



Bret Harte's Best Story. Tomorrow's Oregonian will contain "The Outcasts of Poker Flat."

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PORTLAND, OREGON, SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1902.

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## THE DEAD NUMBER 40,000

### Awful Extent of the Catastrophe at St. Pierre, Island of Martinique.

## VOLCANO OF MOUNT PELEE EXPLODED

### City Engulfed in a Flow of Molten Lava and Deluged With a Shower of Rocks and Ashes—Governor and All the Colony Officials Perished—Passing Steamer Reports the Wharves of the Ill-Fated Town Piled With Corpses.

#### OTHER EARTHQUAKES IN HISTORY.

The recent earthquakes occurring in the Lesser Antilles, followed by the eruption of Mount Pelee, near St. Pierre, on the island of Martinique, which began early last week, and which resulted in the complete destruction of the old town of St. Pierre, Thursday morning, is one of the greatest disasters of modern times. In all, probably some 40,000 people were annihilated by this catastrophe.

Other earthquakes and eruptions that caused exceedingly great damage have been recorded. Pompeii, at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, was destroyed by an eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A. D. That terrific eruption in one day overwhelmed and laid in ruin Pompeii and its neighboring cities, Herculaneum and Stabia. The lava covered the city so completely that for over 1000 years Pompeii lay undisturbed, and for over 1000 years more little was discovered of the former existence of the city.

Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, has been frequently visited by earthquakes. None of them, however, approached that of 1775, which destroyed the greater part of the city, and in which 90,000 of the inhabitants perished.

The most serious earthquake in the history of the United States occurred the night of August 31, 1868. A severe shock was felt in the eastern portion of the country, extending as far north as New Haven, Conn., as far south as Jacksonville, Fla., and as far west as Dubuque, Ia. The greatest intensity of the disturbance was felt in and immediately around Charleston, S. C. A large number of buildings and other structures were badly shattered. Many lives were lost by falling walls and timber. The property loss was about \$5,000,000. These earth trembles did not cease at once, as in the manner in most seismic disturbances, but for nearly a week after the first shock the earth shook and rumbled.

**ST. THOMAS, D. W. I., May 8.**—It is now estimated that 40,000 persons perished as a result of the volcanic eruption in the island of Martinique.

The British schooner Ocean Traveler, of St. Thomas, N. B., arrived at the island of Dominica, British West Indies, at 3 o'clock this afternoon. She was obliged to see from the island of St. Vincent, British West Indies, during the afternoon of Wednesday, May 7, in consequence of a heavy fall of sand from a volcano which was erupting there. She tried to reach the island of St. Lucia, but adverse currents prevented her from doing so.

**The Volcano Exploded.**  
The schooner arrived opposite St. Pierre, Martinique, Thursday morning, May 8. While about a mile off the volcano of Mount Pelee exploded, and fire from it swept the whole town of St. Pierre, destroying the town and the shipping there, including the cable repair ship Grappier, of the West India & Panama Telegraph Company, of London, which was engaged in repairing the cable near the Guerrin factory. The Ocean Traveler, while on her way to Dominica, encountered a quantity of wreckage.

**Many Parishes Laid Waste.**  
The French cruiser Suchet arrived at Point-a-Pitre, Island of Guadeloupe, French West Indies, from Fort de France this morning, bringing several refugees. She confirmed the report that the town of St. Pierre, Martinique, was destroyed at 5 o'clock Thursday morning by a volcanic eruption. It is supposed that most of the inhabitants of St. Pierre were killed, that the neighboring parishes were laid waste, and that the residue of the population of St. Pierre is without food or shelter.

The commander of the Suchet reports that at 1 o'clock Thursday the entire town of St. Pierre was wrapped in flames. He endeavored to save about 30 persons, more or less burned, from the vessels in the harbor. His officers went ashore in small boats, seeking for survivors, but were unable to penetrate the town. They saw heaps of bodies upon the wharves, and it is believed that not a single person resident of St. Pierre at the moment of the catastrophe escaped.

**Governor of the Colony Perished.**  
The Governor of the colony, his wife and staff were in St. Pierre, and probably perished. The extent of the catastrophe cannot be imagined. The captain of the British steamer Roddam was very seriously injured, and is now in the hospital at St. Lucia. All of his officers and engineers were killed or are dying. Nearly every member of the crew is dead. Surgeon Campbell and 10 of the crew of the Roddam jumped overboard at St. Pierre and were lost.

