

What These **SIGNS OF THE TIMES** Things Mean

EARTHQUAKE
SPECIAL



San Francisco's magnificent City Hall, which cost six million dollars, as it appeared before the Earthquake. The lower picture shows it in ruins.



EARTHQUAKE
SPECIAL

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES



The Home of the "Signs of the Times."

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THE EVERLASTING AND SURE REFUGE

[Abstract of a Sermon Preached by the
Editor at Oakland, Cal., Sabbath,
April 21, 1906.]

"What then shall one answer the messengers of the nation?—That Jehovah hath founded Zion, and in her shall the afflicted of His people take refuge." Isa. 14: 32, A. R. V.

FROM the standpoint of pure human reason we must believe that a God infinite in knowledge, wisdom, power, and love, created a perfect universe in which every part of His dominion was a safe place for His creatures. When from His hand came this earth, He pronounced it "very good," and gave it to man as his eternal home, sweet, peaceful, safe.

The Cause of All Trouble.

Where, then, is the trouble?—Sin entered. The highest law of the universe, the law of eternal character, the law of everlasting righteousness, was transgressed, perverted, and in consequence all laws beneath that higher law were also perverted.

When sin entered God's dominion through Lucifer the highest of all God's creatures (Isa. 12: 12-14; Eze. 28: 11-15), he fell, and all God's universe, bound together by the one Life, felt the perversion, and since that time the universe has suffered. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Rom. 8: 22.

Object-Lessons to the Universe.

When man, the king of this earth, sinned, perverted in himself—the highest of God's creatures in the earth—the law of character eternal, he perverted every law below it. All physical law responded. Accursed became the ground for his sake. Perverted and abnormal growths in the vegetable world sprang forth. The earth and the universe became perverted. Suns exploded into meteors. Comets were formed. God permitted the perversion that men might see the aberrant, destructive power of sin, but He preserves His universe. So God has permitted it in this world that the lesson might be learned, and learned forever, that **only in righteousness is continued life of either the spiritual or the physical, and that the physical is dependent on the spiritual.** "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." Prov. 12: 28. **A righteous universe could never grow old.** The life and love and unselfishness of God and His creatures, all-pervasive, all-powerful, would keep it perennially young.

The Mistake of Science.

Scientists will not recognize the great God of the universe and His creative power. They will not recognize this great fact of sin, and its consequences.

Reason, therefore, they may forever endeavor to formulate and deduce normal laws for the universe from the aberrant laws of a perverted nature, and they are often bound to go wrong. Would they but recognize God, and the great fact of sin, all problems would be easier.

What Follows Sin.

Sin existing, age ensues. Man grows old and dies. Trees and plants and animals grow old and die. The soil gets old and must be constantly renewed or enriched. The stars seem to grow old as has the moon and the earth. God foretold it: The earth "shall wax old as doth a garment." Like an old man, it groans and heaves and quakes, and loses temper. Therefore the cyclone, the volcanic eruption, the earthquake. And all these will continue to increase in frequency and violence till God's voice shall cry out of Zion, "It is done," and the whole earth shall shake, and the cosmos shall become chaos preparatory to its everlasting recreation. When that awful earthquake shall have come, then will it be fulfilled, "The cities of the nations fell." See Joel 3: 16; Rev. 16: 17-19.

Character rests on voluntary acquiescence to right law—God's law. That man might learn His law God must permit to follow the consequences of perverted law. Man can not sow cockle and get wheat. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." In the shakings and quakings and tremblings of earth God is teaching man that the earth is waxing old and its dissolution is drawing nigh.

There Is No Sure Refuge

in a sin-cursed earth. It has no sure foundation. What would men and women not have given to have found a refuge which they *knew* to be safe in San Francisco on that fateful April 18. The very refuges they had builded turned to heaps of debris. The earth itself seemed to be enlisted against them, no longer a resting place, but a huge monster to crush them. From infancy to old age, man finds no sure refuge in any of the material things of this world. Seeking he is ever, but finds it not. It is neither in gold nor silver; many would have given it freely to get out of San Francisco on that awful morning. It is found not in stocks nor bonds nor houses nor lands. Not all the wealth of the world can buy off the grim guest of every household—Death.

"The Grave?" Yes; there is the refuge of oblivion in the grave; but man was born of God to live and not to die. Is there refuge which tunnels the grave and carries us through its deep darkness to the evergreen fields of life beyond?—There is. God knew that the nations and the messengers of the nation would ask it now, even as in Babylon of old.

"What, then, shall one answer the messengers of the nation?" There are worldly cities, but there is no sure refuge there. We can not say flee to Oakland or to Chicago or to New York or to London. The next great convulsion may include one or all of these, and the proudest steel towers which men have builded may be reduced to scrap heaps.

There is a city which can not be moved, the foundation of which is character. "God hath founded Zion."

A Tested Foundation.

The foundation of the city of God is laid in the tried character of Christ Jesus our Lord. The same prophet from which our text is taken declares: "Behold, I lay in Zion a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone of sure foundation. He that believeth shall not be in haste." Isa. 28: 16. "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3: 11.

What a mighty contrast is this foundation to that which earthly cities furnish. Those who builded, and thought they builded well on good foundation in San Francisco, made all possible haste to flee in the time of calamity; but he that builds in Zion shall not make haste, or as elsewhere quoted, by inspiration, "shall not be ashamed or confounded." No confusion shall come to him who builds on this foundation.

That we may learn how to build aright we must know how the foundation was laid. Space will not permit us to tell one-tenth of what we would be glad to say. We may learn it, however, from the Scriptures, which are revelations of the trial through which Jesus Christ passed that He might be the corner stone and the place of refuge for all God's children. Listen:

"Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, becoming in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross. Wherefore also God highly exalted Him, and gave Him the name which is above every name." Phil. 2: 5-9.

The Emptying of Self—Filled with God.

When Christ Jesus was here upon earth He revealed not Himself, He came not to reveal Himself. In all that He said, in all that He did, we have not the revelation of the Son of God, but the revelation of the Father in human flesh; and in order that that revelation of love and power might be perfect He emptied Himself so that God might fill Him, and that God might be revealed to the needy, longing hearts of the children of men. Again and again do we hear such expressions from His lips: "I can of Mine own self do nothing;" "The words that I speak are not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me." He yielded Himself that God might be manifested; He stepped down from His glory with His Father, through every plane of created intelligences, down to death, tried on every plane, of angels and of men, and revealed God's character in every trial. Wherefore God exalted Him. In His human flesh He suffered and was tempted as were we; "for it became Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings." "Wherefore it behooved Him in all things to be made like unto His brethren, that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted." Heb. 2: 10, 17, 18.

"Who in the days of His flesh, having offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and having been heard for His godly fear, tho He was a son, yet learned obedience by the things which He suffered; and having been made perfect He became unto all them that obey Him the Author of eternal salvation." Heb. 5: 7-9.

One more scripture just before He faced Gethsemane and the cross, found in the twelfth chapter of John: "Now is My soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour?" The agony of Gethsemane echoed the same prayer, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from Me." But He came to seek and to save, and so, instead of praying, "Father, save Me from this hour," He said, "But for this cause came I unto this hour," and prayed, "Father, glorify Thy name."

And God glorified His name, in suffering, even to the very limit, meeting every temptation of the enemy, enduring every cross, despising the shame, and conquering that He might lay the sure foundation for everlasting righteousness which could never be moved.

It is character that counts, it is character which endures, and on that everlasting character in Christ Jesus the saved of God must build, and for such characters God will found His everlasting kingdom which will endure forever.

Would We Find the Refuge in Zion?

Then must we build on the sure foundation Stone. There is no other way but God's way. We may question and quibble, we may doubt and reject, but if we are saved at all, and if we find the refuge at all, it must be in Christ Jesus, "Unto whom coming, a living stone, rejected indeed of men, but with God elect, precious, ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,

(Continued on page 12.)

Signs of the Times.

"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the Gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

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OUR EARTHQUAKE SPECIAL.

Why? Why?

AS the journal having the largest circulation in the East of any paper published on the Pacific Coast, the publishers of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES believe it duty to issue a special number devoted largely to the great calamity which has befallen the fairest section of the Pacific Coast.

They have endeavored to secure accurate accounts from conservative eye-witnesses; after the excitement is over, and reason bears sway. From various localities, cities, towns, and vil-

lages, typical of many other places, we give the news by pen and camera.

they will ever waken; or waking find it an even more terrible reality, claspings in its appalling agony and crushing tentacles the years of the future.

Many, very many, have no hope in the life or the world beyond this existence and this poor earth; and when the earthquake crushed their building or the fire fiend doomed it, they lost their all.

It is to give these simple, heart-rending, heart-touching, awful facts, which, on every hand, stares one in the face, that this paper is printed by those among the losers.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

TUESDAY night, April 17, the people in one of the fairest sections of the Pacific Coast, stretching, roughly speaking, from San Luis Obispo on the south to undefined

buried his steel talons in the fibers of California's heart, and crushed and tore and shook her into the agonies of death.

Short work did the demon make of it,—only a half-minute or less, and the work of destruction was wrought. Never Titan so wrought before in modern western history of which the books tell. And when the paroxysm of his rage was over, the beautiful towns of Santa Cruz, San Jose, Gilroy, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, and others were in ruins, and San Francisco's entire business portion was doomed. From east to west some say the convulsion came; others, from north to south. The great temblor's signature on another page will show that the movements were in every conceivable direction, straight impulses, gyratory, circular, twisting, up and down, till exhaustion came and the earth was allowed to rest for awhile.

"Terra firma" we denominate the old



A view of San Francisco from Nob Hill, taken soon after the earthquake and just when the great fires were gaining headway. All the district covered by this view was subsequently swept clean by the flames. Notice the broken chimneys on the buildings in the foreground.

lages, typical of many other places, we give the news by pen and camera.

The reader can see to some extent what these cities were and what they are; what they were before the mighty forces of a perverted nature came up out of the earth and seized them in their grasp for a brief one-half minute, and what they are since.

The millions in the East will wish to see and know what the thousands of the West are seeing and feeling, many of them in hopeless despair; many, alas! are beyond the seeing and feeling and knowing, crushed into unrecognizable mass, burned in desolating fires, dying in various forms as result of earthquake and holocaust.

