ITALY STUNNED BY AWFUL CALAMITY

Half of the Population in Calabria and Sicily Perished; Thousands Burned in the Ruins of Messina, and Reggio-Tidal Wave Wrought Great Damage in all the Coast Cities.

Rome, Dec. 30.—Half the population of Calabria and the eastern part of Sicily are dead; the other half is weeping. As the great extent of the terrific seismic disturbances becomes apparent it seems impossible to exaggerate the horrors which have followed them.

The calamity which has overwhelmed Italy is almost beyond the grasp of the imagination, not only because of the dead now known to number tens of thousands, but because of the innumerable wounded buried in the ruins, many of whom will perish because it is impossible to rescue them from the wreck of their former homes The whole of Italy is absolutely stunned, and on the scene of the disaster the bulk of the people are literally demented with the suddenness and extent of the blow.

The total number of victims is variously estimated at from 50,000 to 150,000.

When King Victor and the Queen arrived at Messina today, touching scenes were enacted as their Majesties made their way into the ruined town. The scene of disaster and horror was too much for the Queen who almost swooned. Crowds of terror-stricken persons swarmed about the royal party, throwing themselves in the mud and screaming for pity and aid.

MESSINA WIPED OUT.

Of two hundred and eighty railway employees in the station at Messina only eight are known to have survived, while at Reggio the silence of death leaves to the imagination the terrible havoc wrought by the catastrophe with the horrible in-rush of the sea, the swallowing up of the boats, the crushing of ships and the destruction of bridges and walls. The sea became almost instantly covered with debris after the upheaval containing refuse of every description dotted with human bodies.

COAST LINE CHANGED.

When day dawned the entire shore line of the surrounding country was utterly changed in appearance. The coast-line was almost entirely altered, while of all the magnificent houses along the shore, only a few tottering ruins remained.

From these ruins, from time to time, there sprang jets of flame and smoke.

MESSINA A RUIN.

Rome, Dec. 30.—The Premier has received a telegram from Signor Felici, a deputy at Messina, summing up the situation as follows:—

"Messina is completely destroyed and razed to the ground. The victims may be numbered by tens of thousands. The conflagration which is still raging is completing the destruction of the city.

"Salvage implements, firemen, and soldiers must be sent instantly. The disaster exceeds the wildest imagination."

News reaching Catanzaro from the outlying districts in Calabria indicates that 35 towns and villages have been wiped out with the number of dead in that district alone exceeding 30,000.

The few survivors are mad with terror, and have fled to the forest mountains where they are substituting on roots and the bark of trees. The volcano Stromboli is active and the seas around the Island are very agitated and dangerous to navigation. The Pope has telegraphed the Archbishop of Palermo a large sum of money and instructed him to proceed to Messina immediately to help the survivors. From the latest estimates today it is feared that the total number of victims in Sicily and Calabria will reach more than one hundred thousand while the damage to property will be several hundred millions.

THOUSANDS BURNED ALIVE.

Catania, Vt., Dec. 30.—One of the Messina survivors gave a vivid account this morning of the appearance of that city. He says that only a small proportion of the total population escaped. Thousands of persons are still buried alive in the ruins where they are suffering slow death by torture. The flames are still making their way slowly over the devastated area in an inexorable advance. Imprisoned and pinioned human beings, unable to extricate themselves are being burned alive. Others are dying of their injuries, while still others are starving.

The streets are filled with confused masses of brick and mortar, furniture, chimneys and roofs. It is impossible to recognize one thoroughfare from another. In many cases they appear as enormous crevices or great ditches, twisted into fantastic shapes. The celebrated Ave Palazzati which runs along the sea front from the plaza to the post office is impassable. All the monuments have disappeared. All the water pipes, sewer and gas pipes of the city have been destroyed and water, mud and filth are flooding the torn streets. Gas explosions occur frequently and result in the breaking out of scores of small fires.

SEAMEN TO THE RESCUE.

The British and Russian warships at Messina have sent crews ashore and are performing heroic deeds. The vessels themselves have been transformed into hospitals. All the hospitals in Catania are crowded and even the schools have been transformed into infirmaries. The less seriously injured of the survivors of Messina are being dispatched by the dozens to Palermo.

The refugees are beginning to tell tales of their marvellous escapes. After the first shock they were for a while imprisoned in their ruined houses. Many waited in terror for the coming of light. Then they made their way out and climbing over the countless obstructions in the streets escaped to the open. It is asserted that probably half the fatalities occurred because it was impossible for the survivors to render assistance.

Not the least of the suffering was caused by the torrential downpour of rain. Two doctors who succeeded in escaping from Messina report that fully two-thirds of the city has been ruined. Entire streets have caved in. One of the doctors was sleeping in a room on the third floor when the first shock came. He saved himself by jumping and gripping the roof of a neighboring house.

TEN THOUSAND ENGULFED IN ONE TOWN ALONE.

Catanzaro, Calabria, Dec. 30.—A report received here early this morning says that the town of Barnara has been completely wiped out. Fire completed the work of destruction. The report says that "All the inhabitants of Bagnara are dead. The town counted about 10,000 people. A big cross has been planted in the midst of the devastation. This monument will recall to posterity the cataclysm. In a few days, lime will be scattered over the heap of ruins which alone marks the site of a once prosperous town."

