

# HUNDRED THOUSAND, EARTHQUAKE'S DEATH LIST; SICILY AND ALL CALABRIA A WASTE OF RUINS

## TWO LARGE CITIES AND A SCORE OF TOWNS WIPED OFF THE MAP

### Whole Population of Reggio, 45,000, Annihilated--In Messina 50,000 are Dead--Two Provinces Devastated

#### Survivors Insane With Horror--Starvation and Pestilence Threaten Thousands--King and Queen of Italy to the Rescue--Pope Gives \$200,000--The World With Open Hands Offers Magnificent Aid to the Afflicted--History's Greatest Disaster

ROME, Dec. 29.—One hundred thousand dead; Messina, in Sicily, and Reggio and a score of other towns in Southern Italy overwhelmed; the entire Calabria region laid waste; this is the earthquake's record so far, as is at present known from the reports that are coming slowly into Rome on account of the almost complete destruction of lines of communication to the stricken places.

The death list in Messina ranges from 12,000 to 50,000; that of Reggio, which with its adjacent villages numbered 45,000 people, includes almost the entire population. At Palmi 1,000 are reported dead; at Cassano 1,000, at Cosenza 500, and half of the population of Baghera, about 4,000. The Monteleone region has been devastated, and Riposto, Seminara, San Giovanni Scilla, Lazzaro and Cannitello and all other communes and villages bordering on the Straits are in ruins.

#### KING AND QUEEN WILL HELP.

The king and queen of Italy are now on their way to Messina, having sailed tonight from Naples aboard the battleship Vittorio Emanuele. The Pope has shown the greatest distress at the calamity and he himself was the first to contribute a sum amounting to \$200,000 to the relief of the stricken Sicily. French and Russian warships are steaming towards the south and already several of the ships of Great Britain and Russia have reached Sicily. Officers and men of these armies have performed heroic services in the work of rescue.

It is feared that many foreigners have been killed, as number of the hotels at Messina and doubling at other places, were crowded with tourists. Little is known of the fate of the diplomatic representatives of the foreign powers stationed at these posts, although the Italian government is using every effort to relieve the anxiety felt on their account.

There is the gravest danger that a pestilence will follow the destruction of the towns, where, on account of the vast havoc caused, bodies will lie unburied for days or weeks.

Those who escaped death, many of whom are badly injured, are making their way by the thousands to the nearest place of refuge. Their sufferings even now must be intense as they are without food or clothing.

#### STUNNED AT THE MAGNITUDE.

ROME, Dec. 29.—Stunned at the magnitude of the calamity which has overtaken fellow-countrymen, all Italy mourned tonight for the stricken provinces of Calabria and the Island of Sicily. Accustomed for centuries to earthquake shocks, Italy stands ever in dread, but none was prepared for the disaster which, in the fraction of a minute, devastated cities and towns and caused the death of thousands.



KING VICTOR IMMANUEL.

recognition. The ports and villages on both the continent and Sicilian sides were wrecked or inundated and all highhouses along the coasts were swallowed up. Navigation now is dangerous and in some places impossible.

In the Calabrian district, which was only beginning to recover from the effects of the earthquake of 1895, Reggio was the centre of the earth's upheaval. The seaport of Reggio is reported as no longer existing and the city proper is in ruins. The loss of life on both sides of the strait and in eastern Sicily was enormous. One of the refugees from Reggio who was the first to bring the news of the city's destruction tried to make his way to Sicily in a sailboat, but was compelled to return and finally found safety at a porting station. In describing his experience he said:

"The sea was strangely, mysteriously agitated and the heavens were shrouded in gloom; the clearing wind was in flames. In the morning I turned my boat back to Calabria."

#### SURVIVORS ALMOST INSANE.

Starving, bleeding from injuries and almost insane from their terrifying experiences, Messina's survivors are fleeing in all directions. The spectacle presented by the ruined seaport is described as terrifying. Tumbling buildings, both killed and mutilated, while hundreds of the injured are imprisoned in the wreckage were abandoned to their fate by the fleeing populace. One of those who escaped death, many of whom are badly injured, are making their way by the thousands to the nearest place of refuge. Their sufferings even now must be intense as they are without food or clothing.

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Outskirts of Ruined Sicilian City With Mount Aetna, the Volcanic Source of the Disaster, in the Background.

cial editions from the newspapers. The people are plunged in grief, and lamentations are heard on all sides. Here and there, one asks another "when will this awful repetition of devastation and death in our country end."

#### THE WORLD TO THE RESCUE.

The hands of all the nations have been extended to Italy in her affliction. From rulers have come messages of condolence and from the peoples spontaneous promises of aid which brings the world closer together in times of great calamity.