The fearful cataclysm still seems to many a horrible dream from which they wonder if

regions in the mountains, beyond Ukiah on the north, went to bed as usual, expecting to awake to a usual day on the morrow.

The most of them were awakened with an awful shock which brought from many lips, "The world has come to an end!" "The judgment day has come!"

After the first shock was over, at 5:15, where were prosperous business centers, builded of brick or stone, were ruined walls, and piles of brick and mortar, while everywhere broken and falling chimneys and crushed and toppling water tanks met the eye.

All who could get out-of-doors left the houses, clad or half-clad, often in their night garments and barefooted.

It seemed as tho an infuriated giant demon had reached up from the interior of the earth,

earth. Those who experienced the shock of April 18, 1906, will call this planet "firm earth" no longer. They have seen it more restless than the sea, and far less merciful in its abnormal moods.

But the stars still glow in the evening sky, and the sun still shines, and trees still stand, and grass and flowers are still kissed by the sun and dew, and nod in the spring breeze.

God rules still, and is above the storm and the tempest and the earthquake—and from this awful blow will He bring good to those in harmony with Heaven.

"SHOW me Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths. Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me; for Thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day." Ps. 25:4, 5.

The "Queen of the West" Laid Low

The Awful Quake and Holocaust

IT is hard to be believed that the Queen City of the Golden West, which yesterday was reigning in glory, in voluptuousness, in wealth, in pride, is to-day laid low in the dust.

Yesterday, like Babylon of old, she was the glory of cities, and the beauty of California's excellency. Her magnificent public buildings, her gilded palaces, her beautiful and extensive parks with their evergreen foliage, their ever-blooming flowers, vied with the famed gold-covered palaces and hanging gardens of the city of nations of old. And like Babylon's king of old, her merchant and mining and marine princes said, "Is not this great San Francisco, which we have built by the might of our power for the honor of our name?" forgetting God, who ruleth over the kingdoms of men.

Like Tyre of old she was a "merchant city," aye, the "merchant city" of the West; like Tyre, she dwelt at "the entry of the sea," "the merchant of the people unto many isles," and to her, as to Tyre, came a multitude of all kinds of merchandise and riches. Her bank clearings exceeded that of all the great combined cities of the West, to Salt Lake City and Helena. The value of her buildings erected yearly increased from \$6,300,000 in 1900 to \$21,900,000 in 1905. Her increase in shipping the last five years was in imports more than \$4,900,000; in exports, \$23,500,000; in tonnage 972,000.

All the state was dependent upon her. A little town might be as near Stockton or Sacramento as San Francisco, the chances were that it ordered all its flour from San Francisco.

For all large orders local merchants depended on her wholesale houses. It was the great central market, the emporium, the trade center of the West. When the awful blow fell upon our modern Tyre, California north of Tehachapi was for several days paralyzed.

But the city,

"the Pride of the Pacific" is laid low. Mortal pen will never tell the story of the day and the night which followed that awful shock of Wednesday morning. Read the words of one who passed through the fearful agony, Mr. Fred J. Hewitt, quoted by Mr. Hibbard in another column.

Noted Buildings.

The City Hall which cost \$6,000,000 is a wreck, and the after heat of the fire of the city, which poured its inferno over the mighty pile, cracked the granite fence next to the sidewalk near no consumable material save green grass, till it peeled like poor plaster from a wall.

The Emporium and Hale's, the great stores of the city, stand as empty walls, wreck and ruin peering out of the eye-holes of windows and doors.

The walls of the Call Building, the Palace Hotel, the Flood Building, the New Chronicle Building, and some others still stand seemingly uninjured, but everything consumable, burned on the inside.

But such are few. Gray, smoky desolation marks

with probable insurance at \$175,000,000. It is thought that most of this will be paid.

The Loss of Life?

Nor can any one tell this. Not till God's judgment books their records unfold will we know the number who perished as the result of that awful cataclysm. San Francisco papers persist in placing the list at not over 500. But their own records indicate more. For instance, in the awful holocaust of Telegraph and Russian Hills, which the fire encircled so quickly that all hope of escape was cut off, it is said that more than 150 perished. For instance, 200 bodies were found in the Potrero district south of Channel Street, and were cremated. For instance, forty bodies were taken from a house, 119 Fifth Street, a four-story wood building. Again and again we are told that hundreds and hundreds must have perished in the instant wrecks of big lodging houses, hotels, etc.

The dead must have numbered from 1,000 to 1,500. God alone knows, He only can tell the number.

The Power of the Earthquake

is incredibly awful. Now a fair, great growing city; in twenty-eight seconds it is a wreck! Mighty walls of brick and stone crumble like sand; great steel girders are twisted and broken like straws; streets heave and swell and fall and rise; the half-minute is over; the city is an appalling wreck, hundreds are dead and dying, the greatest earthquake of modern history, measured in gold, is over; and men stare and cry and gaze stunned and broken and helpless before such dynamic forces, the coming and going and power of which none ever measured.

Was It "an Avenging God?"

Rather, was it not the fruit of awful

wickedness and the mercy of God which brought the awful catastrophe? Like Babylon and Tyre in their preliminary punishments, was not this modern proud and beautiful Babylon and modern thrifty Tyre meeting the fate that her open, flaunting, God-defying wickedness invited?

A young Baptist man, said that he told his wife that some great judgment would come on San Francisco on account of the awful, open wickedness practised, and they must get out. They did so a few weeks ago; and he remarked when the first shock came that San Francisco was sunken or ruined. Who warned him?

Not Alone for San Francisco.

Not to San Francisco alone comes the warning. It has come many times from godly men,



A view in San Francisco from Union Square, taken before the fire. The high building on the left with the clock tower is the Chronicle Building. In the center stands the tall Call Building. The high building between hides the Examiner Building shown on the opposite page.

Seven or More Square Miles

in the city part of the Tyre of the West. Acres and acres and acres are completely stripped of everything standing save occasional chimney stacks and iron telegraph poles.

Sometimes a ruined wall, all that is left of a noble pile, faces you like a gaunt, drear relic of an age past and gone. Street-car tracks were twisted, cable slots were open and shut, streets dropped from inches to feet, and rails were bent and twisted as one would bend a copper wire.

The Loss in Dollars?

No one knows. It has been estimated at \$100,000,000; at \$500,000,000; at \$1,000,000,000. Insurance men say \$300,000,000,

but they were laughed at. It so came to Babylon unheeded until the hand of fire wrote her doom upon the palace wall, "Weighed, and wanting." Read, fellow pilgrim of earth, Isaiah 13; Jeremiah 51 and 52; and Ezekiel 26 and 27. These are lessons for us, for New York, for Chicago, for every other place forgetting and defying God.

Will the lesson, the fear, awaken only impulse to do better, or the principle to do right?

SAN FRANCISCO.

AS A description of the stupendous crisis through which we San Franciscans have just passed, I wish to substitute that of one (Mr. Fred Hewitt, in the *Examiner*) who was awake and in the midst of the very worst when the crash came. He wrote under the inspiration of the moment, and for that reason has given a touch to it that I have read from no other pen. It is better and fuller than I could possibly write, for I was in bed, and wakened only in the worst of that dreadful scene. His description follows:

I was within a stone's throw of that City Hall when the hand of an avenging God fell upon San Francisco. The ground rose and fell like an ocean at ebb tide. Then came the crash. Tons upon tons upon tons of that mighty pile slid away from the steel framework and the destructiveness of that effort was terrific.

I had just reached Golden Gate Avenue and Larkin Street, and had tarried a moment to converse with a couple of policemen. With me were two local newspaper men. We had just bid good-by to the officers, who proceeded down Larkin Street to the City Hall station. They had gotten midway in the block when the crash came.

I saw those policemen enveloped in a shower of falling stone. Their lives must have been blotted out in an instant.

"Keep the middle of the street, Mac," I shouted to one of my friends.

"That is the only avenue of escape," returned he.

We staggered over the bitumen.

An Eternity.

It is impossible to judge the length of that shock. To me it seemed an eternity. I was thrown prone on my back and the pavement pulsed like a living thing. Around me the huge buildings, looming up more terrible because of the queer dance they were performing, wobbled and veered. Crash followed crash and resounded on all sides. Screeches rent the air as terrified humanity streamed out into the open in an agony of despair. Affrighted horses dashed headlong into ruin as they raced away in their abject fear.

Then there was a lull.

The most terrible was yet to come. The first portion of that shock was just a mild forerunner of

what was to follow. The pause in the action of the earth's surface couldn't have been more than a fraction of a second. It was sufficient, however, to allow me to collect myself. In the center of two streets I arose to my feet. Then came the second and more terrific crash.

The street beds heaved in frightful fashion. The earth rocked, and then came the blow that wrecked San Francisco from bay shore to ocean beach, and from the Golden Gate to the end of the peninsula.

As if in sympathy for its immediate neighbor, the old Supreme Court building danced a frivolous frolic and then tumbled into the street. Beneath that ruin of stone and brick were buried the blue-coated guardians of the city to whom I had been talking a few minutes before. That few minutes, however, seemed to me a century.

Praying to God.

The second upheaval was heart-rending. It made me think of loved ones in different portions of the country. It turned my stomach, gave me a heart-ache that I will never forget, and caused me to sink upon my knees and pray to the Almighty God that me and mine should escape the awful fate I knew was coming to so many thousands.

Down Golden Gate Avenue the houses commenced again their fantastic, ogreish dancing. One

Bent steel girders and huge blocks of decorative stones made their sleeping-place beside all this.

A cloud of deep dust hung tenaciously about the City Hall. I realized that there something dreadful had happened. I peered into the cloud, but I could not see even a mark of that building. And as I waited, the dust began to settle. First showed the steel shaft on which had for so long floated the country's flag. Imbedded in a ton of steel block, the entire mass had shifted many feet, but still maintained its position atop that pile of structural steel. As the wind carried the dust away and uncovered the ruins, there stood a mountain sheared of all its crowning glory. It could be fittingly compared with a mountain that had passed through a forest fire.

