

Second
Edition

What These
Things Mean

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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 débris. 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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MILTON C. WILCOX, - - - - - EDITOR.
C. M. SNOW, }
W. N. GLENN, } - - - - - ASSISTANT EDITORS.
A. O. TAIT, }

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 villages, 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 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, stare 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 regions in the mountains, beyond Ukiah on the north, went to bed as usual, expecting

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 if an infuriated giant demon had reached up from the interior of the earth, 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 business portions of the beautiful towns of San Jose, Gilroy, Santa Rosa, Hollister, and others, were wholly or in part 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 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.



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A view down Market Street toward the Ferries in the height of the great fire, just as it was bursting out of the top of the Spreckel's (Call) Building. The building beyond from which the flag is flying is the Palace Hotel. In front of the sentinel in the foreground was the Vegetarian Restaurant, which fed 400 people after the earthquake. For more than two days and nights the fire burned on, sweeping to the right out Mission Street, five miles to the foothills; then north, across the residence section; then east, taking in all the large buildings shown in the foreground. The entire business section of San Francisco, and a large number of the dwelling-houses, were destroyed. Ten to twelve square miles were burned over. The water mains were broken by the earthquake, so the firemen were helpless. Dynamite was used freely in blowing down large buildings, but all to no purpose, and great damage was wrought by it.

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

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 Tehachipi 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



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.

Ten 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,

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 leave 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,

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 waited 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 intact 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.

SOME DIRECT CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES.

AT this time [the time of the Deluge] immense forests were buried. These have since been changed to coal, forming the extensive coal beds that now exist, and also yielding large quantities of oil. The coal and oil frequently ignite and burn beneath the surface of the earth. Thus rocks are heated, limestone is burned, and iron ore melted. The action of the water upon lime adds fury to the intense heat. As the fire and water come in contact with ledges of rock and ore, there are loud explosions, and volcanic eruptions follow. These often fail to give sufficient vent to the heated elements, and the earth itself is convulsed, the ground opens, and villages, cities, and burning mountains are swallowed up.

The depths of the earth are the Lord's arsenal, whence were drawn weapons to be employed in the destruction of the old world. Waters gushing from the earth united with the waters from heaven to accomplish the work of desolation. Since the Flood, fire as well as water has been God's agent to destroy very wicked cities. These judgments are sent that those who lightly regard God's law and trample upon His authority may be led to tremble before His power, and to confess His just sovereignty. As men have beheld burning mountains pouring forth fire and flames and torrents of melted ore, drying up rivers, overwhelming populous cities, and everywhere spreading ruin and desolation, the stoutest heart has been filled with terror, and infidels

and blasphemers have been constrained to acknowledge the infinite power of God.

