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THE BURNING OF CHICAGO.

The Plague of Fire seems to be let loose upon the earth in this year of our Lord 1871. But the other day we were sorrowing over the conflagration of Paris, which claimed to be the chief seat of "civilization" for the Eastern Hemisphere; and now Chicago, the representative of American energy and wealth, lies waste, hundreds of millions of its heaped-up treasure being swept away in a few hours. At the same time, news came of the flight of this destroying angel through the deep forests and over the wide prairies of Canada and the Western States. From day to day, almost, the torch is applied to one of our cities. We seem to be "girt with fire."

"Shall there be evil in the city, and the Lord hath not done it?" There is a Providence in all these calamities, and over them all. There is a "voice of the Lord," to which which we should reverently hearken. What does that voice say?

There are passages in the Bible, especially the xxvi., xxvii. and xxviii. chapters of the prophecies of Ezekiel, and the xviii. of Revelation, the former speaking of the destruction of Tyrus, and the latter of Babylon (Rome), which are marvelously applicable to these modern cities, in respect alike to their luxury and splendour, their terrible desolation, and the world-wide mourning over their fiery doom. We cannot quote these chapters at length, but we commend them to our readers for their private perusal at such a time.

Yet let us beware of being "wise above what is written," of mounting the judgment seat, and usurping the office which belongs to the Lord alone. In Paris and Chicago, there were "sinners before the Lord exceedingly," prostituting wealth, energy, talent and daring to the most audacious sin, and seducing thousands who looked up to them with admiring eyes. But there were also many times more "righteous men" than would have availed to save Sodom and Gomorrah; and the great city of the West, especially, were some of the most devoted Christian workers in the world, using in the service of Christ the same resistless enterprise which characterized the commerce of the place, and diving into its darkest