The dome appeared like a huge bird-cage against the morning dawn. The upper works of the entire building laid peaceably—if that term can be used—in the street below. I thought of those guardians of law and order whose headquarters are in the basement of the hall on the McAllister and Larkin Streets corner, and wondered if the sergeants and office men on duty had escaped. I thought of those angels of mercy nursing their patients in the Central Emergency Hospital and the physicians there, all of whom I knew from personal contact, and

whom I had learned to respect and revere, not so much for their ability and cleverness, but because of their usefulness to me in my capacity as a newsgetter. I wondered if they had escaped death as they stood by to help the injured that might have been brought to them.

After I had drawn myself together I found my way to my home, where, thank God, the wreck had not been as complete as many others I had witnessed. Then it was that I realized the condition of an excitement-crazed populace. Herds of huddled creatures, attired in next to nothing, occupied the center of the streets, not knowing what would happen next or which way they would turn for safety. Each and every person I saw was

Temporarily Insane.

Laughing idiots commented on the fun they were having. Terror marked their faces, and yet their voices indicated a certain enjoyment that maniacs

have when they kill and gloat over their prey. Women, hysterical to an extreme point, cried and raved for those they loved when they were standing at their elbow. Mothers searched madly for their children who had strayed, while little ones wailed for their protectors. It was bedlam.

Strong men bellowed like babies in their furor. All humanity within eyesight was suffering from palsy. No one knew which way to turn, when on all sides of them destruction stared them in the very eye. A number of slight tremors followed the first seven series of shocks. As each came in turn fearful agony spread over the countenances of the afflicted ones. Terror stamped its mark on every brow.

Then an unnatural light dimmed the rising sun and the word went forth from every throat:

"The city is ablaze. We will all be burned. This must be

"The End of This Wicked World."

From down south of Market Street the glare

(Continued on page 10.)



On the left side of the picture is the San Francisco Examiner Building, or what was left of it after the fire. On the right side is the Call Building. The walls stand in tact with all woodwork burned by the fire.

long line of frame buildings tottered a moment and then, just as a score or more of terror-stricken, white-shirted humanity tried to reach the open, it laid flat. The cries of those who must have perished reached my ears, and I hope that never again this side of the grave will I hear such signals of agony.

God's Mercy.

I turned about from that point of view to shut out the terrible sight, but what went on on all sides seemed to be just a repetition of what I had already witnessed. Looking up Golden Gate Avenue, I saw tons and tons of brick and stone coping poise for a fraction of a second on beam end and then plunge into the street below. Then it was that the idea flashed through my mind that God is merciful. What would have been the loss of life had the Almighty allowed that earthquake to occur in midday?

Suddenly, as sharply and as abruptly as it had begun, the end of the temblor came. Ruin endeavored, it seemed, to outdo ruin. A world of structural work found resting-place on mother earth.

What Do These Things Mean?

TO be an infallible guide, the Bible must be able to instruct in all things pertaining to life and godliness. Such instruction, to be competent, must reveal the eternal purpose of God concerning this earth and its inhabitants. This purpose being a fixed one, God's omniscience must foresee and make note of those events which are to affect the destiny of His people. To believe otherwise would belittle the Creator, and make Him unworthy of confidence in time of dire need.

Taking this view of the Bible, we are compelled to believe that the terrible calamity just visited upon the Pacific Slope is significant, as indicating something for which the people ought to be prepared. The havoc wrought in San Francisco, San Jose, and other cities of California, was not wholly accomplished by the shaking of the earth. In San Francisco particularly, fire of the most persistent character followed, devouring the most formidable structures the art of men could devise. This is remarkable in one way, because these two elements are represented in God's Word as accompanying agencies for the destruction of those whose sins have become so flagrant as to provoke the indignation of Heaven. Isa. 29:6.

By the combination of these two elements the destruction of the world will be accomplished in due time. Speaking on this point the prophet says: "And the seventh angel poured out his vial [of wrath] into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth,

scenes which followed it beggar description. Rich men lost their all, and were reduced from affluence to poverty. Poorer people were reduced to beggary, and cried like children. So much confusion prevailed that martial law was proclaimed. But calamitous as was this recent occasion, the event predicted in the foregoing scripture will bring infinitely greater

to the rocks and mountains to fall on them, and to hide them from the face of Him whose wrath they have provoked by their glaring enormities in sin. Rev. 6:14-16. But rocks and mountains can not then bury them away from impending destruction; for as in previous foretastes of that day, fire springs up in all directions, and consumes them from off the earth.

That this is not a fancy sketch, we have



A view from the ferry-boat Berkeley on its way from Oakland to San Francisco, taken the morning of the earthquake when the fire had well started. The tall tower is the center of the Ferry Building, the fire tug at the right.

distress, so much so that "the mighty man will cry there bitterly," for that day will be "a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness." That day will be "the day of the Lord's wrath," in which "He shall make a

only to refer again to scripture. Speaking of the attitude of those who will make light of the evidences of Christ's near coming, the apostle Peter says such are willingly ignorant of the fact that by the word of God the world was once destroyed by water. He then adds: "The heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:4-7.

Such a sure and terrible ending of all things sinful must be reserved for a definite time in the purpose of God, who could not be true to His declared merciful character should He fail to give warning of its direct approach. When the Saviour was asked what signs would herald His second advent and the end of the world, among other things He said: "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and great earthquakes shall be in divers places." Matt. 24:1-8; Luke 21:10, 11.

The first really great earthquake to be noted in history since that prediction was made, is that of 1755 in Portugal, when Lisbon was overthrown. Since then they have occurred in ever-increasing rapidity, until quite recently they have followed almost upon the heels of each other. Within ten years Stromboli erupted, following an earthquake. Mount Pelée soon followed, carrying great destruction in its wake. Within three months Vesuvius has vomited forth fire, ashes, and lava, destroying at least two towns and threatening others. These, to say nothing of an earlier disturbance affecting Charleston on the Atlantic Coast, with others in South America, Central America, and in other countries, are a sure indication that we are approaching the end of the world, according to the prediction of the Lord Jesus Himself.

But, as if to make this doubly sure to us,



A view showing the power of the earthquake in front of the new Post Office Building, Seventh and Mission Streets. This street was previously level. The new Post Office Building was not greatly injured.

so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell; and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." Rev. 16:17-20.

Those who passed through the recent earthquake will corroborate the statement that the

speedy riddance of all them which dwell in the land." Zeph. 1:14-18.

At this time the ethereal arch of heaven will pass away as a scroll being rolled together, and every mountain and island will remove. Then all men—kings, rich men, chief captains, and earth's mighty men, with the bond and free—will hide together among the rocks of the hills, and in one mighty chorus of lamentation, cry

there now comes unheralded the sad catastrophe in California, breaking down and destroying important centers of industry. This also must be accepted as a premonition of the great and terrible earthquake before which all the cities of the nations will soon surely fall, and the accompanying fires of the last day which will complete the destruction of all sinful things.

He who pays heed to this warning and lets the Lord direct his ways, will certainly escape the general ruin, because he will have found shelter under the protecting wing of the Almighty. A thousand shall fall at his side, and ten thousand at his right hand, but it—the destruction—will not come nigh him, because he has made the Lord his refuge, even the Most High his habitation. The angel of the Lord shall keep him in all his ways. Ps. 91: 5-11.

In that day, every earthly thing will be removed by the terrible shaking it will receive. One thing alone will remain, the word of God, because it can not be shaken, hence must stand forever. Fixed on this, one will be safe, even tho the earth be removed out of its place. Heb. 12: 26-28.

Shall we not, then, learn the lesson God would have us study in what is occurring about us, and so yield our hearts to be controlled by Him that our lives may be moulded after the fashion of His own, and we be prepared to meet those things that are so rapidly coming upon the earth? God grant that we may.

J. O. CORLISS.

Francisco. Owing to her close proximity, it was but natural that

Oakland

should lead in this noble work. Tho badly shaken up herself, this city escaped with the loss of only seven lives and comparatively few

Every house of worship not condemned as unsafe was turned into a hospital, restaurant and lodging-house. The popular churches threw aside their thumb-worn creeds, and forgot their large profession and their little deeds, in their zeal to minister to afflicted humanity the milk



A view on the south of Market Street, showing acres and acres of the devastated business districts, in which all that can be seen is smokestacks, iron telegraph poles, and ruined walls.

of her brick buildings. As in the case of her ill-fated sister city, Oakland's sky-scraper, a steel structure, stood the shock the best of any building. Every office in its thirteen stories,

of human kindness. All told, Oakland cared for about 30,000 refugees. Martial law was proclaimed in all of the large cities about the Bay.

Berkeley

also extended her helping hand, caring for about 10,000 of the homeless San Franciscans. Her university campus was converted into a refugee camp, and her halls and churches and hotels were also thrown open, as well as the homes of her citizens. The buildings of the University of California escaped the earthquake's devastation, and were turned into Red Cross hospitals, dispensaries, and lodging-houses. Strict sanitary precautions were taken by the authorities, to avoid pestilence and disease.

Alameda

also shared her surplus and even necessities with the homeless people from the stricken city, taking in several thousand refugees.