Great Britain, France and Russia have sent their warships, quick as the flash of the telegraph could carry the orders, to lend assistance to the stricken cities. Relief funds have already been started and a hundred ships and troops are on their way, carrying supplies and reinforcements to the south. Rome, Milan, Florence, Naples and other cities are sending physicians, police and firemen. Today all the ambassadors and ministers expressed sympathy with M. Tittoni, minister of foreign affairs, whose emotion was profound.

The Bourse and theatres have been closed throughout Italy and despatches of sympathy continue to pour in from all quarters of the globe. At the time of the earthquake the torpedo boat Sappho was lying in the harbor at Messina and one of the officers told of the occurrences as follows:

"At half-past five in the morning the sea suddenly became terribly agitated, seeming literally to pick up our boat and shake it. Other craft nearby were similarly treated and the ships looked like bits of cork bobbing about in a tempest. Almost immediately a wave of huge proportions swept across the strait, mounting the coasts and carrying everything before it. Scores of ships were damaged and the Hungarian mail boat *Crassus* was wrecked and its crew and passengers were scattered. Messina Bay was wiped out and the sea was soon covered with masses of wreckage, which was carried off in the receding waters."

#### THE RESCUE WORK.

Eight sailors from the Sappho landed to look up the work of rescue. Officers and men from Italian and British steamers also went ashore as soon as possible, the Britishers saving a family of five who were imprisoned in a burning house. Many prisoners from the stricken city were taken to the strait and left. Hundreds engaged in the work of robbing the banks and business houses. In the opinion of the officers of the Sappho half the population of Messina perished.

King Victor Emmanuel and the Queen, who left for the scene of the calamity, reached Naples tonight and proceeded along to Sicily. A large number of people followed the care of the part from Rome, and one among a number of deputies at the station observed to the King, "The presence of your majesty will suffice to console the stricken people."

The King turned sharply upon the speaker and said abruptly: "Don't talk nonsense."

Reports indicate that the geography of the Straits of Messina has been so changed as to cause apprehension of a serious commercial and strategic difficulty. It is believed that navigation has become extremely dangerous, in which case the fortifications on which the government in recent years has spent large sums will be useless.

#### HARROWING SCENES.

The work of rescue at Messina, according to the meagre details received tonight, presented harrowing scenes. Hundreds of people were pinned under walls and rafters, alive but terribly injured, for thirty hours. One of the rescuers found under the ruins of a house five children, alive but

unable to speak, clinging around the corpse of their mother. In some cases heroic rescuers met death in the falling debris. In one house twenty persons who were suspended on the third floor and were unable to escape because the lower floors had been torn away, were rescued with a rope by a sailor. Six criminals were killed while attempting to rob the booty, which cash amounted to half a million dollars lay in plain view.

Refugees from Reggio, who reached Catania this afternoon said that they could see huge columns of smoke rising from the ruins of Messina. They affirmed that Reggio, Cannitello and Lazzaro were destroyed. A tidal wave demolished the railroad between Lazzaro and Reggio and the able-bodied men are working desperately to re-establish communication with the latter place, for which place a train with the boats and telegraphers has started.

#### KING EDWARD AFFECTED.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—King Edward was greatly affected by the news of the calamity that had befallen Italy to the king's sincere condolences to the king.

The London morning papers publish editorials, earnestly appealing to the British public for a prompt and generous response to the loud Mayor's call for funds to help a friendly nation in the face of a calamity which is among the greatest of modern times.

#### KEEN DISTRESS.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Dec. 29.—The news of the earthquake which has struck Italy with its appalling loss of life was received in the several Italian colonies in this city with every evidence of grief and sympathy. The half million or more Italians who have settled in the fully 200,000 are from the stricken districts.

#### REFUGEES POURING IN.

CATANZARO, Dec. 29.—Refugees are pouring into Catania by train, steamer and automobile. They are half naked and stupefied with terror and suffering. Some of them appear almost insane from the horrors through which they have gone. In the beginning they could only babble "Messina has been devastated; the city has been annihilated." Little by little some idea of the indescribable horror of Messina was obtained from these unfortunates.

