquake, of Christmas, 1884, ships in the Atlantic, at a distance of about 150 miles to the north-westward of Madeira, experienced severe shocks, which lasted from 75 to 90 seconds. The shocks were attended by a thunderous noise; those in the cabins thought that large empty, iron tanks were being rolled about on deck, while those on deck thought it was the noise of not very distant thunder, which appeared to fill the whole air. The vibration of the ship died away gradually, ending in a faint tremor, and the thunderous sound traveled south-westward, dying out in a low roar as it appeared to sink below the horizon. Such are the weird sensations attending an earth quake at sea as felt on board of a ship.

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