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Flame Height of the Mount Blanc Explosion

On the morning of the 6th of December, the day of the above explosion, I was steaming in towards the Harbour and about fifteen miles from the sea, I happened at the time to be looking in that direction as if watching for it altho I little expected to see anything unusual, then suddenly I saw an immense column of smoke shoot up to a very great height with two or three angry looking flames of fire projecting some distance above its summit; The flames were visible but less than a second like a flash of distant lightning and could be seen in several places through the column of smoke.

There was no shock felt anywhere on board of the ship not even a slight jar, but some minutes afterwards two loud reports in quick succession.

The extreme altitude of the flame was about 40,000 feet which at that distance (15 miles) would give the height of the flames to be about 12,000 feet, or nearly that.

This altitude is approximate but very near to a correct result; as the spot in the smoke where the flames disappeared was easy to locate

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