

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

The Late Earthquake in Italy.

A calamity which destroys thousands of lives in a city and wrecks the fortunes of the survivors, leaving their houses mere ruined sepulchres and their gardens yawning graves, is necessarily one of the saddest events of life. The whole story of the destruction of Casamicciola will not be known for days, possibly never, for if the damage done is as great as the early reports represent it to be it will be impossible ever to learn the full tale of victims. With many deaths and permanent sepulture will have been simultaneous, and if the city's site be again utilized it will be over the graves of hundreds of its citizens. It is impossible at this time to judge with any accuracy of the number of persons killed and injured by such an occurrence. Society becomes completely disorganized by fright, as well as by the destruction of all landmarks and standards by which to discover the extent of the damage. It is difficult for persons in this country to comprehend the horror of so sweeping a misfortune. Probably the nearest approach to such an experience was that of the people of Chicago in their great fire nearly twelve years ago. But even the wiping out of all the buildings of a great city could not produce the overpowering sense of helplessness that accompanies an earthquake. Even those who have lived all their lives in places where earthquakes are frequent gain little or no courage from their experience. The writer has seen a crowded ball-room cleared in the few seconds intervening between the beginning of a trembling and the solid shock which usually announces the end of the motion; and yet nine-tenths of those who displayed such agility in getting out were accustomed to at least three or more shocks yearly. The mind instantly becomes possessed of one idea, to the exclusion of all others, namely, that, short of flying, there is no means of reaching a place of absolute safety.

From the accounts received thus far it is probable that the movement of the earth was neither an upheaval nor an undulation. It seemed to be a general sinking, unmarked by most of the usual phenomena of an ordinary earthquake. It is well known that earthquakes maintain a close relation to volcanic action, but there are certain peculiarities about nearly every large movement of the earth's surface which make it impossible to frame a theory that will account for all the characteristics of earthquakes. Doubtless this one may have introduced a new variety of incidents to puzzle scientific men, but at present the known facts point to a sudden subsidence of the earth's crust, unaccompanied by any violent volcanic action in the neighborhood where the earth-movement occurred. This is rendered more certain by the absence of all action of the water in the adjoining bay. Wherever a genuine volcanic earthquake takes place on the sea coast there is sure to be a violent disturbance of the sea, sometimes causing an emptying of the bays seaward, followed by a tremendous incoming wave, so swift, strong and high as to sweep all before it. In the harbor of St. Thomas in 1867 the tidal wave following an earthquake carried two American men-of-war up into the town, and after floating them over the roofs of the first line of warehouses left one of them high and dry upon the shore, three hundred yards from the water. Similarly, in Peru in 1863, the Wateree was swept ashore two miles inland, where she was dismantled and left. No such tidal wave was noticed at Ischia on Saturday, nor were there any shocks or undulations on shore. The place is said to be fitly described in homely phrase as a town of which the bottom has "slumped out." It is possible, of course, that volcanic activity will be found to have been developed at some point of the earth's surface very distant from Ischia, for such distant sympathy is not uncommon; but at present it would seem as though the gradual cooling of internal fires might have left the surface unsupported at Ischia, compelling the sudden falling in of the earth to fill the cavity caused by the shrinking.

It is to be hoped that the loss of life is exaggerated in these first reports, but this hope cannot be relied on. The early accounts of the earthquake at Chios more than a year ago greatly underestimated the number of casualties, and there may be no inaccuracy in the large figures given for the loss at Casamicciola. There is one certainty about this disaster—there will be no heated discussions to determine who was to blame or how it might have been prevented.—*Phila. Record.*

What Tongue Did Christ Speak?

Some learned students of this question, which the revision of the Old Testament has vested with renewed interest, are of the opinion that the popular language of the inhabitants of Palestine at the time of Christ's mission was Greek. The Rev. Alexander Roberts, D. D., recently published a book on the Old Testament revision, in which he gives some reasons for this conclusion. For centuries preceding the coming of Christ the Greek language permeated the coun-