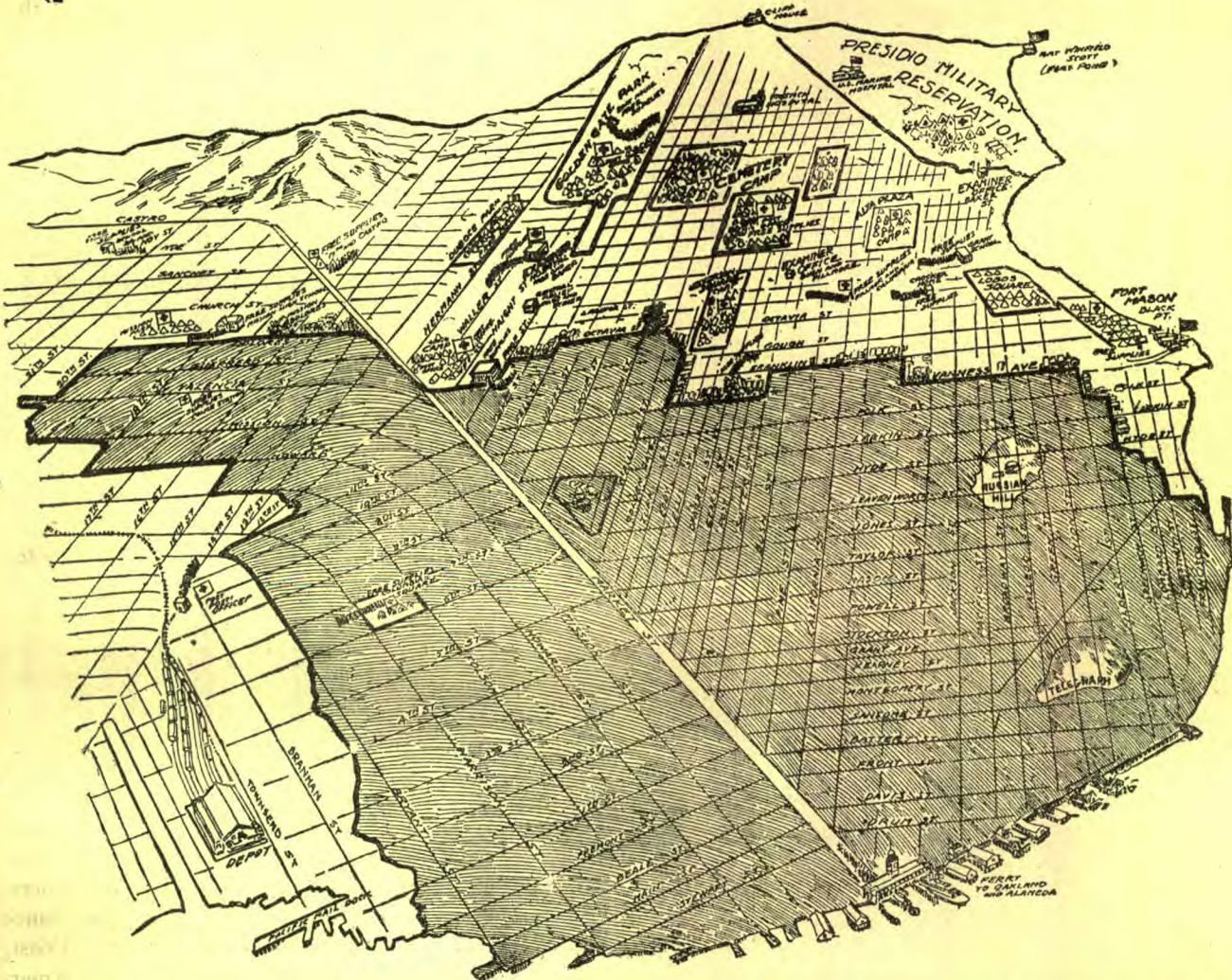
Said the prophet of old, referring to scenes like these and the more terrible manifestations to be witnessed at the second advent of Christ: "O that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, that Thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at Thy presence, as when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the waters to boil, to make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Thy presence! When Thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, Thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at Thy presence."

"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?" "Bow Thy heavens, O Lord, and come down; touch the mountains, and they shall smoke. Cast forth lightning, and scatter them; shoot out Thine arrows, and destroy them."

"And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." "And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent."

As lightnings from heaven unite with the fire in the earth, the mountains will burn like a furnace, and will pour forth terrible streams of lava, overwhelming gardens and fields, villages and cities. Seething molten masses thrown into the rivers will cause the waters to boil, sending forth massive rocks with indescribable violence, and scattering their broken fragments upon the land. Rivers will be dried up. The earth will be convulsed; everywhere there will be dreadful earthquakes and eruptions.

Thus God will destroy the wicked from off the earth. But the righteous will be preserved in the midst of these commotions, as Noah was preserved in the ark. God will be their refuge, and under His wings shall they trust. Says the psalmist: "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is My refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee." "In the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me." God's promise is, "Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known My name."—From "Patriarchs and Prophets."



