

## A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHILIPPINE EARTHQUAKES

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On account of their suddenness and destructive power, earthquakes make a strong and lasting impression on the people and are apt to be the subject of written accounts and oral traditions. The Philippine Archipelago is a field of great seismic activity. The Catalogue of Philippine earthquakes from the end of the sixteenth century up to the present time is a convincing proof that the Philippine Archipelago has been shaken frequently by strong earthquakes. The city of Manila was practically levelled to the ground in the San Andres earthquake of 1645 and in the earthquake of June 3, 1863. A country situated in a zone of great seismicity is bound to possess a rich literature on earthquakes. However, the literature on Philippine earthquakes is not compact, but scattered through many volumes of chronicles, official reports and private letters: it is not uniform, some accounts being accurate, concise and adequate, while other reports are wholly inadequate and evidently written under the pressure of mental stress, surprise and fear. Some authors base their reports only on the manifestations of the forces of Nature and on actual facts, while other writers show a tendency to mingle the effects of earthquakes with expressions of Divine wrath or human vindictiveness, making it very difficult to separate facts from fiction. To a scientist, then, whose duty is to make researches on Philippine Seismology, a bibliography on Philippine Earthquakes would be a welcome assistance of paramount importance.