

HAVOC RIDES TIDAL WAVES

Appalling Fury of the Ocean When Disturbed by Earthquake.

RECORD DISASTER IN TIDAL WAVE CLASS

The Story of Arica's Awful Doom as Witnessed by a Naval Officer—Force and Fury of the Engulfing Sea.

Tidal waves are a common accompaniment of earthquakes. Seismic disturbance on land usually extends under the sea...

In the tidal wave class of disasters, that which obliterated the pretty town of Arica, near Valparaiso, Chile, in August, 1868, stands alone in appalling majesty and destructive force...

Nevertheless, behind its carnage of climate and scenery lurked the ever present fear in the native mind of another earthquake...

Besides the Waterero and Fredonia in the roadstead, were a Peruvian, also a Chilean, men-of-war, and several square-riggers...

I was sitting in the cabin when in mid-afternoon we were startled by a violent trembling of the ship similar to the effect produced by dropping anchor...

As the dust slowly settled, we rubbed our eyes and gazed again and again, believing we were the victims of a hoax...

How long did it last? I cannot tell. No one seemed to take note of time. It was a horrible nightmare, a dream from which we presently were to awaken...

unusual appearance, but all was an smiling and serene as before. Orders were given to prepare for the worst...

Of course, this was more than we could witness unmoved, and orders were given to prepare a landing party of forty men...

Next morning the pretty town of Arica, near Valparaiso, Chile, had been carried off by a heavy sea...

There lay on an even keel as if still afloat, with our bow toward the sea, our flag still flying and our starboard anchor and a hundred fathoms of chain led out as carefully as we could have placed it there...

We found near by the wreck of a large English bark, the Chancellia, with one of its chains wound around it as many times as it would go, thus showing it had been rolled over and over...

Our first work was to post a cordon of sentries, while a strong working party stove in the brandy casks and shattered the wine casks...

At that moment the sea began defying the laws of nature. Currents ran in contrary directions, and we were borne here and there at express speed...

Facing the Morro and a short distance away a rocky islet rose a few feet above

the surface of the sea. In it was a half a dozen mounds of earth, and a few men were seen on the mounds...

As the setting sun gilded the slopes of the Andes, we saw, to our growing horror, that the graves were yielding up their dead...

Having previously lowered one of our large cutters to rescue a number of persons floundering about on some wreckage, and though there was no sea running...

Meanwhile the night had fallen and we had no means of reckoning our location in the absence of the usual beacon and shore lights...

It came. With a deafening crash the vessel was overwhelmed and buried beneath the semi-solid mass of sand and wave...

Presently the motion of the ship appeared to cease, and lowering a lantern over the side we found that we were on dry land...

What of the stricken city? We found only desolation and death there. Where once had stood that pretty metropolis, a flat, sandy plain stretched out before us...

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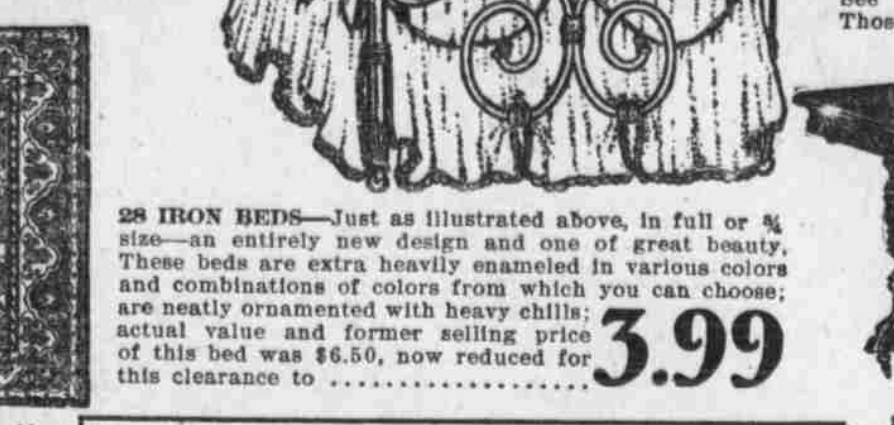
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Every now and then it is discovered that some extremely "modern" invention is in reality exceedingly old. For example, the safety pin, far from being a novelty or even of recent origin, is decidedly ancient, a fact made certain by the finding of a great many such pins, fashioned exactly like those of today, in old Roman and Etruscan tombs...

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