They declare that thousands of dejected survivors are still wandering about among the ruins of the city. A wounded soldier said:

"The spectacle was terrifying beyond words. Dante's Inferno gives you but a faint idea as to what happened yesterday morning at Messina. The first shock came before the sun had risen. It shook the city to its very foundations. Immediately the houses began to crumble. Those of us who were not killed at once made our way over unyielding floors to the streets. Beams were crashing down through the rooms. The stairs were equally unsafe. I found the streets blocked by fallen houses. Balconies, chimneys, bell-towers, entire walls had been thrown down. From every side of me across the screams and moanings of the wounded. The people were half mad with excitement and fear. Most of them had rushed out in their night clothes. In a little while we were all shivering under a torrential downpour of rain. Everywhere there were dead bodies, nude, disfigured and mutilated. In the ruins I could see arms and legs moving helplessly."

#### PITIFUL APPEALS FOR AID.

From every quarter came piteous appeals for aid.

The portion of the town down near the harbor was inundated by the tidal wave. The water reached to the shoulders of the fugitives and swept them away.

The city hall, the cathedral and the barracks crumbled, and innumerable other public buildings and dwellings without number were literally rased to the ground. There were 200 customs agents at the barracks; only 41 of them were saved. At the railroad only eight out of 200 employes have been accounted for.

Many of those who succeeded in escaping with their lives are incapable of relating their experiences coherently. I questioned all who were in a condition to talk. Most of them told the same story. They said the first thing they knew they were thrown out of bed, and amid crashing ceilings and falling furniture, managed to make

their way to the street. Then in the blackness of night amid a pouring rain they rushed blindly away amid the shrieks and groans of those buried under the ruins. These phenomena, while trying to escape by falling balconies and masonry, and still many others lost their reason and are today wandering aimlessly in the open fields outside the city or up and down the ruined streets they knew so well.

"The looters and the robbers were shot down dead by the rifles of the soldiers."

It has been proposed here to remove the survivors of Messina to Catania. The previous reports from the provinces of Messina indicate that a number of villages were razed to the ground. Seventeen are dead at Riposto. The town of Seminara, in Calabria, twenty miles from Reggio, is said to have been destroyed with the loss of a hundred lives.

#### REFUGEES FROM REGGIO.

CATANZARO, Calabria, Dec. 29.—Refugees are beginning to come in here from Reggio, on the Straits of Messina. They confirm the previous reports of the dreadful havoc of the earthquake in the straits.

It is most difficult to get any accounts of the occurrences from them, for they are stunned and exhausted. They declare, however, that the disaster was as appalling as that of the Messina one, if not worse. They say that the lower part of Reggio has disappeared and that the public buildings, the churches, the barracks, the city hall and numerous smaller houses are today nothing but crumbled heaps of ruins. Any estimate of the death list is as yet impossible. The refugees could see Messina in flames from Reggio.

Other refugees from Bagnara say that half of that town has been destroyed.

#### TAKEN A NEW SHAPE.

PALMERO, Dec. 29.—Navigators who have come here from the Straits of Messina report that the straits have taken an entirely new shape since the earthquake. They describe them as "twisted." Many villages and forts along the straits have been destroyed.

One of the survivors picked up at sea by the steamer *Washington* was a man named Francesco Loacono. He was wounded and unconscious. On arriving he called wildly for his wife and children. All efforts to quiet him failed. He insisted that the steamer put him ashore. Finally he became bereft of his senses, and springing suddenly to his feet, he jumped overboard, still calling for his wife and children. He started swimming toward the land, but soon disappeared beneath the waves.

The news that the King and Queen had been in Messina, as "brightly shining" as the stars, has created a splendid impression here.

A navy hospital ship left here this afternoon for Messina.

#### ALL IN RUINS.

A traveler returned here this afternoon from the other side of the straits. He says that Reggio, San Giovanni, Cannitello and all the other communes and villages bordering on the straits are in ruins. Great numbers of dead are believed to be still under the wreckage.

The British steamer *Ebro* came in here this afternoon from Messina. She has on board a number of wounded, including Alfred J. Ogston, the British vice-consul at Messina. Mrs. Ogston lost her life, but the consul's daughter was saved. Mrs. Ogston describes the conditions as "horrible" and "beyond words and exceeding in horror the widest flights of the imagination."

One of the trains that came in here from Messina this afternoon brought the widow of the chief of police of the city and her son. Both seemed half-crazed with grief. They made frantic but vain efforts to save the life of the husband and father and the other children. The clothes of the widow and her son are literally in rags. The reported death of Deputy Nicola Fulei and his wife has been confirmed. Ludovico Fulei, who also is a deputy, returns to abandon the wreck of his brother's home. He is there now working with bleeding hands and half dead from fatigue, determined to re-

main until he finds the body of his brother.

#### GO BY AUTOMOBILE.

ROME, Dec. 29.—Owing to the destruction of the tunnels and viaducts on the main-line railroad, communication beyond Bagnara, a coast town 16 miles northeast of Reggio, is impossible. A boat service is being established from Bagnara to the south. The king's party have arranged to proceed by automobile when they can go no further by rail.