The burned district of San Francisco is shown within the heavy black lines, the general boundaries being the water front from Brannan Street on the east to Jones Street on the north, thence along Jones to Chestnut, to Hyde, to Polk, to Filbert, to Van Ness Avenue, to Clay, to Franklin, to Sutter, to Van Ness Avenue, to Golden Gate Avenue, to Octavia, to Page, to Gough, to Market, to Dolores, to Twentieth, to Mission, to Eighteenth, to Howard, to Fifteenth, to Folsom, to Eleventh, to Townsend, to the water-front. Within the district which escaped the flames are shown the Red Cross hospitals, camps, and supply-stations at Fort Mason, the Presidio, Golden Gate Park, Duboce Park, Seventeenth and Castro, Twenty-fourth and Noe, Mission Park, Mission Dolores, Haight and Market, Jefferson Square, Cemetery Camp, Alta Plaza, and Lobos Square. This is approximate. The Post-office, Mint, and Appraisers' Building escaped.

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



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-

lieved 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



St. Patrick's Church, San Jose. Very fine structure before the earthquake, now a complete wreck.

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.

SANTA ROSA'S SAD STORY.

THE city of Santa Rosa, county seat of Sonoma County, Cal., with a population of 10,000, has a thrilling earthquake story which we barely noted in our first edition. In some respects this place fared worse than San Francisco in proportion to size. This is especially true of its death-roll, which a week after the disaster was officially reported as fifty-six. This is on the authority of Mr. Geo. E. Peery, who reported the names of the dead, injured, and missing to the *Oakland Herald*. The injured and missing numbered eighty-seven. The death-roll is much larger in proportion to the population than that of the Bay City.

From Mr. Peery's general report we take the following extract:

The appalling immensity of San Francisco's catastrophe obscured Santa Rosa's sorrow from the world's attention. Tho less in extent, it was greater in degree than that of the metropolis. The loss of life was proportionately greater, and the business part of town was absolutely annihilated. Santa Rosa differed from most towns of similar size in being more compactly built. All its business houses were closely grouped about the center, where stood the county courthouse. So, when this group of business blocks was tumbled into blazing ruin, there were no suburban stores to supply the pressing needs of the moment.

There was neither bread nor meat for the living; there were no coffins for the dead. The breaking off of communication left the world in ignorance of Santa Rosa's destruction; and beyond mere surmises, this city's first intimation of San Francisco's disaster was the arrival of a train load of nearly a thousand refugees, wounded, sick, half-clad and half-starved, seeking shelter where there were no houses, and begging help that none could give. Before Santa Rosa had begun to put water upon her own fires, or to drag her own dead and wounded from the ruins, she was called upon to help San Francisco.



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

San Francisco's call for aid was heard far and wide, and spendthrift hands responded, but Santa Rosa's moaning reached only her own ears at first.

and the suffering was intensified as it lengthened. The earthquake shock buried firemen, horses, and engines under their own walls and roofs. Frantic efforts freed them, and valiantly they served. There were two steamers in Santa Rosa, and Sabastopol sent a third—Sabastopol, which had so often called upon her neighbor for help, was at last able to pay the debt she owed.

The water system was unimpaired, and the supply sufficient, and within three hours the three engines

ing their lives. Five or six of the carriers were already upon the streets. All of these escaped but one. He was caught under the outward-falling front of the telephone building as he pushed a paper under the door.

Milo Fish was a printer and pressman who had quit the trade after years of service, and had bought a restaurant. Just for one night—the fatal night—he went back to run just one edition, and give his successor a night off. Three carriers—George Bluth,

with a beam across his hips. The fire drew near and was quenched, while he was nearly drowned in the floods the engines poured upon him. Finally he was freed, and afterward read his own obituary. He had been a guest at the Metropolitan Hotel in San Francisco, and had left unexpectedly without giving notice. He was published in the list of those who perished in the Metropolitan.

The courthouse lies a mighty heap of ruin, its massive dome sunk nearly out of sight, with its sum-



A typical wreck and tangle to be seen in the manufacturing districts of San Francisco.

had twenty scattered fires under control. Just how many lives those three hours cost can not be told.