REFUGEES TELL STORY.

Catania, Dec. 30.—Tales of terror and suffering are told by the Messina refugees who have reached here. The majority of these are being treated in the hospitals while the others have secured shelter in private homes. A woman who escaped unhurt told of her experiences. "We were all sleeping in my house when we were awakened by an awful trembling which threw us out of our beds. I found out that it was an earthquake and called to the others to save themselves, while I quickly pushed a few clothes into a valise.

"The shocks increased. The walls cracked and my bureau split in two and then crashed to the floor nearly crushing me. My hands trembled so that I could hardly open the door. To increase the terror, a rain storm, accompanied by hail, swept through the broken windows.

"Finally, with my brother and sister, I succeeded in gaining the street but soon lost them in the mad rush of terror stricken people who swarmed, uttering cries of pain and distress. During this terrible flight, balconies, chimneys and tiles showered down on us continuously. Death ambushed us at every step. I rushed toward the water front, but there found the grand parade transformed into a muddy, miry lake, in which I slipped and often fell. I only learned afterwards that I was rescued senseless by a soldier and carried to a train.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 30.—From the tabulations made up tonight it is apparent that there are between four hundred and five hundred New Englanders who are now supposed to be in Sicily or Southern Europe. John T. Trowbridge, the author, and his wife, of Boston, landed in Naples from the Romanic on Dec. 17th, and were to go at once to Sicily to spend some time.

London, Dec. 30.—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 many 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 shocks were as severe as those which devastated San Francisco and Valgan has sent $10,000 for the relief of the earthquake sufferers.

NOTHING BUT RUINS.

Paris, Dec. 30.—A Palermo despatch says:—A torpedo boat which went to Reggio has returned, being unable to locate the site of the City and reporting that nothing remained but ruins.

WHAT 150,000 DEAD MEANS.

The wiping out of five times the militia of Canada.

The wiping out of the entire population of the Island of Cape Breton, with that of the counties of Guysboro and Antigonish.

The wiping out of the entire population of Halifax and Dartmouth, St. John and Carleton, Fredericton, Charlottetown, Moncton, Yarmouth, Truro and Sydney.

Rome, December 31.—The Vitrus says that a wireless message from the Strait of Messina reports that Lipari Islands, a group of volcanic islands in the Mediterranean, near the coast of Sicily, have disappeared. The total population of the group numbers 28,000 and must have inevitably perished. The minister of marine has rushed a torpedo boat to ascertain the facts.

Asks us to Print

To relieve the worst forms of Rheumatism, take a teaspoonful of the following mixture after each meal and at bedtime:

Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Kargon, one ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces.

These harmless ingredients can be obtained from our home druggists, and are easily mixed by shaking them well in a bottle. Relief is generally felt from the first few doses.

This prescription forces the clogged up, inactive kidneys to filter and strain from the blood the poisonous waste matter and uric acid, which causes Rheumatism. H

As Rheumatism is not only the most painful and torturous disease, but dangerous to life, this simple recipe will no doubt be greatly valued by many sufferers here at home, who should at once prepare the mixture to get this relief.

It is said that a person who would take this prescription regularly, a dose or two daily, or even a few times a week, would never have serious Kidney or Urinary disorders or Rheumatism.

Cut this out and preserve it. Good Rheumatism prescriptions which really relieve are scarce, indeed, and when you need it, you want it badly.

HOW LUMBERMAN OF WISCONSIN WOULD DO IT.

(Toronto Globe.)

Prof. Fernow, dean of the faculty of forestry of the University of Toronto, writes:

"If your readers are interested in the development of a forest policy in Canada they will read with satisfaction the following resolution lately passed by the Wisconsin Lumberman's Association, and it is almost certain to be enacted in the legislature. It is significant to note that this is the voluntary expression of the timberland owners as a result of this year's forest fires, which in Wisconsin ran over perhaps two and a half million acres. Two years ago they were still laughing at the hair-brained proposition of foresters to burn the brush. They are now at last convinced that it can and should be done:

"'Section 1. Any person who shall cut, or cause to be cut, any logs, bolts, pulp-wood, ties, poles, posts or other forest products in any of the counties designated in section 4 of this act shall pile the tops and refuse as the cutting proceeds, and shall within one year from such cutting and felling burn all such piles of refuse and tops, and in such burning all reasonable care shall be taken not to damage standing timber or adjoining property. The term 'burning' shall be construed to mean the destruction by fire of so much of such slashings as would become easily combustible material and dangerous in event they were not so destroyed, but no burning shall be done during dangerously dry weather.

"'Section 2. Any person who violates any of the provisions in regard to the burning of slashings, refuse, etc., shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall on conviction therefor be punished by a fine of not less than fifty (50) cents, nor more than two dollars ($2) per thousand feet log scale for all timber; not less than twenty-five (25) cents, nor more than one dollar ($1) per cord for all bolts, pulpwood, cord-wood or bark; and not less than ten (10) per cent. nor more than fifty (50) per cent. of the full cash value of other forest products cut and removed from such land.