**A RAIN OF FIRE.**  
French Official Reports of the Catastrophe.

PARIS, May 8.—The Colonial Minister, M. de Craid, received this evening two cable messages from the Secretary-General of the Government of Martinique, J. E. G. L'Hurte, sent respectively at 5 P. M. and 10:30 P. M. yesterday. The earlier cable reported that the wires were broken between Fort de France and St. Pierre, but it was added that, in view of reports that the eruption of Mount Pelee had wiped out the town of St. Pierre, all the boats available at Fort de France were dispatched to the assistance of the inhabitants of that place.

The second dispatch confirmed the reports of the destruction of St. Pierre and its environs and shipping by a rain of fire, and said it was supposed that the whole population had been annihilated, with the exception of a few injured per-

from the eruption on the island of St. Vincent is still falling here. The roads and houses are covered an inch thick. (The island of Barbadoes is over 100 miles from the island of St. Vincent.)

**LAVA FLOWED FOUR DAYS.**  
But the Most Terrible Part of the Eruption Was Brief.

LONDON, May 8.—A dispatch to the Reuter Telegram Company from Kingston, Jamaica, giving the details of the Martinique disaster already known, says: "Thousands were killed at St. Pierre, where a terrible panic prevailed. The eruption began Saturday, May 7, when St. Pierre was covered with ashes, and appeared to be enveloped in fog. The flow of lava continued until Wednesday, May 8."

The message adds: "In the island of St. Vincent the Soufriere (volcano) is active and earthquakes are frequent. So far no damage has been done."

In response to the request of Governor Llewellyn, of the islands, the British cruiser indefatigable will be despatched from the island of Trinidad to the island of St. Vincent by way of St. Lucia.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Point-a-Pitre, Island of Guadeloupe, French West Indies, dated yesterday, says:

"The Mount Pelee (St. Pierre) crater ejected yesterday morning molten rocks and ashes during three minutes, and completely destroyed St. Pierre and the districts within a four-mile radius. All the inhabitants were burned."

"About eight passengers from the Roraima, of the Quebec steamship line, were saved by the French cruiser Suchet."

"The inhabitants of the southern districts of the island, who were dependent on St. Pierre for provisions, are menaced by famine."

"The first intimation of a disaster (at Martinique) was the breaking of the cables Tuesday. The French cable to Martinique from Puerto Plata was broken Wednesday. Cable communication with all the northern islands is stopped."

**"Glimpses of Hell."**

"The survivors of the British steamer Roddam described the scene at St. Pierre as being 'glimpses of hell,' beggaring description. The Roddam's men were killed chiefly by molten lava."

"The Roraima was wrecked in a terrible upheaval of land and sea. The whole crew perished."

"Two ships were lost with all on board."



MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF MARTINIQUE.

in an attempt to approach Martinique."

A former resident of St. Pierre, now in this city, says there were about 2000 white people among the inhabitants of the destroyed town.

The Colonial Office is without word from Martinique, except that a grave disaster, the extent of which is not mentioned, has occurred, and the receipt of a repetition of the steamer Roddam's news.