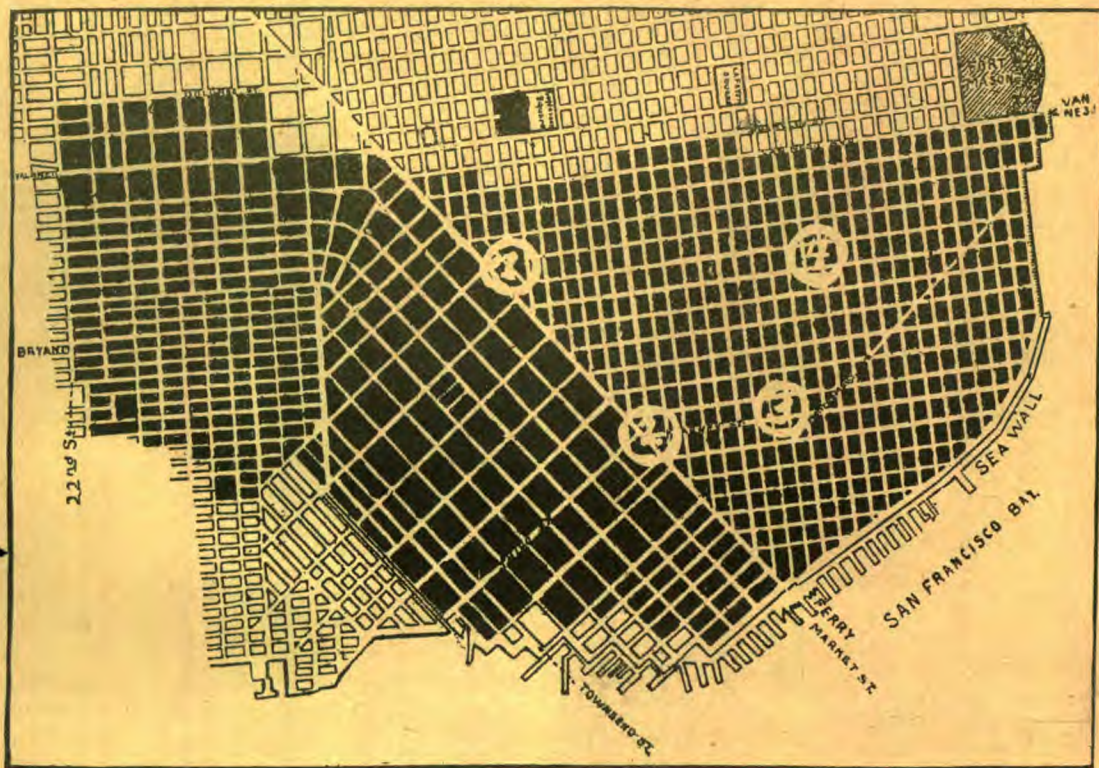
Further Particulars.

All of the great San Francisco newspaper plants having been wiped out of existence by the great temblor and the flames, the *Call*, *Chronicle*, *Examiner*, and *Bulletin*, were obliged to remove their headquarters to Oakland. The publishers immediately had their papers printed at the offices of the *Oakland Tribune* and *Herald*. Thursday morning, April 19, in fact, the three leading dailies of San Francisco printed a combination, four-page paper, entitled *The Call Chronicle Examiner*.

A Hopeful Spirit

seems to pervade the atmosphere. The newspapers breathe a spirit of buoyancy and good cheer, and seem to hurl proud defiance even at the elements, boasting of their tall sky-scrappers as "great, scarred giants that withstood the shock of earthquake and the destructive flames."

(Continued on page 11)



Map of the burned district, from the Ferry Building to Van Ness Avenue, and from Channel and Twenty-Second Streets to North Beach, seven square miles. 1. City Hall. 2. Call Building. 3. Chinatown. 4. Nob Hill.

SAN FRANCISCO'S SISTER CITIES TO THE RESCUE.

Oakland, Berkeley, and Alameda.

TOUCHED by the sad plight of their sister city, San Francisco, the Bay cities came nobly to her assistance. Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, and other sister cities less afflicted, vied with each other in their warm-hearted efforts to extend shelter, treatment, food, and comfort to the refugees from San

is now occupied. Having escaped the scourge of fire, Oakland immediately forgot her own woes in the effort to relieve the awful distress. Homes, churches, hospitals, public halls, and the parks, were thrown open to the refugees; and rich and poor strove with each other to excel in deeds of kindness. Storekeepers stripped their shelves and gave their goods away; householders emptied their wardrobes and pantries to relieve distress. Every citizen seemed to belong to the Relief Committee.

How San Jose Fared

THE city of San Jose, like so many of its sister cities in California, has made forced obeisance to the perverted powers of nature.

San Jose is known throughout the country as the Garden City of California—beautifully situated, practically every residence a flower

believed that there were many more lives lost than have been reported. Nineteen are admitted to have perished in this city. Some declare the number to be double that. For instance, the management of the Hotel Vendome state that "one man was killed and several injured" there; but he who can look

upon the picture of the wrecked building and conceive how one hundred and twenty-eight of the one hundred and twenty-nine inmates of the Annex escaped with their lives certainly has very strong faith in human resistance. We saw buildings whose whole tops were crushed in by bricks and stones from the tops of other buildings. The sidewalks are broken, dented, or shattered in front of many

buildings by the great stones that were thrown down from the higher structures, in a veritable bombardment. Look where you will, it is but



Hotel Vendome Annex. Out of this mass of wreckage 128 of the 129 occupants are said to have escaped alive. It seems an impossibility.

garden, well supplied with buildings good to look at, artistically constructed, and seemingly strong to resist any ordinary manifestation of nature's forces. Some of these buildings were years in process of construction; millions of dollars were put into them. So far as outward appearances went, these buildings were as good and as strong as men could make them.

In twenty-eight seconds the best that men could do was leveled with the ground or stood tottering like a reeling inebriate. All that men had put dependence in of that nature was swiftly proved a broken reed.

First Street, the finest street of San Jose, lined on both sides with substantial and wealthy business enterprises, is a trembling wreck from end to end. No single structure in all that stretch of brick and steel and stone buildings is without its mark of devastation. Some that appear to have weathered the upheaval in a fair degree are found on closer inspection to be unable to withstand a common forceful breeze; and have been condemned. Some of them will be torn down piece by piece; others, too dangerous even to be torn down, are to be blown down with dynamite. Massive stone-pillared fronts are shattered and seamed, their very seeming massiveness only accentuating their treacherous weakness, and making man's strength and man's ingenuity appear frailer and less dependable by comparison with the elements that are pitted against him.

Added to the great expense of building is the other great expense of unbuilding what nature seemed content to leave standing. Practically the whole of First Street comes down, or requires outlays of means which are nearly, if not quite, equivalent to the original cost of the structures.

But First Street did not suffer alone. The writer drove over a considerable part of the city, and found everywhere the striking evidences of the fearful temblor. It is stated that there is not a whole chimney in that city.

There is an effort on the part of many in this city to minify, rather than magnify, the results of the earthquake. It is firmly be-



Pacific Coast Business College and Home Union Store.

broken stones, shivered timbers, plaster, heaps of brick, twisted iron frames, and tangled wires. Persons not generally considered timid are camping in their dooryards or in the parks, and companies of militia and special police are guarding the city.

In walking the length of First Street one is surprised at the number of buildings it has been found necessary to prop at top and bottom to prevent their pitching into the street. In various parts of town, residences are set off from their foundations. Some of them crushed or driven back upon their haunches, with porches torn off or tilted at

dangerous angles, the buildings propped and braced to prevent serious accidents while they are being torn down.

Imagine a hale, strong man, smitten in death while still standing, and propped up that he might present an appearance of life. Such is but a weak representation of how San Jose impresses the one who has looked upon what it was and now sees it as it is.

The financial loss is now placed at \$3,000,000. It is impossible to conceive how it could be rebuilt as it was for any smaller amount.

LAST-DAY DELUSIONS.

THE Lord is not always in the earthquake. We have one notable exception, which warrants the assumption that there may be others. When Elijah, suddenly frightened by the threat of Queen Jezebel to take his life, fled to the wilderness, the Lord sent an angel to comfort him. As he lodged in a cave, word came to him to go and stand upon a mount before the Lord. "And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake." He had nothing to do with these interruptions. "And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire." That was another outside interruption. "And after the fire a still small Voice." This was the voice of God, and from it Elijah received instruction concerning his future work.

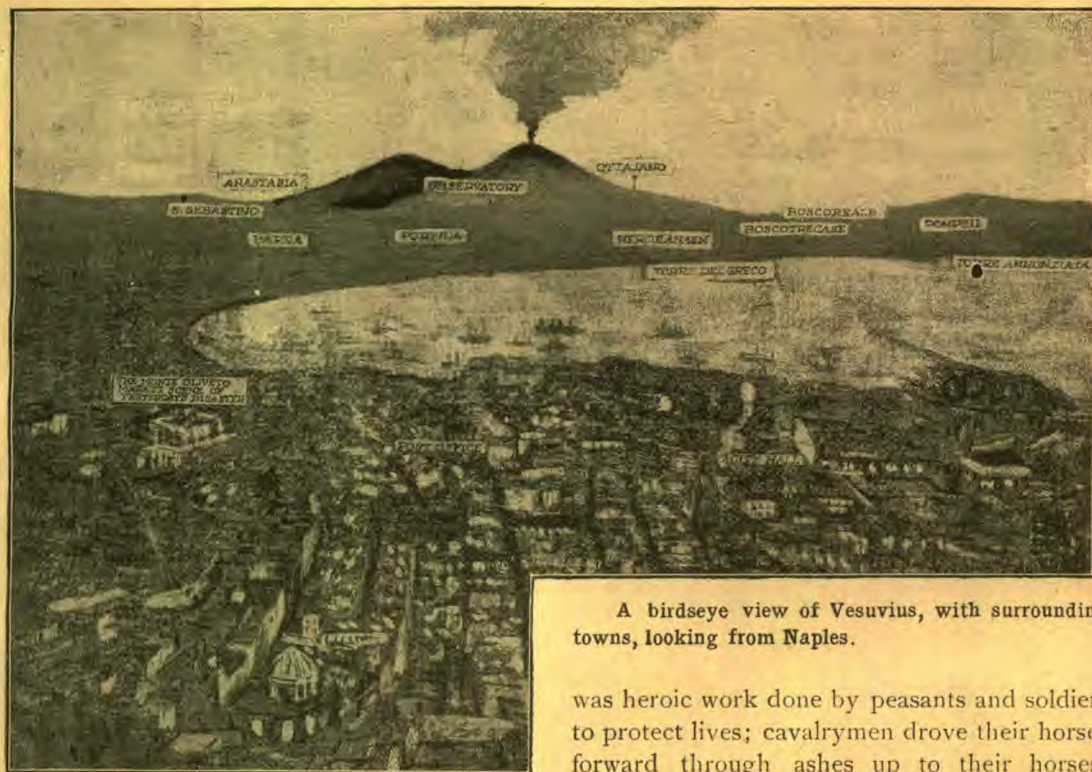
The wonderful demonstrations were evidently the work of the adversary in order to distract the attention of the Lord's prophet, and make him believe that the great commotions were the work of the Lord. Could this have been effected, Elijah would have looked to the instigator of the earthquake and the fire for his instruction.