#### POPE WOULD LIKE TO GO.

ROME, Dec. 29.—The Pope would like to go to the south, but this his physicians will not permit on account of his health. He has telegraphed the archbishops of Palermo and Catania and the bishops of Mileto and Catanzaro, expressing his deepest affliction in the appalling calamity and ordering the saying of prayers. He asks also what money is required, as he desires to contribute funds to cope with the situation.

Premier Giolitti has appointed a national committee to succor the unfortunates. The president of the organization is the Duke of Aosta. The king has made a generous contribution to the relief fund.

Minister of Public Works Bertolini and Minister of Justice Orlando have left Rome for Sicily.

Signor Orlando is a Sicilian. A report of technical observations from the observatory at Messina says the earthquake lasted for twenty-three seconds only. It was accompanied by remarkable atmospheric phenomena.

The surcharged air was filled with sparks and flashes of flames, which flared up until the heavens seemed to be disturbed and the earth appeared suddenly to drop. These phenomena were followed by distinct lateral oscillations that threw the panic-stricken people off their feet as they rushed to the streets.

All telegrams from the straits are coming in with great delay.

#### MANSSION HOUSE FUND.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Lord Mayor

of London has decided to open a Mansion House fund for the relief of the Italian earthquake sufferers.

#### NEW ENGLANDERS THERE.

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—From the tabulation made up to tonight it is apparent that there are between 400 and 500 New Englanders who are supposed to be in Sicily or southern Europe.

John T. Trowbridge, the author, and Miss W. of Boston, landed in Naples from the Roman on December 15th and were to get at once to Sicily to spend some time.

#### WORST TO COME.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—John Milne, the well known seismologist of the Isle of Wight, said today that his records showed the Italian earthquake to be the most severe experienced in Europe in 700 years. He fears that when the full effects are known the loss of life will prove to be even more appalling than the present reports indicate. The devastated San Francisco and Valparaiso also.

#### PORTLAND MAN THERE.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 29.—The news was received today that Major General Chas. D. Hall, U. S. A., retired, a former Portland man, probably is at the scene of the earthquake in Sicily.

General Hall and his family planned to pass Christmas week in that country. Whether he was in any of the towns affected has not been learned.

The calamity in Italy is felt by a considerable number of the southern people who are natives of the southern part of that country. Over 60 per cent. of the more than 2,000 Italians in this city are Sicilians, nearly all of whom are reported as having disappeared. Men in this city who left their families at home are grief-stricken.

Rev. V. A. Castellucci, the Italian pastor here, has made requests for inquiries and may have requested him to cable to towns adjacent to Messina for details. There are in Malta more than 5,000 Italians, nearly all of whom are Sicilians or from the southern part of the country.

#### LATE EXPRESSES BETWEEN ST. JOHN AND HALIFAX TO BE DISCONTINUED JAN. 9.

MONCTON, Dec. 29.—At a meeting tonight of the local Liberal executive committee it was decided to discontinue the late express between St. John and Halifax to be discontinued Jan. 9.

The reduction to eight hours which goes into effect here after the first of the new year is a portion of the policy of retrenchment in expenditure and is of a temporary nature. An agreement between the department and the different labor organizations has been effected provides that when a reduction

#### NEIL HOYT EXPIRES AT HOPEWELL CAPE.

The death of Neil Hoyt occurred at Hopewell Cape yesterday.

The deceased, who was known by nearly everyone here, was in the 78th year of his age. He moved to Hopewell Cape about a year ago, a sufferer from heart trouble and to which he finally succumbed yesterday morning. He is survived by one son, A. C. Hoyt of this city, and by three daughters, Mrs. W. W. Rivers, Waterville, N. S.; Mrs. Kinsman, Milton, Mass.; Mrs. Thomas R. Pys, Hopewell Cape. Mr. Hoyt was a seafarer by trade. The funeral will take place this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock from Union Depot to Fernhill.

#### FOUND DEAD BESIDE TRACK.

CAMPBELLTON, Dec. 29.—Peter Lawlor, a resident of Jacques River, was found beside the C. E. R. track near Jacques River this morning by section men going to work. When found the unfortunate man was lying just outside the rails in the snow. Upon examination it was found that his neck was broken but no other serious marks were found on his body. His hands and face were badly frozen and the conditions showed that he had been dead for a considerable length of time. The body was found at or near the same place as was the body of Murphy found dead under somewhat similar circumstances last summer. Corporal Ellis of Jacques River has the matter in hand and is making a thorough investigation.