tries bordering on the Mediterranean. The old Hebrew, in which the law had been written, had become a dead language, and only the learned men of that period were able to read the Pentateuch. The pure Hebrew race in Palestine spoke Aramaic, which was totally unlike the Hebrew of Moses and Isaiah. The Greek language and the Aramaic were, then, the tongues spoken in that country at the time of the coming of our Lord. Hence, Dr. Roberts argues that while teaching the people Christ would address them in a language that they understood. Even if He knew the Scriptures in the original Hebrew He would no more be likely to use them in that way than a modern preacher who knows the New Testament in the original Greek would give his text in that. The evidence that the common people understood Greek our authority considers conclusive. As examples of facts which lead him to this opinion he quotes the epistles which were written in Greek by some of the apostles to the Hebrew Christians. Paul's epistles to the Greeks were, of course, written in Greek. "But," asks Dr. Roberts, "why should Peter, who was a strict Hebrew, write his epistles in Greek unless the Hebrews understood Greek? Why was the epistle to the Hebrews ascribed to Paul written in Greek? The apostles appear to have spoken in Aramaic and in Greek as the occasion seemed to demand. Christ did not address Himself merely to a province, but to the world, and His utterances were, therefore, in the language that was best understood. Greek was the language of civilization; moreover, 'it was the civilization of that era which accepted Him while the Hebrews rejected Him.'

The question is one of peculiar interest. The desire to know as accurately as possible the exact words of our Saviour is inborn in the breast of every believer in Him. The translation from Greek to English is very certain to be correct, while that from Aramaic to Greek is by no means so sure. Hence the discovery that He taught in the Greek language seems to bring us nearer to the truth.—*Phila. Record.*

Tricks of Smugglers.

Ingenious Efforts to Deceive—Curious Stories.

"One way of smuggling diamonds is to put them in a belt like a money belt, fitting closely to the body. But the practiced touch of the officer will generally detect this by passing the hands over the outer clothing. In cases of strong suspicion there is no hesitancy in stripping men and women in the search room, the women, of course, being attended by female searchers. Some very funny stories are told of the expedients adopted for concealing diamonds where they would not ordinarily be looked for. Few women, however, have the nerve to withstand search. The men sometimes show fight, but not often. The officers must, of course, be very circumspect in determining on a search. Twenty-dollar gold pieces in a belt about a man's body may be mistaken for watches, and then the officer gets laughed at; but he must take that risk. The questions are: 'Have you anything new and dutiable about your person?' and 'Have you more than one watch?'

"Once I picked out a man in a lot of passengers and determined to search him. My partner laughed at me, as he had not noticed anything suspicious about the man, and bet me a dinner I would not find anything. I found that under his outer clothing the man had a valuable set of furs, with cuffs, coat and muff, and he frankly admitted that he was trying to evade the duty. He was glad to buy the goods of the Custom House at the appraised value.

"One way of diamond smuggling is to wrap up the stones in a ball of yarn carried in a lady's pocket. But the gems may easily be found by piercing the ball with a long needle. It is not difficult for an expert to detect stones concealed in the lining of clothing. Long experience develops a marvelous delicacy of touch that reveals the smuggled goods as quickly, almost, as if they were openly displayed. I have often detected silks and laces folded between clothing in trunks undergoing examination some distance off. I have, for instance, observed the unnatural stiffness of a pair of pantaloons as they were turned over in a trunk, and, upon turning the trousers inside out, have discovered dutiable goods inside. This is easy enough when you have had years of practice, but a novice might see the same thing and not discover any smuggling. People who wrap themselves up in smuggled dry goods generally betray themselves by their unnatural proportions. Some time ago we captured a fellow with laces wound about all his limbs. It took us some time to unwind him.

"False bottoms in dressing cases, trunks, bandboxes and the like are often used for diamond and jewelry smuggling. One man was caught with a false lining in his hat. One push on the lining revealed the fraud. One fellow was observed with a hump on his back. Examination disclosed the fact that his deformity was occasioned by forty-two gold watches. His heart was almost broken when we seized the goods. Women have been detected smuggling valuables in their chignons, and it is a common thing for them to line their dresses with silks and laces,

easily disclosed by quick external examination. "The sense of smell often exposes the smuggler of otter of roses or oil of cloves, on which the duty is heavy. We caught one Scotchman who had tin cans made to curl about his body in crescent shape. He was making rather frequent visits to the ship, and we traced him to a place in Greenwich street, where he had carried eight of these cans, containing about ten pounds of oil of cloves each. He was the most fragrant prisoner I ever saw."

Beecher a "Christian Evolutionist."