Many of the corpses found in the ruins had been crushed when the buildings fell; but many others had been living survivors of the earthquake until the fire reached them.

Harry Newman was one of these tortured victims. He slept in a gallery over his drug store in the Doyle & Overton building. The crash penned him in, unhurt, but unable to escape. The chemicals in his stock ignited, and the flames encompassed him, stilled his cries for help, and drove back those who with desperate and frantic efforts tried to set him free. The hideous remembrance of the awful torture that ended his life will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it, and who knew the man and loved him.

In the office of the *Press-Democrat* newspaper, four lives were lost. The night's work was finished for compositors and for members of the staff. These had gone home. There were left in the office



Wreck of Occidental Hotel, Santa Rosa.

the pressman and three carriers. The night foreman and the circulating manager were leaving the building.

While they were still under the steel lintel of the pressroom door, the structure thundered down, covering them with black-and-blue bruises, but spar-

Willie Bluth, and Chester Shepard—were still in the pressroom waiting for their papers. These, with the pressman, were crushed to a pulp when the three-story building slid backward with its thousand-ton weight upon the one-story press room.

The Hotel St. Rose was a new building, four stories high, and believed to be of modern, scientific construction. It crumpled as a pasteboard box, im-



St. Rose Hotel, Santa Rosa. Fine modern building, third story on the ground.

mit resting against the eastern wall, which bulges with the weight. The new Masonic Temple, in which the mortar on the topmost course of yellow stone was scarcely dry, now lies as tho battered by a month's bombardment. One block east is a heap of blue basalt, that a week ago was the public library. The earthquake's vibrant swing flung blocks of stone that weighed a quarter of a ton apiece, across the street.

Five banks with deposits aggregating nearly nine million dollars, were in the earthquake's path. Now, five naked steel vaults, loom among a chaos of shattered walls, guarded by sentinels with rifles. Three brick hotels, three and four stories high, one hotel of stone, and two that were built of wood, are all laid low by earthquake shock and fire. The big brewery, five stories high, the shoe factory, a three-story building only a year old, a four-story brick



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.

prisoning some of the hundred guests within its walls, and sliding others outward into the street unhurt. It required hours to free some of those shut in. Dr. Light, a Butte County physician, lay for nine hours

flour mill, two theaters, five public halls, the Odd Fellows' Temple, and a score of office buildings, retail stores, and flats and lodgings—all are gone, and nothing left but rubbish.

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.

Read the following from the Book of books:

"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, 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."

These are the words 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, from which the above is quoted, is not confined to the ungodly and their impenitence. We are also told how those who trust in Him will pass through these calamities:

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

These Cities

should lead in this noble work. Tho badly shaken up, Oakland escaped with the loss of only seven lives. Her large public buildings were greatly damaged. Having escaped the scourge of fire, the people across the Bay immediately forgot their 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. 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 of human kindness. All-told, these cities cared for about 50,000 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-scrapers as "great, scarred giants that withstood the shock of earthquake and the destructive flames."

So Many People Are Blind

to the meaning of these catastrophies. 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

our God." "We all began to pray to our forgotten God." And other like expressions.

Governor Pardee, whose headquarters are in Oakland, issues, from day to day, a proclamation making every day a legal holiday, thus closing all banks in the state until the great San Francisco banks can be opened.

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 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 cautious crowd



The wreck of the new Library Building at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal.

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! If I thought He did, 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 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

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.

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. The railway officials collected no fares 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 ferry systems 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.

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? There is safety only in Him who is our Rock.

A. J. S. BOURDEAU.

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;**

THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN.
[By Edgar Goldsbury 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 blessing 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.

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.



Santa Rosa Court House before the Earthquake.



Santa Rosa Court House after the Earthquake.

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

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."

OTHER TOWNS THAT SUFFERED.

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 \$50,000.

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.

Glen 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,

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 \$500,000.

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, 117 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.

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.