The belief now exists that the British

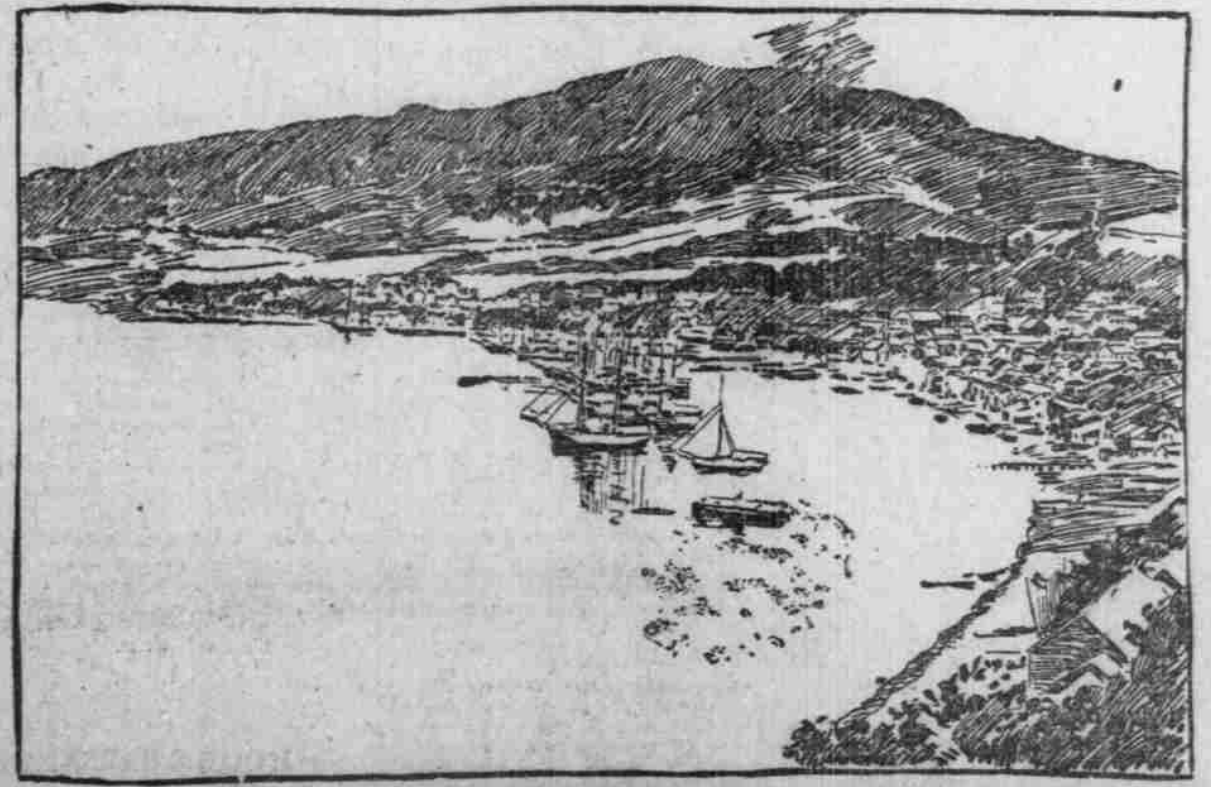
death, forming steam of tremendous pressure, when something had to give way.

**PARISIANS DO NOT REALIZE IT.**  
Catastrophe Causes Little Excitement in France.

PARIS, May 9.—Although the disaster of St. Pierre, Martinique, was known

(Concluded on Second Page.)

## ISLAND OF MARTINIQUE, SHOWING TOWN AND HARBOR OF ST. PIERRE.



SCENE OF THE CATASTROPHE CAUSED BY VOLCANIC EXPLOSION.

## AMONG THE LOST

### American Consul and Family Perished.

### IN ST. PIERRE DISASTER

### Official at Guadeloupe Confirms the News.

### NOT MORE THAN 20 ESCAPED

### Four American Vessels, He Reports, Were Destroyed in the Harbor—A War Vessel Carries Relief.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—The following cablegram has been received at the State Department:

"Point-a-Pitre, May 8.—To Secretary of State, Washington: At 7 A. M., on the 8th inst., a storm of steam, mud and fire enveloped the city and community. Not more than 20 persons escaped with their lives. Eighteen vessels were burned and sunk with all on board, including four American vessels and a steamer from Quebec named Roraima. The United States Consul and family are reported among the victims. A war vessel has come to Guadeloupe for provisions, and will leave at 5 o'clock tomorrow."

"AYME, Consul."

The State Department has been receiving dispatches from commercial houses in New York, asking that war ships be sent at once to Martinique to afford relief. The matter is under consideration.

The Consul at Martinique is Thomas T. Prentiss. He was born in Michigan, and was appointed from Massachusetts as Consul at Seychelle Islands in 1871, and later served as Consul at Port Louis, Mauritius, Rouen, France, and Batavia. He was appointed Consul at Martinique in 1900. The Vice-Consul at Martinique is Amedee Testart, who was born and appointed from Louisiana in 1898. The latest available figures show the total population of the island of Martinique at 155,000, of whom 25,000 lived in St. Pierre, and, according to Mr. Ayme, have nearly all perished.

**Fears for the Prentiss Family.**

BOSTON, May 9.—Much anxiety is felt by relatives of Thomas Prentiss, Consul at St. Pierre, in Merinoe, his native place. He is married and has two daughters, May and Christine. Miss Alice Frey, his sister-in-law, this morning received a letter from him, in which he mentioned the signs of activity on Mount Pelee, and the apprehension all had of danger. The letter was written April 23, and mention was made of the schooner Anna J. Morse, of Portland, which had just arrived, and on which he was planning to have his family leave if things looked threatening. Miss Frey believes that the Prentiss family may have gone to Fort-de-France ere this, and she expects a cablegram from them. Miss May was her father's secretary, and Miss Christine was about 14 years old.

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