

towns and bury four-fifths of the inhabitants in the ruins. And the experience of an earthquake shock is always strange, weird, overpowering. The rumbling crash stupefies the brute creation, and when the solid earth trembles and heaves, man feels, as never before, his impotence and insignificance.

FIRE—No doubt this was one of those

lurid thunder-storms where the electricity, which has been long gathering in the intense evaporation, discharges among the Eastern mountains, and peal follows peal so rapidly and reverberates so long, that it seems like one continuous roar, and where the lightning plays incessantly and the whole burning air seems transfused into sheets of flame.

APPLICATION

Ahab told Jezebel, v. 1. It is a good test of conduct to ask ourselves what kind of persons we should like to tell about it. The

The Test of
Telling

character of the companions to whom we open up our inmost thoughts and purposes is a revelation of what we really are. The one who proposes to enter upon some evil enterprise, or take part in some shady transaction, fights shy of discussing it with a man whom he knows to be absolutely upright and scrupulously honorable. In the presence of those who are pure in heart and speech, we should not dare talk about things that are vile. The surest test of all is to consider what we would like the holy Jesus to see in us or to hear from us.

If I make not thy life as the life of one of them, v. 2. To one looking at one of the mountain railway trains in Switzerland,

Man's Purpose
and God's
Control

clinging to the steep side of the dizzy ascent, it seems inevitable that the cars should rush downwards to be smashed into kindling wood at the foot. To all appearance the very law of gravitation makes destruction certain. But multitudes are safely carried every year in those trains to many a lofty summit, to enjoy the magnificent panoramas unfolded from the high vantage grounds. Engineers, by their genius and skill, have overcome the power of gravitation. In like manner whatsoever human purpose threatens to do us harm is under the controlling and overruling power of our God and Father, who never permits any real harm to come to His children.

Went for his life, v. 3. Napoleon once said, "There is a moment in every great war

The Contagion
of Courage

when the bravest troops feel inclined to run; it is the want of confidence in their own courage. At Arcola I won the battle with twenty-

five horsemen. I anticipated the moment of fright and flight, and I had twenty-five men ready of cool nerve and decision, and just at the appropriate moment I turned the twenty-five into the host, and the battle was won." Twenty-five brave, cool men brought back their courage to a wavering host. The man who boldly faced the foe put new spirit into his neighbor who was ready to run. So the one who stands up bravely for the right in the home, at school, in the workshop or the office, may often help some one near him to stand fast who was ready to give way to temptation.

Sat down under a juniper tree, v. 4. It was a Chinese preacher who made the following

The Resources
of the Christian
Worker

suggestion to any one who is of the Christian discouraged in his work for God. "Let him ask the Master for Peter's hook to bring up the fish, for David's crook to guide the sheep aright, for Gideon's torch to light up the dark places, for Moses' guiding rod, for David's sling to prostrate some Goliath, for the brazen serpent to cure the wounds of the world's snakes, for gospel seed with no tares in it, for the armor described by Paul in the Ephesians, and above all, for the Holy Spirit to help at all times." With such wonderful resources at his command, in answer to believing prayer, there is surely no ground for discouragement in any God-given task.

Arise and eat, v. 5. "Mens sana in sano corpore", the old Latin proverb has it,—"A sound mind in a sound body." There is in

The Soul's
Temple

every one of us a threefold nature,—bodily, mental and spiritual. If the mind and spirit are to be in good condition,—the mind ready to grapple with the tasks and problems of daily life, and the spirit quick to feel the