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 catastrophes of every nature have visited every continent and nearly every coun-



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

try. The following is a partial list, enough to set any one thinking:

- January 7. Earthquake shocks were felt in eastern Kansas and northeastern 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, 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

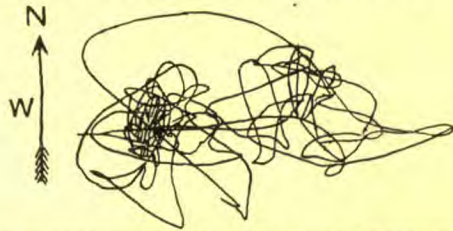


Cobb Block, Healdsburg.

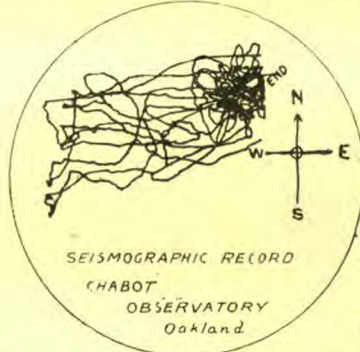
- Islands of the Pacific. Many islands swept of inhabitants. Property loss \$2,000,000.
- February 8. Earthquake in West Indies. Many ships lost, with many on board. Also many inhabitants killed.
- February 15. Great tidal wave destroyed coast towns of Colombia.

EARTHQUAKE SIGNATURES.

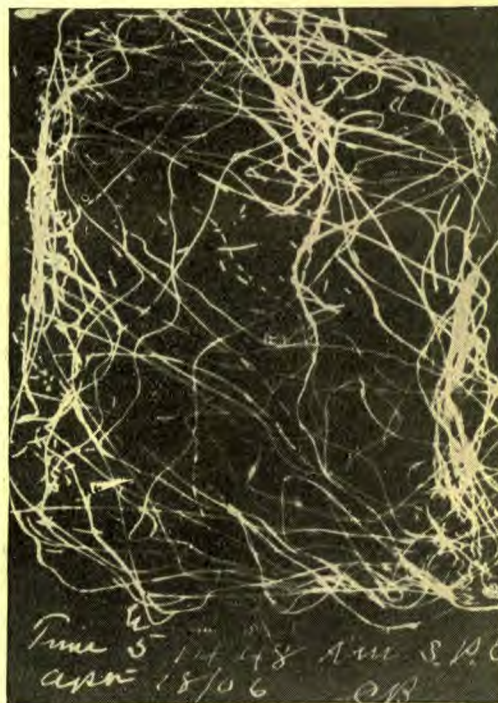
THREE Seismographic Records: (a) that of the earthquake of April 19, 1892, at 2:49:2 A.M. Its duration was 58 seconds. This



is a very long vibration. The scale of each is the same, we presume, as they are all records of the same seismograph. It is 1 to 7; that is, the pen of the seismograph passes over seven times more space than the vibration of the earth. (b)



The seismographic record of the earthquake of March 30, 1898, 11:45 P.M. The duration was 45 seconds, the most violent earthquake since 1868 until the recent one. The damage to buildings all told was estimated at \$342,000. No lives were lost, but many persons were badly frightened. Notice the difference between the two signatures. The upper one is quite smooth in its tracing, while the second one looks like the tracing of a decrepit old man. (c) The signature of the earthquake of April 18, 1906. The following is its description from the pen of Professor Burckhalter of Chabot Observatory. "The above is a copy direct from the original from the seismograph of the Chabot



Observatory, Oakland, Cal. It shows that the main motion was gyratory, but the wave-like, and the up and down motions were present also. The dashes and dots represent the up and down motion. The instrument enlarges the diagram, the real movement of the earth's surface being a little over half an inch, but not as much as six tenths of an inch. The time was 5:14:48 A.M., April 18, and the duration 28 seconds. The shock was so violent that the pen ran off the plate several times; that is, the instrument was not capable of recording so severe a shock."

- 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 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



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

- 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.

CHINATOWN REVEALED.

