

retired from the shore, carrying recklessly on its bosom the ships which were at anchor, or were sailing along the coasts. A few minutes afterwards, a vast wave, of from 60 to 70 feet in height, rolled back from the ocean for miles inward over the land, dashing ships into pieces, and houses into atoms. The earth itself was terribly convulsed. Amidst the upheavings of the earth and sea, cities, towns and villages sank in ruins; fertile plains were devastated, and multitudes of the population perished. In one city with 50,000 inhabitants, it is said that not one stone was left upon another. The solidity of the buildings resisted the first shocks, but yielded to those that followed. Warned by the approaching desolation, most of the inhabitants were fortunate enough to escape, but 200 were buried in the ruins. A neighbouring city was reduced to a heap of ruins, and from one-fourth of its area 90 dead bodies were exhumed. These are examples of what happened in cities and towns scattered over regions of country of more than a thousand miles in extent. Altogether, according to calculations which have been made, property has been destroyed of the value of \$300,000,000, while 300,000 persons have been deprived of their homes, and, worst of all, upwards of 50,000 have perished. Are we not called upon to commiserate the hapless victims who have suffered so severely, and at the same time to feel grateful to God, who, notwithstanding our sins, has spared us the infliction of similar calamities? Do not such convulsions also, as these just referred to, serve to remind us that the time is coming when, not a part only, but the whole earth, and not the earth only, but also the heavens, shall be shaken in a manner unspeakably more awful and alarming? How deplorable the condition of those who, when the day of the Lord shall come, shall vainly call upon the mountains and the hills to fall upon them, and to hide them from deserved wrath! Happy, thrice happy, they on the other hand who, beyond the wreck and ruins of this earth and these heavens, can, as heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, anticipate the possession of a new earth and new heavens, which can never be shaken!

Not in the material world alone, but among the nations who inhabit it, have there been shakings and agitations during the year which has just closed. There have been wars, and rumours of wars, in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, and America. Kingdoms have been convulsed and dynasties overthrown. As part of the British Empire, we take a special interest in the events which have transpired in Abyssinia—in the victory achieved by our troops, in the rescue of prisoners for whose deliverance the expedition was undertaken, and in the terrible end of the tyrant, in which we cannot fail to recognize the just retribution of a life of almost unexampled cruelty and injustice. But there has also occurred during the year another revolution, which has chiefly arrested the profound attention of the whole civilized world. We refer to what has occurred in Spain. Once foremost among the nations of the earth, Spain has recently occupied an inferior position. For this she is indebted to the enervating effects produced by the tide of wealth flowing in from the conquests in America, to the blighting influences of Romanism, and last of all, to the demoralizing influence of the Court, which has long been a scene of profligacy and intrigue. The lives of the last three queens, grandmother, mother, and daughter, have been a public scandal. It is true that in the earlier part of last year the Roman Pontiff sent to Queen Isabella, as his "best beloved daughter" the golden rose as a pledge of his affection, and an emblem of her "faith, justice and charity," and, by his ambassador, spoke of her as