The Scriptures recognize Satan as "the prince of this world" (John 14:30; 16:11) and "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). He is also able to appear as "an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14), and through his agency a certain earthly power is yet to arise that will be able to call down fire from heaven to deceive men (Rev. 13:11-14). So, through the ex-



Hobson's Store—a complete wreck, under which three persons were buried. Two of these were rescued alive.

citement of these great phenomena, men can be led into all manner of extravagant theories (Continued on page 9.)



A birdseye view of Vesuvius, with surrounding towns, looking from Naples.

VESUVIUS IN ACTION AGAIN.

THE latest eruption of Mount Vesuvius will pass down in history along with the destructive eruptions of A.D. 79 and 1631. In the first of these Pompeii and Herculaneum were buried, and in the second about 18,000 persons lost their lives. The destruction of property during the present eruption is far greater than that which followed any previous one. The lava streams and showers of sand and ashes have spread over a much larger area.

Populous towns and villages clustering around the base of the famous volcano have been depopulated and destroyed. Several of them have been buried in the ashes which for many days have been emitted from the throat of the crater; and streams of lava have poured down the mountain on all sides, destroying orchards and vineyards in their course.

Over the wasted towns and the stricken country the great funnel of angry-colored smoke goes up by day and night, or bends now this way and now that, like a mighty sword of vengeance. Vesuvius stands like a great rapid-fire gun pouring an endless rain of projectiles into the sky, which fall on all sides in a perfect rain of death. It has been likened to a great forge, to a mammoth caldron, to a huge, flaming brazier, and still words are incapable of conveying to the mind an adequate description of what has been going on there. Vesuvius had been grumbling for a long time at irregular intervals; but the people had become accustomed to these, and had planted their vineyards and orchards well up the treacherous slopes, and towns were built far inside the danger line.

With little warning the outburst came, and the hungry lava began a resistless flow down upon dwellings and towns, and the falling ashes buried everything in a pall of gray. In the midst of it all the stricken people moved about, some half-dazed, others nearly frantic with grief over the loss of homes and loved ones. The crippled, the aged, and the children found it in many places impossible to wade through the ever-deepening mulch of loose sand and ashes, and many of these were lost. There

was heroic work done by peasants and soldiers to protect lives; cavalymen drove their horses forward through ashes up to their horses' flanks to rescue those in danger of perishing. In one case, carts laden with children became blocked, and the little ones, fearing they were to be abandoned, scattered in every direction in the darkness and could not be found again.

In certain places where churches and market places were crowded with people, these collapsed from the weight of ashes, and hundreds were killed. The superstitious vainly carried about with them the images of saints to insure the protection of their lives, or placed such images in the paths of lava streams in futile endeavors to stay the flow.



A view in San Francisco showing the reign of martial law and the needs of the survivors of the awful calamity. The men with muskets are soldiers standing guard over a typical bread line, men in rank receiving bread as it is dispensed at one of the many temporary commissary departments. Such ruins as these may be seen everywhere in the burnt district.

Thousands of the refugees fled to the city of Naples; but this city, too, was deluged with the volcanic rain till its streets and roof tops were covered with ashes to a depth of several feet. In this city two hundred persons were killed by the collapse of the market place.

Boscotrecaz was destroyed by a stream of glowing lava that approached and flowed over

the place soon after midnight, leaving but a few landmarks to show where it stood.

There have been various estimates of the number of lives lost, but the exact number will probably never be known. It is placed as high as two thousand; and the immediate property loss is said to be \$20,000,000, while the continued loss from year to year from the untillable nature of the land will be very great. After the eruption of 1872, it was ten years before the ash-covered land would produce crops of any kind. It will probably be longer than that before these devastated vineyards and orchards will be planted again, and these years will give Vesuvius ample opportunity to replenish her arsenal for another mighty demonstration.

S.

LAST-DAY DELUSIONS.

(Concluded from page 8.)

and follies, thinking that they are led to the Lord, and that the Lord is causing all the commotion.

Especially in the last days does Satan come down with "great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Rev. 12:12. Were it not for God's merciful limitations of Satan's power, there would be far more destructive disturbance of the elements than we have yet seen.

Before the Flood in Noah's time, the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man" (Gen. 6:3), and when it ceased to plead with that rebellious world, the Deluge came. And the Lord has told us that "as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son

of Man be." Matt. 24:37. And the Scripture also informs us that the next general destruction will be by fire. See 2 Peter 3.

If we cling to the Word of God under all circumstances, no power on earth, no disturbance of the elements, no "wonderful works" of any character (Matt. 7:21-23) need ever disconcert us or lead us astray.

G.

Stanford University

President Jordan Makes Statement Regarding Earthquake

THE injuries to Stanford University by the earthquake of April 18 are in brief as follows:

1. Wreckage of the Memorial Church by the fall of the heavy spire, which crashed through the nave, the air blowing off the upper part of both ends of the church. The walls generally, of steel construction, are intact, but the building is ruined.

2. Wreck of the unfinished library. The great dome and its steel supporters are unharmed; their swaying completely wrecked the rest of the building.

3. Wreck of the new gymnasium, brick faced with stone.

4. Wreck of parts of art museum which were made of brick faced with cement. The central part of concrete strengthened by steel rods is intact.

5. The Stanford residence in San Francisco, a huge wooden structure, heavily built, was



Stanford Memorial Chapel, built in memory of Hon. Leland Stanford by his wife at a cost of \$1,000,000 for the building and \$600,000 for the decorations, containing many beautiful mosaics.

tory building least, the incomplete mining building most.

12. Roble Hall, women's dormitory, of concrete with steel wires, is absolutely unharmed except for the fall of two ornamental chimneys.

13. Encina Hall, men's dormitory, a very large, finely-built stone building, was injured by the fall of stone chimneys, one young man being killed. The building also has a serious crack in each of two corners, but is otherwise unharmed.

The wooden buildings on the grounds lost only chimneys and parts of plastering. No injury was done to books, and very little to apparatus or collections. The working part of the university as distinct from its architectural effects is little harmed. The most effective part of its architecture, the inner arcades with their Spanish arches and towers, is wholly undisturbed.

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

Doctor Jordan adds in a later note:

The quadrangles, chemistry building, and dormitories will be at once repaired. The Memorial Church, not so badly wrecked as supposed, will have a temporary roof and will be protected. No attempt will be made to re-



Arch at the entrance of the Quadrangle, with Memorial Chapel in the distance.



Arch at the entrance of the Quadrangle after the earthquake.

not harmed by the earthquake, but is completely consumed by fire.

6. The inner quadrangle and engineering shops, of heavy masonry and one story high, are unharmed.

7. The outer quadrangle contains four large buildings reinforced by steel, the laboratories of zoology, botany, and physiology, with the temporary library and assembly hall. These are virtually unharmed.

8. The power-house was wrecked by the tall stone chimney, which was snapped off like the lash of a whip.

9. The Memorial Arch had its upper part snapped off and is split almost to the base, so that it is an entire wreck. This structure was of brick, reinforced with steel and faced with stone.

10. The chemistry building lost all its chimneys and is externally damaged by the fall of part of its stone facing. The building and its contents are little injured.

11. The four large buildings of the outer quadrangle, of brick unreinforced, and faced with stone, are somewhat damaged, the his-



Memorial Chapel after the earthquake.

store that or other large outside buildings for a long time to come—probably not until some donation is made for the purpose. Next term will begin August 23. In haste,

JORDAN.

San Francisco

(Continued from page 5.)

grew and grew. The flames shot heavenward and licked the sky. It looked as if the end of the world was surely at hand.

For an hour or more after that terrible shock which shook the buildings of all San Francisco to the very foundations, people wandered about in an inane fashion. There was no attempt at concerted action to hold the sufferers. People were stupefied. And meanwhile the fire burned and burned.

Thus Saith the Lord:

"The earth mourneth and fadeth away; the world languisheth and fadeth away; the *haughty people* of the earth do languish."

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof,—(why) because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that were therein are desolate; there-

fore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left."

"The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise [think of it—noise!] of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it."

"The city of confusion is broken down; every house is shut up, that no man may come in." "In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction."

"Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass,

If I thought did, He I would have no respect for such a God." We answered: "No doubt, my friend, many people in Noah's day said they had no respect for a God who would bring a great Flood upon the earth." "I don't believe there ever was a Flood," rejoined the physician. This is but one of many like remarks that I heard during these days following the earthquake. So many are determined to ridicule and scoff at the Bible and all that it

to your chest. Bayonets are fixed. All guns are loaded with ball cartridges. All instructions are to shoot to kill. Every one in San Francisco is at liberty to leave the city, but no one from the other cities about the Bay is allowed to enter the ruined city without a military pass from the governor of the state. Each morning a line of about 2,000 men and women may be seen slowly winding in and out of the City Hall in Oakland, all waiting for a permit to go to the burned metropolis. A curious crowd they are—mothers anxious to return to find their children or husbands, eastern relatives searching for dear ones that lived in the burned district, laborers looking for work, etc. Many are refused the passes. On Sunday last I read the following glaring posters on the front of the Oakland court house:

"Notice to the Public!"

"It is absolutely imperative that people remain away from San Francisco.

The going of people from this side of the Bay disturbs the efforts that are being made to relieve the conditions there."

"Notice!"

"Those people seeking their relatives are advised to wait another day."

"Notice To the Public!"

"This is no occasion for people to attempt to gratify their curiosity. It is imperative that all persons obey these instructions."

The Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 12th and Franklin Streets, Oakland, was like a swarming bee-hive from morning till night. Throngs of refugees registered there and found at the hands of willing volunteer clerks vital information regarding their loved ones. Many, however, turned away with sad, tearful faces, not having heard any news, good or bad. By recommendation of the Relief Committee, any destitute person was secured free transportation to any part of the state, and often to remote parts of the United States, all of the great railways being generous to the extreme. For once one can truthfully deny the trite allegation that "corporations have no soul." The railway officials collected no fares

that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare; for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake."

"The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again."