[By W. W. Overton, in despatch from Los Angeles. Mr. Overton was one of those who was 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 mask,—men from the hillside have looked on where



Odd Fellows' Hall, Healdsburg.

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.

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. G.



East wall of the Pacific Press Building, looking into the type room and foundry. The front wall is the only part of the outside of the structure saved.

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

A Timely Appeal.—Gen. Harrison Gray Otis, editor and proprietor of the Los Angeles Times, gave \$10,000 to San Francisco's sufferers, and carried it there in person to make sure of its being used for the benefit of those most in need. Then, in addition, he turns his attention to the wants of the smaller towns that were afflicted by the disaster. Editorially he says:

Because of the magnitude of the disaster that has befallen San Francisco, public attention during the past few days has, almost inevitably, been centered on that one city, to the exclusion of the other towns that suffered heavily by the same earthquake shock. But for the fact of the bigger calamity overshadowing the smaller ones, many columns of the newspapers would have been filled with accounts of the havoc wrought in Santa Rosa, San Jose, Salinas, and other populous places within the hundred square miles most affected by the seismic disturbance. In the hour of the metropolitan city's overwhelming sorrow, its sisterhood of smaller cities must not be forgotten. For them, too, pity, sympathy, and material aid are required.

Three Timely Books

Would you know the meaning of the appalling loss of life and property by fire, flood, and storm? The outcome of the gigantic struggle between capital and labor? The significance of the Sodom-like condition of our cities? And above all else would you so learn the lessons which these conditions teach that they may be to you a "door of hope"—"Heralds of the Morning"? If so, you will be glad to carefully read

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In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end, as in all preceding ages. That which has been will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed.—*Extract from the author's preface.*

Therefore the author has selected such events in the history of the struggle of the church as foreshadow the conflict just before it, and grouped them so that their meaning can not be misunderstood. In addition to the history thus introduced, there are several chapters devoted entirely to the future. From them we select the following:

<i>The Impending Conflict</i>	<i>The Time of Trouble</i>	<i>Desolation of the Earth</i>
<i>The Final Warning</i>	<i>God's People Delivered</i>	

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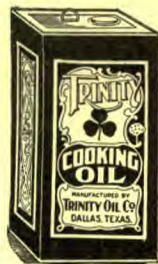
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MOUNTAIN VIEW, CAL., MAY 23, 1906.

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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.

To Our Subscribers.—We are sorry, and humbly confess our failure. We omitted our paper for May 16. We are sending out the second edition of our Earthquake Special for May 23. May 30 and on will be regular numbers till our next great special on some great subject. Please forgive us our failure. We know you would if you could have been here and have seen what we are trying to do. We hope to make the paper more than enough better to make up for the one omitted.

Santa Rosa—the City of Roses—the capital of Sonoma County, is the worst sufferer of all. Fire followed earthquake and burned over a part of the town, but the fire loss was very small compared with the work of the earthquake. Brick buildings were shaken till not a semblance of a wall was left. Even small frame structures suffered the same fate. When we visited it May 1, the one hundred and second body had been taken out of the wreck, and others still were thought to be buried in the debris.

Books Advertised.—Read of them on page 15. The earthquake is only one of the Heralds of the Morning; there are many others. Obtain the testimony of the others. You need also "The Great Controversy." It will help you to understand the reasons why calamities exist or are allowed to come. It is intensely interesting. "Daniel and the Revelation" is full of precious instruction. Send, too, for the pamphlet, "The Seven Churches and the Seven Seals." It shows how God's voice is calling to men through all the calamities of earth. Price 15 cents. Address, Pacific Press, Mountain View, Cal.

Chicago and San Francisco.—In 1871 came Chicago's great fire. From private and voluntary contribution she received \$3,500,000, not a very large sum. San Francisco sent \$100,000. Chicago, we are told, has multiplied that by ten for San Francisco. But San Francisco before her fire was less than one tenth of what Chicago is now. Donations to San Francisco, voluntary and private, will reach a much greater sum than Chicago received. Much more wealth in comparison to size of city, perished in San Francisco.