#### NEGOTIATIONS OFF.

MONCTON, N. B., Dec. 29.—The city council is in receipt of communication from the White Candy Company withdrawing negotiations for removal of their factory from St. John to Moncton on the ground that concessions of Bruce, traffic auditor and appointing W. H. Estais as acting auditor.

#### Death The End of a Larger World

#### Tells New York

#### Want Present But

#### Believes the

#### About us

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, lecturing last night at the People's Institute in Cooper Union on the subject of "Immortality," made some statements of his own belief that the stronger than those which have come from him hitherto. He was in the presence of Dr. R. S. Siler, president in the absence of C. S. Smith.

Among other things Dr. Abbott said that he did not want his body again, he wanted a better one. This he said in answer to one of the questions who, hector the People's Institute speakers after the speakers have made their formal addresses. Dr. Abbott's assertion were simultaneous and the speaker said; indeed, these were merely two words to express the same thing.

"It is my desire," said Dr. Abbott, "to tell you what I mean by immortality and why I believe in immortality. I am not here for the purpose of proving immortality. I am not going to make any effort to get you to believe that man's immortality can be scientifically demonstrated. I am going to tell you what death means to me."

"Man first exists in a dark chamber," said Dr. Abbott, "with his eyes, ears, hands and feet, but he cannot see, hear, feel or walk. From the dark chamber of his mother's womb, he comes through the door of pain to the light with a cry."

"Then he begins to use these eyes, ears, hands and feet and to progress and to get a sense of proportion and little by little a sense of beauty. Man first uses these organs to get from the world—the material world—the things which give to the world, to pour that life which is in him into other lives. This goes on until by and by the soul gets too big for the instrument which it inhabits. The artist has a sense of beauty which he in vain attempts to put on canvas. Others go to look at his picture and admire it and he goes away and says 'I haven't said all I meant to say.'"

Dr. Abbott told a story of Beecher, whom he described as certainly one of the world's greatest orators. Beecher had preached on "The Background of Mystery" and had said things bound to create discussion. He and Dr. Abbott were editors of the Christian Register. Dr. Abbott insisted that Beecher revise his own profane on this sermon. Beecher tried and tried again and then throwing the proofs down and jabbing his pencil through them he exclaimed: "Abbott, I've said what I mean. I don't know how to preach anyhow."

Beecher had got too big for his instruments of expression.

"You turn you all have been somewhat misunderstood," said Dr. Abbott. "The soul gets too big to express itself. I believe that many wives do not understand their husbands and I am very sure that there are husbands who do not understand their wives."

"Life outgrows the instruments it is using and then comes what we call death. The spirit rises and fulfills its mission in some other sphere which we cannot comprehend." said Dr. Abbott. "The soul gets too big to express itself. I believe that many wives do not understand their husbands and I am very sure that there are husbands who do not understand their wives."

"I think man never dies, but out of this little world which we call life he goes out of the open door to a larger world and lives on. The instrument which he inhabited after beautiful music it ceased to mean that the pianist who made the music is gone. The piano was not the instrument. The fact that the brain is gone does not indicate that the thought that uses the brain—the instrument—is gone. The old pagan confounded the person with the body. The person, once occupied, so they tried to keep the body—you may see them in the Metropolitan Museum—in the hope that the person would rise again and occupy it. "Death is simply the leaving of the body by the spirit, and the spirit may return and occupy the body."

Dr. Abbott told of being at a so-called deathbed when a woman passed away. The doctor told the watchers that she was dead and Dr. Abbott said to the watchers: "The doctor put a battery at work and breath returned to the body. The woman lived two years and died of a different disease."

"I give this instrument, not to prove immortality, but to illustrate my conception of immortality," said Dr. Abbott. "Jesus said 'She is not dead but asleep,'" and called her by name and she was near enough to hear and she came back and occupied the body again. Death is simply the dropping of the tenement. Resurrection is the re-occupancy of the spirit. If you don't believe me I want you to understand me. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was not an extraordinary event. It was simply the extraordinary evidence of an ordinary event. Death and resurrection are simultaneous and are two forms of expression of the same thing, the persistence of life."

"They that we call dead I believe are living and about to rise within the spirit of our movements, within sound of our voices, but whether that be so or not, yet living. Each individual of the human race is an imperfect product of evolution, and other things which their completion in orderly development. No man was ever finished. There are some things, but there is always a larger realm of things beyond him. Had Darwin had time he might have known what Gladstone knew and had Gladstone had time he might have known what Darwin knew. No man ever does anything more than touch the very periphery of knowledge and