This is the word of the Almighty concerning "the end of this wicked world." The people of San Francisco were wrong when they thought the final stroke of God's justice had fallen on this wicked world. They were right in that they were impressed with the proximity of its approach.

But the twenty-fourth of Isaiah is not confined to the ungodly and their impenitence.

"When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done. They [the remnant thus symbolized] shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord, they shall cry aloud from the sea. Wherefore, glorify ye the Lord in the fires, even the name of the Lord God of Israel in the isles of the sea. From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous." Verses 13-16.

O man of this world, O woman of earth, flee from the wrath to come. Seek the mercy of your God while probation's moments linger.

E. J. HIBBARD.

San Francisco's Sister Cities.

(Continued from page 7.)

So Many People Are Blind

to the meaning of these catastrophes. They refuse to accept them as warning from the Almighty to get ready for the great consummation of all things earthly. I was standing with a physician on Washington Street, Oakland, when another prominent physician stepped up to talk the situation over with us. My friend and I remarked that this great disaster was but an introduction to other worse ones that are to precede the second coming of Christ. The newcomer sneered and said: "I don't think God had anything to do with this earthquake!

predicts concerning the last days. On the other hand,

Many Interpret Aright

the catastrophe of Wednesday, April 18, 1906. Scores have said, within my hearing: "God wants to remind us that He is running things." "I thought surely the end of the world was upon us!" "God made the country; man made the cities." "This made us remember our God." "We all began to pray to our forgotten God." And other like expressions.

The Financial Side.

Among the many services which Oakland will now be able to render to the entire State, may be mentioned those of a financial nature. The Oakland banks will handle the clearing for all California for a time. These banks are sound, and possess ample facilities to meet the extraordinary demands which they will be called on to meet. Governor Pardee, whose headquarters are in Oakland, issues, from day to day, a proclamation making every day a



Arches of the entrance to the university grounds after the earthquake.

legal holiday, thus closing all banks in the State until the standing of the great San Francisco banks can be determined.

Martial Law.

The cities about the Bay have now become great military camps. Every attempt to enter a public building without the proper pass from the police or military authorities, is promptly met by a soldier presenting the flat of his gun

from refugees on all out-bound trains from San Francisco, on either side of the bay. One paid if one chose—otherwise it was all right. The great ferrysystems did likewise on the bay.

Our Denominational Property in Oakland

including the large church on 12th and Brush, the former buildings of the Pacific Press Publishing Company, and the headquarters of the Pacific Union Conference, at 1059 Castro Street,

all escaped without any damage to speak of. All of these were frame buildings.

Oakland Shelters Chinatown Refugees.

It is safe to say that over 10,000 Chinese refugees from San Francisco's far-famed "Chinatown" found a refuge in Oakland. Their business blocks, lodging houses, and opium-joints having vanished in the great holocaust, the citizens of "the Newer and Greater San Francisco" will never allow the celestials to rebuild their "Chinatown." This brings Oakland face-to-face with the serious problem of how to dispose of these thousands of Chinese in her midst. There is talk of isolating them on an island. Many of the Chinese are being cared for by the Chinese Empire Relief Association.

Each day the newspapers are filled with long lists of names and addresses of the dead, of relatives missing and found, and other desired information—page after page, each page containing nearly 1,000 names and addresses, etc. Nailed on the walls of each church or public building are to be found alphabetical lists of the refugees housed within.

Oakland's Probable Gain in Population.

Not counting the thousands who will return to San Francisco to help rebuild the ruined city, many other thousands will, without doubt, make Oakland their future home. The fact that it escaped most of the evils of the great disaster, together with its proximity to San Francisco for business purposes, will aid materially in building up Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, and Alameda. But, who can say where the next earthquake will be? Vain are the delusions of the man who fondly hopes to escape from the judgments of the Almighty upon a wicked world! There is safety only in Him who is our Rock.

A. J. S. BOURDEAU.

THE EVERLASTING AND SURE REFUGE.

(Continued from page 2.)

to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Because it is contained in Scripture,—

"Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner Stone, elect, precious;

And He that believeth on Him shall not be put to shame.

For you, therefore, that believe is the preciousness; but for such as disbelieve,

The stone which the builders rejected,

The same was made the head of the corner; and,

A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; for they stumble at the word, being disobedient; whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who in time past were no people, but now are the people of God; who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." 1 Peter 2:4-10.

God's Answer.

Such is God's answer for those who are seeking refuge in this world. Question as we may, doubt as we will, laugh over the solemn warnings of His Word, the mighty shakings are yet to come, when everything that can be moved will be shaken by the voice of God when He shall come into His own, so that the things which can not be moved shall remain, and the things which can not be moved will be those builded into the Zion of God's foundation, in the character of Christ Jesus our Lord. That

tunnels the grave with everlasting righteousness, and reaches out into the eternal green meadows of God beyond. He was righteous, therefore death could not hold Him (Acts 2:24); and all those who are built on Him, tho the grave may close over them here, will live with Him to all eternity; and when the last great convulsions of perverted nature shake the cosmos of this world into the chaos of finished sin, those who are builded on the sure foundation, who have found the sure refuge, even tho death is witnessed on every hand, can sing,—

"God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore will we not fear, tho the earth do change,
And tho the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas;

Tho the waters thereof roar and be troubled,
Tho the mountains tremble with the swelling thereof.
There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God,

The holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; SHE SHALL NOT BE MOVED;

God will help her, at the dawn of the morning.

The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;

He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

Jehovah of hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our refuge." Ps. 46:1-7.

To this refuge we invite every longing, troubled soul of earth. This is our message, this is God's message. "What then shall one answer the messengers of the nation?—That Jehovah hath founded Zion, and in her shall the afflicted of His people take refuge."

THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN.

[By Edgar Goldsburly Fields, in the *Examiner*.]

Our hills lie naked, gaunt, and gray.

With ashes heaped on hearth and head.

We stand in funeral array

And mourn our dead.

When fair winds blow we rate as men;

When cities sway and tremble, we

Are but Thy little children then,

Who turn to Thee.

Help us to meet each day's demands;

With Thine own strength our hearts endow;

We ask Thy blessings on the hands

That help us now.

It was our habit, day by day,

To heed Thee not when it was light;

But help us, God, to find our way

Through this—our Night.

Death of the Fire Chief.—San Francisco's fire-fighters were more or less handicapped from the very first in the great conflagration that followed the earthquake. Fire Chief D. T. Sullivan was so seriously injured the morning of the earthquake that he died two days later at the Presidio Hospital. A chimney of the California Hotel crashed through the roof of the house in which the chief and his wife were sleeping, carrying away a floor. In the uncertain light, Chief Sullivan stumbled through this opening and was followed by a mass of brick that fell upon him. Assistant Chief Dougherty has been highly praised for the energetic and untiring efforts put forth in the long battle with the fire-fiend. In fact, too much praise can not be given the faithful firemen who fought the fire-fiend with dynamite and the little water they had every inch of the way. The water mains were so broken by the earthquake that some parts of the city could get no water whatever with which to oppose the progress of the flames.

The Sure Word of God.—No human scientist's predictions come so surely as those of God's Word. John, in foretelling what came to pass in later centuries, says: "I beheld . . . and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. Rev. 6:12, 13. Our Lord had foretold the same phenomena (Matt. 24). In fulfilment of these prophecies, the greatest earthquake known to history occurred in 1755, the Lisbon earthquake; the predicted phenomena of the sun and moon occurred in 1780, and that of the "stars" (falling meteors) in 1833.

Following these, and before the coming of the Lord, it is just as plainly and just as surely declared that "the powers of the heavens shall be shaken; and then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matt. 24:29, 30. John describes the remainder of his vision—that which is yet to come—in this way: "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places." Then follows the condition and actions of men, as this "great day of the Lord" is ushered in. Read it all in Rev. 6:12-17.

The earth trembled violently when the Lord came down on Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:18; 20:18, 19); also when Christ gave up His life on the cross (Matt. 27:50-54), and when He rose from the dead (Matt. 28:2). And it will tremble still more violently when He comes in glory to gather His saints. In connection with the last event, the righteous will cry out, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him and He will save us." Isa. 25:9. But the unbelieving host will be so disconcerted that they will say to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" See Rev. 6:14-17.

The great devastations of the past, as also those of modern times, are but warnings of the far greater destruction, foretold in God's Word, that is yet to come. If men will heed these, they may be delivered in the day of His wrath against the evil-doings of a disobedient world. The day that is sure to come, because the Lord has said so, will be "a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, . . . a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord. . . . Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath." Read Zeph. 1:14-18.

It is reported by the captain of the coast steamer Alliance that the light-house at Point Arena was destroyed by the earthquake. Thus the shock was quite severe for three hundred miles north and south. Altho a comparatively narrow strip inland was affected, no one knows how far it extended under the ocean. The same captain reports that while off Eureka that morning his vessel was severely shaken. He thought that it must have struck bottom, or some uncharted obstruction; but on making soundings he found that he was in twelve fathoms of water.

"God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth. . . . The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked; the Lord hath His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet. . . . The mountains quake at Him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at His presence; yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before His indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him." [But there is another side to this picture.] The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him." Nahum 1:2-7.

"Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations He hath made in the earth. . . . Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." Ps. 46:8-10.

OTHER TOWNS THAT SUFFERED.

ONE of the towns that suffered greatest in proportion to its size was Santa Rosa, with a population of 10,000. Reports from there state that nearly all buildings except residences and the railway depot are down flat, and fifty of the residences are also down. Fifty-eight dead have been reported as taken from the ruins, and it is believed there are many more still to be exhumed. Her financial loss is placed at \$2,500,000.

Gilroy suffered in about the same proportion as did San Jose (see article in another column). Nearly all the large buildings on Monterey Street are down or wrecked. No lives lost; financial loss about \$500,000.

Hollister was severely damaged, and three lost their lives there. Financial loss placed at \$100,000.

Santa Cruz was seriously damaged, losing many of her best buildings, but no lives.

Petaluma suffered little.

Glenn Ellen, the Home for Feeble Minded, was terribly shaken by the earthquake; but none of the inmates were injured.

Sebastapol had one serious wreck.

