

us all not to be indifferent to signs so significant, to voices so audible. Surely such language as the following, which emanates from no religious newspaper, is noteworthy, "If they do not show that the world is coming to an end, they certainly show that it is being shaken by some force possessed of a power sufficiently strong to shatter its solid structure. . . . Puny man is helpless before it." Is it not wise then for "puny man" to recognize the voice of the "power" which exhorts, "Prepare to meet thy God?" The Supernatural speaks through nature to man. Well for those who are able to reply, "Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth."

Holy Scripture leads us to expect that the last great drama of the world will be a mighty shaking, Heb. xii. 26, which will be preceded by "earthquakes in divers places." Have these latter been lacking? Let us see. It is remarkable that the number of earthquakes at the beginning of the Christian era, and for some ages subsequent, were comparatively few. Before the prediction of our Lord such convulsions were few in number, as compared with what took place after its deliverance; whilst in these latter days they have become more frequent and of a wider range than was ever known before.

Previous to Christ's first advent only fifty-eight earthquakes can be counted during a period of one thousand seven hundred years. Coming to later times we find the historian recording thirty-five disastrous ones occurring between 1800 and 1865. According to the researches of Mallet there have been in Western Europe alone since the beginning of the Christian era, 2,156 earthquakes. In England there were 256 shocks experienced between the years

1700 and 1844. The year 1868 was remarkable for its earthquakes. It opened with an awful one for Formosa, which destroyed 30,000 human beings. Upwards of 200 great earthquakes are recorded as having taken place between October, 1867, and January, 1869.—Since that period tokens of the end have not been wanting.

During the present year the voice of nature has not been dumb. From various quarters of the globe it has been speaking in majestic tones. Not a month has gone by but an earthquake has been experienced in some quarter. Reports have come to us from the United States and Canada respecting them. In Iceland they have been the greatest ever known. In May, Peru was visited; and in the Leeward Islands there was great damage done, and many lives were lost. In Cairo, Egypt, there was a severe shock, and the largest buildings were shaken.—During the same month of May, Rome was visited. Shocks were also felt in the West Indies, and later on in the northern part of the American continent, while in the southern portion of Australia ninety shocks were experienced during three days. England had also a visitation. And then we have the recent calamitous earthquake at Calcutta, which wrought such disaster over a vast area; whilst a terrific shock took place at Darjeling.

Was there ever a time in the memory of man when were concentrated so many "earthquakes in divers places," in a limited portion of one year, as have been since the opening of this year of grace 1897 until now! All over the globe, as if by combined conspiracy, there has been havoc, disaster, and death. Such signs and omens will