

in its Eastern Limit, which was then low in the Horizon, and extended to the bright Star in the right Shoulder of *Orion*, then bearing S W. It was exceedingly bright, regular, and well-defin'd, and about the Breadth of the Rainbow; which it resembled in every thing, but its Variety of Colours. It continued thus for almost 20' Minutes, declining gently Southward, and then gradually separated and disappear'd. I am,

S I R,

Your very affectionate Friend and Servant,

W. Cowper.

XXVIII.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Taylor, Vicar of Portsmouth, to Mr. Roderick, concerning an Earthquake felt there, March 18. 1749-50.

Portsmouth, March 25. 1750.

Read March 29. 1750. — I SHALL give you some Particulars with regard to the Earthquake, which was felt here on *Sunday* the 18th instant.

The first Part of the preceding Week was fine Weather. *Wednesday* Night it became damp and cold, and continued so all *Thursday*, with Mists. *Friday* was a fine Day; *Saturday* damp and cloudy; *Sunday* Morning fine. Just before 6 in the Evening we had some large Drops of Rain, and a Thunder-
O o o o Cloud

Cloud passed to the SE just as the Earthquake happened.

The first thing perceived was a Shock, like the sudden Stop of a Body in Motion; a kind of jarring. This was succeeded immediately by a gentle Motion, nearly in the Direction between East and West; which made 3 or 4 slow and deliberate Vibrations. Those who sat facing the East or West were moved backward and forward; and those who faced to the North or South were moved sideways. The Whole was attended with a Noise like that of Thunder at a very great Distance. It lasted, as I judge by different Accounts, about 4 or 5 Seconds.

I do not hear of any Explosion. The Sashes and Door in my Chamber shook, as in a Blast of Wind a little stronger than ordinary. Several, who were on the Battlements of the Church, felt it more violent, and heard the Bell-Frames and Floor shake and crack. Few on the Ground, or in Motion, were sensible of it.

It was felt at *Havant*, 7 or 8 Miles to the East, and at *Fitchfield*, 7 Miles to the West.

It passed to, or from, the *Isle of Wight*, where it affected the Ground-Floor, as much as the Chambers here. It ran along the Coast between East and West; but I have not heard that it was perceived at Sea, or went far inland.

I am informed it has been felt at *Guernsey* and *Jersey*; so that if it moved horizontally, it must be a considerable Depth under-ground; the Soundings from hence to those Islands being, in some Places, 45 or 50 Fathoms: So that I flatter myself, that the small Resistance which it can meet with

at Sea is so disproportionate to what it must encounter under so many more Fathoms of Earth, that a more violent Return will rather open and discharge itself there, than do us any considerable Mischief at Land.

XXIX.

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. Benj. Cooke
F. R. S. to Mr. Peter Collinson, F. R. S.
of a Shock of an Earthquake felt in the Isle
of Wight, March 19. 1749-50.*

Isle of Wight, March 26, 1750.

Read March 29.
1750. **B**ESIDES the Shock, which hap-
pen'd here about 6 in the Evening
on the 18th Instant, as has been mention'd in the
public Prints from many neighbouring Places, there
was another, which was felt by some betwixt 3
and 4 o' Clock next Morning: But whether this
latter was as extensive as the former, I cannot yet
learn.

In the Evening Shock, a Gentleman of my Ac-
quaintance was sitting alone in his Parlour by the
Fire with the Doors shut; the Spaniel-Dog, which
lay as it were asleep before him, was so terrified at
the unusual Motion, that he ran round the Room
in the greatest Fright and Confusion, as endeavour-
ing to find a Way of Escape.