Sacramento was damaged but little.

At Wrights the big railway tunnel is caved in, and large fissures and ridges were made.

Monterey was not seriously shaken.

Boulder Creek has not a chimney left standing, and destruction of property will amount to thousands of dollars.

Del Monte—all chimneys crashed through the roofs, and two persons, a bridal couple from Arizona, were killed, the bed on which they were sleeping being driven through two floors by a falling chimney.

Napa had forty buildings destroyed, and one death is reported. Financial loss, \$50,000.

Salinas is reported to be about half ruined.

Santa Clara was very badly wrecked. Her loss will approximate \$50,000.

Agnew's principal loss was the complete destruction of the great insane asylum located there, which contained 1,088 patients at the time, besides physicians, nurses, and attendants. Two physicians and, as near as can be ascertained, 110 inmates and attendants were killed.

Los Gatos was damaged to the extent of \$30,000; and Morgan Hill about \$5,000.

Alameda did not suffer so severely as her sister city Oakland (see another column). No lives were lost there. Her financial loss will reach \$175,000.

In Mendocino County many large mills were injured and have been compelled to close down for repairs.

No damage is reported from Stockton, Fresno, Modesto, Bakersfield, Merced, San Luis Obispo, or Los Angeles.

One engine company of eighteen men fought the flames that attacked an extensive range of railroad freight sheds in San Francisco, and saved them after twelve hours of incessant, unflinching work. These have been reckoned as fire-traps for many years, yet blocks of substantial buildings in close proximity were swept before the flames. The old sheds were valuable for their treasures of freight. When men are ready to do such unselfish, heroic work for the salvation of souls, the Gospel of the coming kingdom will soon be heralded to the world. "And then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14), and great will be the reward of the faithful messengers.

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PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING CO.

285 Salmon St., Portland, Ore.

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CAL.

1109 E. 12th St., Kansas City, Mo.

Mountain View's Experience

OUR home town is fortunate in having but few brick houses. Of these few, four are in heaps of ruins, and the others are seriously damaged. One two-story structure, tho not demolished, was so damaged as to be immediately abandoned. An adjacent building was also abandoned.

One building with a general merchandise store and the post-office on the first floor, and a lodging-house upstairs, was thrown into a miscellaneous heap. Some of the lodgers were injured, but none fatally.

Another building, containing two stores below and a large hall above, was mostly tumbled into the street. A large two-story furniture establishment fell flat to the earth. A large fruit-drying and packing house was also totally wrecked.

Two two-story frame buildings were ruined, and many others more or less damaged. Broken windows, dishes, or furniture were the

in length. The front two-story wall will be saved by reinforcing it on the inside with independent frame floor support.

Fortunately the roof was not injured, and enough sound wall was left to support it until the frame could be built under it. The foundation was also uninjured, so the frame was rapidly adjusted by a large force of carpenters.

With the exception of our two linotype machines and a small quantity of type, our working material is practically uninjured. These machines will be out of use for some time, as there is no place on the Coast where they can be repaired at present. They were broken by a portion of the brick wall falling in upon them, and they are damaged to the extent of several hundred dollars. Operators had been working all night, and had left their posts but half an hour before the crash came. Aside from these machines, work could proceed in all departments after clearing away the

room large book-cases and their contents were piled in the middle of the floor. The books were mingled with broken plaster, broken glass, and splintered wood. In another room a glass-front book-case lay face downward across the desk and chairs of the proof-readers. The result can be imagined. In the hall, in front of our doors, lay an immense pile of miscellaneous engravings. The cabinets of drawers containing hundreds of these had fallen forward from the wall, and lay in a miscellaneous heap.

In the reading-room and in an adjoining room, that had been occupied by a children's division of the Sabbath-school, the "baby organ" and other furniture, including a steam radiator lay on the floor. The chapel-room, also used by the Mountain View church, which is in the second story, was entirely open at one end, the wall being upon the ground.

In the manager's room, counting-room, and job proof-reading room, there was extensive fall of plaster, and some overturning of furniture. In the Book Department one entire side was laid open, besides the falling of plaster. The same was the experience of the bindery, the composing room, and the foundry. The power house was left in running order, altho the brick walls were cracked and otherwise injured. About half of the brick smokestack came down in two pieces, one piece upon the roof, breaking it in, and the other breaking in the frame carpenter shop close by.

The main tank house, which is of frame, is uninjured. Another high tank tower, about sixty rods distant, also the property of the Press, is thrown out of plumb, and will have to be strongly anchored, or perhaps taken down. It cost over \$2,000. Had it been as thoroughly braced as the other tank tower by the office, it would have stood as well.

Our new two-story boarding-house, frame and plaster, suffered no damage to speak of. It stands within a hundred feet of the brick publishing house. This emphasizes the impracticability of brick buildings where there is liability to earthquakes,—and that is everywhere in these last days. The wise will note this fact, and act accordingly.

As to loss, that is to some extent a matter of conjecture. It is variously estimated according to the standpoint of the estimator. We hope to make all repairs come within \$15,000; but the loss of business is another item to be considered. Our commercial work comes largely from San Francisco, and all manner of business is at a standstill there—for how long no one knows. Old customers are ruined for the present, if not permanently. Accounts for work done, and pay for jobs partially done, are matters of uncertainty. Losses in the way of business in the near future will equal, if not double, the property loss. These losses time alone will determine.

But, praise the Lord, "we are all here," and all alive, and, we hope, have profited by the experience. The church held Sabbath service in a nearby grove, and Brother J. O. Corliss preached a ringing discourse on the general theme of what these things mean. It was a real "message" sermon, and it surely did the *believers* good in the way of encouragement and reassurance in the way. "O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" Ps. 107:8, 15, 21, 31.



West End of Office, Looking into Chapel.

order common to all houses. Many windmills and water tanks were thrown down, and fallen chimneys are to be seen anywhere, as also broken plaster in plastered houses.

The two large tanks of the town water-works—100 feet high, and containing 70,000 gallons—fell to the ground. However, the pumping apparatus was not injured, and water for the town is pumped directly into the mains.

The financial damage, estimating all losses, will reach approximately \$175,000, to say nothing of loss of business for a time. There was no loss of life, altho a dozen persons were more or less injured.

Our own building, the Pacific Press Publishing Company's plant, was terribly shaken. The east and west end walls were, in the main, thrown to the ground; and so badly wrenched were the remaining portions of these two ends that they had to be torn down and replaced with wood frame. The back wall on the side next to the railroad is also being replaced with wood. This is a one-story wall, 175 feet

débris. Of course this was aside from the possible danger of succeeding shocks, which might complete the wreck; and this led to some timidity as to continuing work.

Had we been in some incorporated city, the authorities would not have allowed us to go to work on the inside at all; but as it was, working or not working was voluntary only as individuals felt impressed to service because of the urgent need. The response was quite general, and the clearing out was done in short order. As light temblors were felt during Thursday, the workers would lose little time in getting outside, but most of them would return as soon as it appeared that the shocks were past. Quite naturally, tho, some preferred to sit at a supposedly safe distance and watch for further results, and perhaps they were the wiser ones. Some had work that could be done at a little distance from the shattered structure.

As the editors sought their offices they were confronted by a distressing sight. In one

SOME DISASTERS OF THE PRESENT YEAR

AN appalling array of facts and figures is the result of but little study and search into the records for the short period from Jan. 1, 1906, to the present time. Disasters and catastrophies of every nature have visited every



Mr. Allen's two-story brick furniture store in Mountain View, after the earthquake.

continent and nearly every country. The following is a partial list, enough to set any one thinking:

- January 7. Earthquake shocks were felt in eastern Kansas and north-eastern Missouri.
- January. During the early part of the month, earthquakes were frequent in Mexico. Floods followed, which ruined crops and did much other serious damage.
- January 22. The steamship "Valencia" was wrecked near Cape Beale, British Columbia. 120 perished.
- January. Twenty-three deaths reported in Havana, resulting from yellow fever.
- January 25. A sharp earthquake, which did considerable damage, was felt in New Mexico and Arizona.
- January 28. The naval training station at Newport was damaged to the extent of \$100,000 by fire.
- January 31. Long and severe earthquake shock in Buena Ventura, Colombia, 2,000 killed. Shock lasted seven minutes. Many villages destroyed.
- January 31. Tidal wave followed earthquake,



Pacific Press engine room, and broken smoke-stack which fell through the roof of the building.

- destroying many more villages, killing many people.
- January 31. Earthquake in Ecuador. At least 300 killed.
- February and onward. Great famine in Japan.
- February 1. A fire in Panama caused loss of \$500,000.

- February 3. An East St. Louis elevator burned. Loss \$1,000,000.
- February 3 and onward. Mount Vesuvius in eruption. Four towns destroyed. Naples covered from two to four feet deep with ashes. Hundreds killed, the property loss very large.
- February 7, 8. Cyclone and tidal wave in Society Islands of the Pacific. Many islands swept of inhabitants. Property loss \$2,000,000.
- February 8. Earthquake in West Indies. Many ships lost, with many on board. Also many inhabitants killed.
- February 15. Great tidal wave destroyed coast towns of Colombia.
- February 16. Severe shocks at Kingston, St. Vincent, British West Indies.
- February 17. Shocks in other islands of the West Indies.
- March 2. Tornado at Meridian, Miss. Nineteen killed, twenty-four injured. Loss of property \$1,000,000.
- March 5. Car barns burned in New York. Loss, \$200,000.
- March 5. About 800 fishermen and their families perished on floating ice cakes in the Gulf of Finland in a severe storm.
- March 10. More than 1,200 miners killed by



Corner of the Pacific Press after the earthquake.

