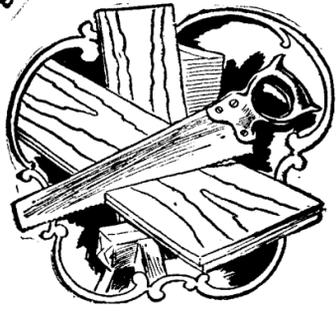


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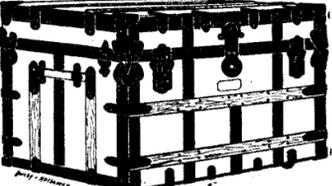
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THE EARTHQUAKE SHOCK

(Continued from page 3)

came about 1.30 p.m., the captain of the "Modoc" saying that he would soon have to pull out, as the wharf was in danger. We then said a sad good-bye to dear old St. Mary's, though nearly all cherished the hope of returning when the danger should have passed. I felt this hope, yet seemed inspired to take with me all the valuable papers and the money. Scarcely anything in the way of clothing was saved. It would seem that all the vehicles of the city had been placed at our disposal. The beautiful stations, many of the sacristy treasures and the entire operating-room equipment were saved, much of this due to the zeal of Dr. MacDonald, a non-Catholic.

The removal of patients and old people from hospital to steamer was accomplished with incredible order and calm. Dr. Hopper directing the march with true military decorum. On board the sick were made as comfortable as possible. From the deck we watched the raging flames all night, curling nearer and nearer to our dear old home. Next morning word came from the mayor of San Francisco that a hall was at our disposal; but in the meantime, through the kindness of Mr. Hugh Hogan, of East Oakland, the Pope mansion had been secured. Accordingly thither we proceeded, stopping at our convent on the way.

There are 54 patients now at "St. Mary's on the Hill," as we have christened it. The very bad cases we sent to the hospital of the Sisters of Divine Providence, in Oakland; others were taken by friends. All our doctors, 42 nurses and 18 Sisters, with most of our employes are in attendance. The wards have been named and all seem cheerful. The parish hall has been fitted up as the nurse's dormitory.

We have about 100 old ladies. Some are accommodated at the Fruitvale house, where years ago the foundation for their proposed new home was laid. The remainder are at a hall secured for the purpose, both places being in charge of a number of Sisters. Kind people have been liberal in sending provisions and bedding for the sick and aged. The "Elks," a benevolent society, offered hospitality for the old men at their place in Alameda.

Father Yorke, a true friend, has brought us news from the modern Sodom. Our Sisters at St. Peter's and St. Catherine's escaped the fire. The Sisters of the Holy Cross, from St. Charles parish, and Helpers of the Holy Souls, took refuge with them. All (31) became alarmed on Friday morning at 12.30, and marched out the Mission road to St. John's parochial residence, where they spent the night, returning when the danger had passed. (We mean St. Peter's nuns.) The St. Catherine Sisters are busy making bandages. Gen. Smith (of Philippine renown) our Sr. M. Raymond's brother-in-law, has made his headquarters there and is doing a great deal of work. Both houses are busy providing food and shelter for the outcasts. All were anxious about us, not knowing where we were.

We had been greatly concerned regarding the welfare of 16 of our Sisters who went to St. Hilary for the Easter vacation. On Saturday we learned of their safety, and on Sunday sent a tug to bring them over here. They had suffered great agony, thinking never to see us again.

The damage to this convent (East Oakland) was but comparatively trifling—broken statues, fallen plaster, overturned chimney—the last named necessitating the cooking for 50 people on a small stove in the yard, up to Friday afternoon. However we cannot be too grateful that no lives among us were lost, and no one injured.

Smallpox, cholera, measles, scarlet and typhoid fevers have broken out amid the ruins and our help has been asked. To-day (Monday) we sent eight Sisters and 12 nurses over with some of the doctors. The government will supply medicines and food. We are also in expectation of the donation of a fine mansion for use, until our own hospital is built. If we get this, other Sisters will go over there. However, we do not mean to abandon the work here. Great numbers of the outcasts are flocking over here, and all are very busy providing shelter and food. The school sheds, even, have been turned into dormitories.

There was wholesale vaccination here yesterday morning—Sisters and children.

It is said that many of the unfortunate people have encamped about the ruins of dear St. Mary's and are cooking in the ovens. It is consolation to think that they can still be of that much use.

We have just received a letter from

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the St. Peter's Sisters, delivered by a friend. They have an emergency hospital at the convent and are doing great work.

Your loving and sympathetic letter, with magnanimous gift received to-day. God bless you and yours a thousand times. It is only in trial and affliction that one can realize the power there is in kindness to console and encourage. I am sending type-written copies describing our doings during those awful days. They will give you only a faint idea of the calamity. No pen could write a true account of it! We cannot expect, nor do we wish you to send more money. Your kind heart has prompted you to be more than generous. God has been good and merciful to us.

Kind friends from all sides are offering assistance. Much has been done for us by the Relief committee. What would have become of us without this aid? Our old people, 100 in number, were in real want, particularly of under-clothing, almost nothing of the kind having been saved from the fire. Our 46 nurses also lost everything, and many of the patients removed from the doomed hospital were likewise in need. We shall always feel greatly indebted to the many kind benefactors who have shown their generosity towards us, and shall ever hold it a sacred obligation to remember them before the God of Charity, Who is never outdone in generosity, and Who will not fail to reward them a hundred-fold.