

III. *Part of a Letter from Dr. Rich. Richardson, to Will. Sherard, LL. D. & R. S. S. giving a relation of a wonderful Fall of Water from a Spout, upon the Mores in Lancashire.*

I Had an opportunity when in *Lancashire* of visiting a second time a vast breach in the Ground, which was made by a Spout, which fell upon *Emott-more*. The account I took of it when I first saw it, I put into Writing; and upon a second Inspection, finding it to be pretty exact, I thought a Transcript of it, would not be ungrateful to you, which you may communicate to your Friends, and make what use of it you please. You may depend on it as true.

Tho' our printed Voyages of several parts of the World furnish us with frequent accounts of damage done at Sea by Spouts of Water, yet such rarely happening at Land, induc'd me to take the following Relation of a remarkable one, which fell on *Emott-more*, nigh *Coln* in *Lancashire*, on *Tuesday* the 3^d of *June*, 1718. about ten in the Morning: when several Persons who were employ'd in digging *Peat* nigh the place where this Accident happen'd, upon a sudden were so terrify'd with an unusual noise in the Air, that they left their Work and ran Home, which was about a Mile from the Place: But to their great surprize they were intercept'd by Water; for a small brook in the Way was risen above Six Foot Perpendicular in a few Minutes time, and had overflow'd the Bridge.

It is to be observ'd, that there was no Rain at that time on *Emott-more*, only a Mist, which is very frequent

quent upon those high Mountains in Summer time. There was a great Darkneſs in the Place where the Water fell, without either Thunder or Lightning. (as I had my Information from an Eye Witneſs) The Meadows at *Wiccolae* were ſo much floated that the like had not been ſeen in ſeveral Years before, tho' there it was a very bright Day.

Upon this account, I went to view the Place where the Water fell; tho' I believ'd this Inundation might proceed from an eruption of Water out of the ſide of the Mountain: ſuch being not unfrequent, where Lead or Coal have been Dug, but neither have ever been ſought for here. Upon approaching the Place, I was ſtruck with unſpeakable Horror. the Ground was torn up to the very Rock, where the Water fell, which was above Seven Foot deep, and a deep Gulf made for above half a Mile, and vaſt heaps of Earth caſt up on each ſide of it, ſome pieces remaining yet above twenty Foot over, and ſix or ſeven Foot thick. About ten Acres of Ground were deſtroy'd by this Flood. The firſt Breach where the Water fell is about ſixty Foot over, and no appearance of any Eruption, the Ground being firm about it, and no Cavity appearing. I muſt not forget to mention, that the Ground on each ſide the Gulf was ſo ſhaken, that large *Chafmes* appear'd at above 30 Foot diſtance, which a few Days after I obſerv'd the Shepherds were filling up, leaſt their Sheep ſhould fall into them.