Is It Safe to Build Here?—Yes, we believe it to be as safe to build in California, in the earthquake-devastated district, as in New York, or Michigan, or Nebraska, or Texas, or any place on this earth. We would as soon meet an earthquake as a cyclone, and of the two would choose the former. From a worldly view we would as soon invest in California as in Illinois. There is no more security against earthquakes in New York or Chicago than in San Francisco so far as we or any other soul knows; the shock may come elsewhere next. We have no desire to move East unless God calls there; and

where duty lies is the safest place on earth. We have no more fear for the West than for the East; our hope, thank God, is based on a better Foundation, reaching to the better land, the better country, the city of God. When this sin-laden earth shall melt at the holy presence of her Maker, we will want, dear reader, a better foundation. If we have it then, we must obtain it now. All that is of God will endure in that day; all that is sinful and selfish will perish. "Occupy till I come," are the words of the Master, and God wants us to use this world as not abusing it; but let us not fix our hopes here. He only builds surely who in Christ Jesus builds righteous character for eternity.

San Francisco's awful calamity grows upon one the more he sees of it. Again and again have we looked upon its square miles of earthquake-shaken, fire-swept area, and each time it seems more dreadful, more appalling, more incomprehensible. The great Chicago fire, the great Baltimore fire, the big Boston fire altogether were, all told, not to be compared with San Francisco's awful holocaust. All the fires combined, of any account, in the large



Comparative Area of Four Great Fires.

cities of the United States in the last half century, it is safe to say, do not equal this. The people of the United States can not appreciate it. One needs to think in "trust figures" and over "trust" areas. He needs to see it and walk over its square miles of desolation. The stricken city and its people need help, and all the generous response of other cities north, east, and south is still in demand in all its actuality. Let no city diminish its contribution; rather let it be multiplied.

Supplementing our casualty list, on page 13, we record a great and destructive fire April 30 in Fez, Morocco; May 8 earthquake shocks in Connecticut and Scotland, showing no part of the earth to be exempt; and April 26 a fearful tornado swept over Clay County, Texas, destroying the towns of Bellevue and Stoneburg. Many were killed and wounded and the property loss was very heavy. Earthquakes are by far not the only peril to which the inhabitants

of this world are subject. May 7 a cable despatch from China tells of vast floods and hundreds drowned.

It is utterly impossible to estimate the loss 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	" "	" "

Loss of life in San Francisco has been minimized. We presume to say that the so-called "official" report of General Greely—358 the last we noted—is nearer one-fourth or one-fifth of the true record. The individual accounts given by the reporters, and seemingly well authenticated, will reach over 1,000, and Coronor Walsh is reported as declaring that the number of the dead will reach from 1,000 to 2,000. There were many remarkable escapes—escapes where the good hand of God was clearly manifest; but many were crushed or imprisoned when the great temblor wrecked San Francisco, some to be incinerated by the fierce heat which followed, intense enough to melt the inside of "fire-proof" vaults and safes; solid granite pillars and curb stones, sometimes scores of feet away from any actually consuming thing, were cracked and peeled by the fierce heat of the atmosphere in that furnace of hell. Forty miles south of San Francisco the temperature became torrid as the fierce heat of the city augmented the balmy, mild temperature of the sun. No one knows how many bodies were utterly consumed by this fearful furnace.

Our Institutions in San Francisco.—The Vegetarian Café, the Health Food Store, and the Branch Sanitarium were all burned, and the loss is estimated at \$13,000. The first named had insurance to the amount of \$3,500; the second, \$2,000; 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.

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, delayed a little by this Special.

Price of This Number.—In less than thousand lots 3 cents a copy; to single names and addresses at the same rate; in lots of 1,000 or more to one name and address 2½ cents each. Address SIGNS OF THE TIMES, Mountain View, Cal.

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.

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.

The book called "Ames on Forgery," advertised on page 13, is for lawyers and expert writers and more. It is of great interest to all readers.