"'Section 3. In case any person fails to properly pile and burn the tops and refuse the state board of forestry may in its discretion cause the same to be done and the expense thereof shall be a lien on the timber or other forest product cut from the land on which the tops and refuse are situated or cut, and shall also be a lien upon the land itself. Proceedings for the enforcement of such lien shall be instituted by the district-attorney of the county in which the cutting was done at the request of the state board of forestry and in the name of the state of Wisconsin as claimant; and costs shall be recovered in the usual manner."

Black Watch
Chewing Tobacco
The big black plug.
2269

THE ORIGINALITY OF THE CHILD

Unless one return to Wordsworth's "trailing clouds of glory," it would be difficult to say just why the most delightful conversationalists in the world are those who have not yet attained to a concrete vision of more than five years' standing. But it is true that we never hang with quite such wide-eyed and breathless expectancy upon the lips of the great sage or fluent orator as we do upon the oracular utterances of a child just viewing the world. Perhaps it is a faint adumbration of that rarest of God-given faculties, originality, pure and unobstructed, that holds us. At any rate, we are rarely disappointed of a little thrill of surprise when we turn to childhood for comment on life.

No two first visions of the universe are alike. "I assert for myself that I do not behold the outward creation, and that to me it is hindrance," said that eternal child, William Blake. "What, when the sun rises, do you not see a round disk of fire larger than a guinea? It will be questioned. "Oh, no, no. I see an innumerable company of the heavenly hose, crying 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.'"

Even so is the perception of the child created from the inner thought and untainted by the traditions and pre-suppositions of man.

"Let me see," said a tiny fellow, under two, upon being shown the moon for the first time—"let me see; I'll look around and find some more moons," and he scanned the sky hopefully. But the same experiment brought forth a widely varying result from a more literary little maid who, on being shown the moon for the first time, commented dejectedly, "Not any cow."

Even the dangers of literature are lessened for the very young by their free powers of re-arrangement and application. A little girl of four who had been taken to church reproduced the whole scene with much ingenuity, taking for a text, as she stood in her high chair, "Lead me in the paths of righteousness in the presence of mine enemies," and then descending and donning her father's old college cap, she sang with vim and endless reiterations, "Let your light so shine, little brother, let your light so shine that God will not put you in a bushel."

Religious instruction as sifted through the childish intelligence often results oddly, and one little girl of strong theological predilection was heard instructing a younger child thus: "Now, I'll tell you exactly how I am made. First, there is little round me that is busy and does things; over that I wear a skeleton of bones and then all the sinful lusts of the flesh." Upon the superficiarty of sin she might have been interpreted as having definite convictions, but when it came to the nature of Deity, patriotism obstructed her vision, for she wavered and finally confessed, "I don't know much about God, anyway; only one thing for sure He is a Virginian."

A little boy, gazing with real joy at a full moon, said, confidently, "It is very beautiful, and I made it myself." He was taken aside and reprimanded for laxity in integrity, but prolonged argument only resulted in the sobbing protestation, "Perhaps I did not make the realness of it, but I know I made its shape and its shining." Such was the apprearance of good faith that the discomfited representative of stern morality retired with a confused sense of dealing with a full-fledged Fichtian philosopher of five.

At that early age not only life, but art, is full of suggestion and much theory of life is built up upon pictorial representations. A small chubby baby, upon being reprimanded for escaping while he was being undressed, and running about his room in a state of nature, turned at once to a Raphael Madonna over the fireplace, and, pointing to the infant Jesus, said triumphantly, "He used to done it."

"When they bury the body," he asked a sister a year or two older, "how do they start the soul up to God?"

"Why don't you know?" she asked, surprised. "They chop the head off and tie little wings to the neck, and it wings straight up."

On being told of a friend's death, a little girl of six stood wondering, round-eyed and rosy, at the foot of her bed, and swiftly propounded these questions:

"Did her body get to heaven?

"Will her soul take up her skeleton?

"Does a soul have any kind of feet?

"When she gets there will God put an angel head upon her?

"Will she wear a shirt-waist and skirt?

"Will Jesus walk down to the gate and hand her out a judgment?

"When will she get her judgment?

"Will she climb up the steps to heaven or will angels carry her? My hymn says steps up to heaven.

"Will she see Jesus at last, in the real? ...

"And will she see God, in the rear?

"I don't want to die, because of the valley of the shadow of death; that must be very dark."

Then, without a pause, came, as a conclusion, a quick laying aside of the whole sad matter, as she sang out, cheerily, "I am going to hop to my bath on one foot," and she did, chanting as she went, "D-e-a-d—dead, dead, dead."

It is worthy of note that in earliest life the intimacy with great mysteries is closest, and the same child who at six set the questions above, at three, when she was asked by a little brother, "What was the names of those angels that brang me down from heaven?" she responded, without an instant's hesitation, "One was Star-bright and the other was Pleine-he-grace." When she was cross-examined as to how she knew, she looked inscrutable and only said, "I always knowed."

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17.03	Bridgetown	20.06
17.30	* Granville Centre	19.37
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