- an explosion of gas in a coal mine at Courrieres, near Bethune, in the French coal region.
- March 11. In the foundering of the steamer "British King," off the Massachusetts coast, twenty-seven men were lost.
- March 14. Over 1,000 killed, many more wounded, in earthquake in Formosa. 1,200 homes destroyed; loss, \$45,000,000.
- March 16. More than forty people killed in a railroad collision near Adobe, Colo.
- March 19. Six thousand reported killed in earthquake in Formosa.
- March. Volcanic eruption on island of Savaii, of the Samoan group. Three villages destroyed by streams of lava.
- March 24. Explosion in a coal mine at Century, W. Va., entombs 150 miners.
- April 5. Vesuvius still in state of eruption. Five streams of lava. Many towns destroyed. Land covered with ashes and mud. Ruined for agricultural purposes for ten years at least. Naples suffering.
- April 14. Another earthquake in Formosa. 1,000 killed. More than 1,000 injured.
- April 18. Earthquake shock extending along Pacific Coast. San Francisco, San Jose, Stanford University, Santa Rosa, and

many cities and towns destroyed. Property loss very great. Thousands of lives lost.

April 21. Mariquina, Rizal Province, Philippines, burned. Thousands homeless and starving. Town of Pasil, near Cebu, also destroyed.

It is utterly impossible to estimate the loss



Post Office, Rogers' Store, and a large building under construction, Castro Street, Mountain View.

of lives or property in these disasters. Roughly the following figures may be given, not attempting to include the late earthquake on the Pacific Coast, for as yet the figures can not be secured.

	Loss of life	Loss of property
Earthquakes	15,000	\$100,000,000
Fires		600,000,000
Accidents	5,000	100,000
Tornado	19	1,000,000
Volcano	No estimate	No estimate.
Disease, Famine	" "	" "

CHINATOWN REVEALED.

[By W. W. Overton, in despatch from Los Angeles. Mr. Overton was one of those who were in the city at the time of the earthquake and fire.]

STRANGE is the scene where San Francisco's Chinatown stood. A heap of smoking ruins marks the site of the wooden warrens where the slant-eyed men of the Orient dwelt in thousands. The place is pitted with deep holes and seared with dark passageways from whose depths come smoke wreaths. All the wood is gone and the wind is strewing the ashes.

Men, white men, never knew the depth of Chinatown's underground city. They often talked of these subterranean runways. And many of them had gone beneath the street levels two and three stories. But now that Chinatown has been unmasked, for the destroyed buildings were only



A view in the business office of the Pacific Press.

a mask, men from the hillside have looked on where the inner secrets lay. In places they can see passages one hundred feet deep.

The fire swept this Mongolian section clean. It left no shred of the painted wooden fabric. It ate it down to the bare ground, and this lies stark, for the breezes have taken away the light ashes. Joss houses and mission schools, grocery stores and opium dens, gambling-hells and theaters—all of them went.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CAL., MAY 2, 1906.

We send no papers from this office to individuals without pay in advance. When persons receive copies without ordering them, they are sent by other parties, and we can give no information in regard to them. Persons thus receiving copies of the "Signs" are not indebted to the office, and will not be called upon to pay for them. Please read the papers you may receive, and hand them to your friends to read.

Much more news and other illustrations of the earthquake will appear next week. There are many, many good things left over.

Grateful are we for the sympathetic messages and inquiries of our friends. We tried to let them know, but we could send neither telegram nor letter for days.

We are of good courage. Our publishing house has lost from \$20,000 to \$25,000 or more. It is serious, and if any wish to help this institution of the Lord's work it will be gratefully received and economically expended.

Price of This Number.—In less than thousand lots to single names and addresses at same rate, 3 cents a copy; in lots of one thousand or more to one name and address, the price is 2½ cents each. Address SIGNS OF THE TIMES, Mountain View, Cal.

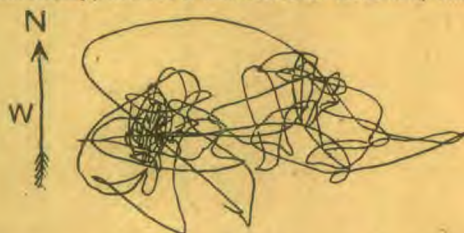
Our Departments.—The SIGNS OF THE TIMES has each week excellent Home, Outlook, and Missions departments. These we have sacrificed *ad libitum* to tell our readers of the most absorbing topic of interest now before the people of this country.

Views of the Earthquake.—If any among the readers of this paper wish to procure views of the earthquake, with description of each illustration, printed on heavy coated paper, let them send twenty-five cents to the SIGNS OF THE TIMES, Mountain View, Cal. The book is now in preparation.

The Earthquake: Its Lessons.—A sixteen-page, fully-illustrated tract on the significance of the recent earthquake is being published by the Pacific Press Publishing Co. Its title will be "The Earthquake: Its Lessons." It will be issued as "Bible Student's Library, No. 196." It should be circulated by the hundreds of thousands just now. Price 1 cent each, 80 cents per 100; \$7.50 per 1,000, express prepaid. Address your tract society, or Pacific Press Publishing Co., Mountain View, Cal.

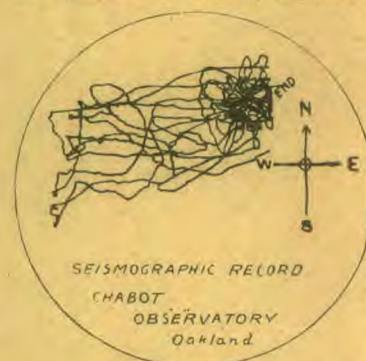
Earthquakes and fires do their greatest damage in the cities. There was a lesson in the confusion of tongues at Babel which the world would have done well, and would yet do well, to heed. Untold suffering by fire and contagious disease as well as by earthquake and storm, would have been avoided, and might yet be avoided, if men would not defy the elements and the plagues by huddling together to prey off one another instead of leading the more independent rural lives designed by the Creator. The so-called "enterprise" of man, the "wisdom" that is "foolishness with God," is illustrated in the great cities where thousands of people exist in a block of buildings. Many of these have little idea of the probability of the next meal, yet they could hardly be induced to leave the congested conditions. Through such conditions—the result of human "business" acumen—three per cent. of New York's population own all the houses, where the people are huddled together like rats, while there are yet seventeen hundred million acres of unoccupied land in the United States.

The Siesmographic Record of the earthquake of April 19, 1892, at 2:49.2 A.M. Its duration was long, fifty-eight seconds. This record and also the others, we presume, as they are all from the same observatory, are on a scale of one to seven; that is,



these records are seven times larger than the originals; or to put it another way, the pen of the seismograph moved over seven times more space than the earth did.

The signature of the earthquake of March 30, 1898,



at 11:45 P.M., in San Francisco and vicinity. It was notable because of its duration, lasting forty-five seconds, the hardest since 1868 till the recent temblor. The damage to buildings all told was estimated at \$342,000. No lives were lost, but many people were greatly frightened.

The record of the present earthquake is a horrible thing to read by one who experienced the shaking. No direction but what was taken. Over six centers the stylus, or pen, hung as tho loath to leave. In two places it went beyond the plate, so that we do not have the full measure of the quake. We regret that we did not receive a better photograph than the



rough proof from the negative. It has been sent us through the courtesy of Prof. Burckhalter, but the slow mails have not brought it to hand at the eleventh hour. We will endeavor to give it in our next. The date was April 18, 1906, at 5:14:48 A.M. Duration 28 seconds. Note the date of all these earthquakes.

Splendid Revelations of Character.—We wish we had space in this issue to note some of the splendid revelations of kindness and generosity developed by this calamity. But this we shall have to leave for our next. Also the strange things caused by the earthquake. These are of interest.

A GENEROUS LAND.

THERE have been most noble, generous, and hearty responses from all over the country to the appeals for food and clothing for those who suffered in the great California earthquake. State lines have vanished, and even the Canadian boundary line has been unable to obstruct the flow of sympathy and succor for the afflicted. This calamity has opened purse strings in a wonderful manner, and has brought the East and West, the North and South, into a new and more closely-knit union.

The sympathy of Congress grew as the details of the disaster showed the continuous increase of the terrible calamity. An appropriation of \$500,000 was made at first. The committee to which it was referred increased it to \$1,000,000, and this was passed with no opposition. Later another appropriation of \$1,500,000 was made, making in all \$2,500,000.

Many of the larger cities were quick to follow the example of the national government. Portland, Oregon, came forward promptly with contributions to the amount of \$100,000. Seattle contributed \$90,000. Sacramento raised \$50,000 in fifteen minutes on April 19, and increased it later to \$100,000. Philadelphia placed \$75,000 at the disposal of California's governor. St. Louis contributed \$100,000; Victoria, B. C., \$25,000; Los Angeles \$23,000; Goldfield, Nevada, \$11,000; Reno, Nevada, \$10,000; New York Stock Exchange, \$85,000; New York City, about \$350,000.

There have been very many contributions of smaller amounts. One report stated that the Canadian Parliament had appropriated \$10,000, but at this writing we are unable to place our hands on the information or to verify.

California thanks the country at large for its sympathy and its help—and she has good reason for so doing.

Our Institutions in San Francisco.—The Vegetarian Café, the Health Food Store, and the Branch Sanitarium were all burned, and the loss is several thousand dollars. The first two had some insurance; the Branch Sanitarium was not insured. If the companies can pay, the loss will not be so heavy by several thousand. The loss of a good business is much. The Vegetarian stood the shock well, and served meals for two or three hours after the earthquake until driven out by the fire.

The insurance commissioners of San Francisco have made a thorough inspection of the district destroyed by fire following the earthquake of April 18. The policies held by those whose buildings were burned will reach \$175,000,000 and the commissioners estimate that the total loss will reach \$300,000,000. As this is divided among about eighty companies, they assert that only a few of the smaller companies will go down; that in the main the companies will be able to pay dollar for dollar on their policies.

Our People on the Coast.—So far as we have heard, we learn of none of our brethren or sisters who received serious physical injury in the earthquake or the fires which followed. For this we are grateful to God. Elder E. J. Hibbard, Doctor Buchanan, and Doctor Lamb and wife lost their all. Any one who desires to help them may send it to the editor of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES and it will be forwarded to them. We can not, at this writing, give the address of any of them.

Sympathetic messages have come to stricken California from President Roosevelt and other Federal and State officials, as well as many material tokens; and California appreciates and is grateful.

By the light of the great conflagration in San Francisco those across the Bay in Oakland (7 miles away) could easily see to read a newspaper at night.

Seven square miles is the figures given by the city engineer of the fire devastated district. The earthquake did great damage outside the fire limits.