CHICAGO, July 25.—Last Sunday Rev. J. Spencer Kennard, pastor of the Fourth Baptist church, made the presence of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher in this city the occasion to deliver a pleasantly-turned sermon, combating the views of the great Brooklyn divine. Today's papers publish a breezy and brotherly letter from Brother Beecher to Brother Kennard. It is, perhaps, the most succinct and unequivocal statement of Mr. Beecher's views yet made public. He says he knows he is orthodox and evangelical as to the facts and substance of the Christian religion, and he knows equally well that he is not orthodox to the philosophy which has hitherto been applied to these facts. He calls himself a cordial Christian evolutionist, but does not agree with the agnosticism of Spencer, Huxley and Tyndall. He believes that the animal part of man was evolved from beings below him, while in spiritual value he is the son of God. Man, he says, is not sinful by nature, but voluntarily. He does not believe in the fall of Adam or the inheritance of his guilt. Dr. Kennard dined with Mr. Beecher last evening.

A Dangerous Balloon Voyage.

"Professor" Hogan, who made a balloon ascension from Hillsdale, Mich., on Saturday, returned on Sunday morning. He says it was the most hazardous trip of his life. At a height of a mile and a half a current of air caused his balloon to roll from side to side and threw the valve rope beyond his reach, so that he lost control. He took a scrap-book and pencil and wrote notes, which he left fall to the earth, of which he got occasional glimpses through the clouds. At the end of ninety minutes he struck a current which carried him rapidly north, in sight of Saginaw City, and then another which took him over Lake Huron. When near Toledo the balloon veered in such a manner as to enable him to catch the valve. When he looked for a place to land, he began to descend, but found himself in the midst of a dense swamp. Ascending, he made an attempt to strike in a large field, but was plunged to the bottom of the Maumee River, near Waterville, O.

Then the balloon rebounded to the top of a tall tree and collapsed, the voyager catching a limb. He thinks he must have been at one time five miles above the earth. He suffered greatly from cold, and when at the greatest height, it was very difficult for him to breathe. He had a canteen of liquor, and an occasional swallow saved his life by keeping him from going to sleep, for the feeling of drowsiness was very strong, and, at times, nearly overcame him. He believes he traveled over 200 miles in three hours, as most of the time he was blown along at frightful speed.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR marked the departure on his pleasure excursion the other day by the removal of Ex-Governor Pollock from the Surveyor's office in Philadelphia, and the appointment of Editor Nevin as his successor. After a lifetime spent in public office, the ex-governor will feel lonely in retirement to private life.

Quick Railway Time.

Rockford, Ill., Jan. 1880.
This is to certify that we have appointed Frank P. Blair, sole agent for the sale of our Quick Train Railroad Watches in the town of Bellefonte.

ROCKFORD WATCH COMPANY.
BY HOMER P. HULLAND, Sec.
Having most thoroughly tested the Rockford Quick Train Watches for the last three years, I offer them with the fullest confidence as the best made and most reliable time keeper for the money that can be obtained.

I fully guarantee every Watch for two years.
FRANK P. BLAIR,
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All other American Watches at reduced prices.

DICHTON, Jan. 27, 1882.
The Rockford watch purchased Feb. 1879, has performed better than any Watch I ever had. Have carried it every day and at no time has it been irregular, or in the least unreliable. I cheerfully recommend the Rockford Watch.
HORACE B. HORTON,
at Dighton Furnace Co.

TAUNTON, Sept. 18, 1881.
The Rockford Watch runs very accurately; better than any watch I ever owned, and I have had one that cost \$150. Can recommend the Rockford Watch to everybody who wishes a fine timekeeper.
S. P. HUBBARD, M. D.

This is to certify that the Rockford Watch bought Feb. 22, 1879, has run very well the past year. Having set it only twice during that time, its only variation being three minutes. It has run very much better than I ever anticipated. It was not adjusted and only cost \$20.
R. P. BRYANT,

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery and diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle.

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Thousands die from neglect to properly treat Impure Blood, Constipation, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Apoplexy, Liver, Kidney, Heart Diseases, Dropsy, and Rheumatism. But to the debilitated, burdened with such serious sickness, we conscientiously recommend "SWAYNE'S PILLS," which contain medicinal properties possessed by no other remedy. Sent by mail for 25 cents, box of 30 pills; 5 boxes, \$1. (in stamps). Address, DR. SWAYNE & SON, Philadelphia, Pa. Sold by Druggists.

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This popular hotel, under the management of the present proprietor, is better fitted than ever for the entertainment of guests. Rates reasonable. May 31-82

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The town of Millheim is located in Penn's Valley about two miles from Coburn Station, on the Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek Railroad, with surroundings that make it a gem.

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Good trout fishing in the immediate vicinity. A cab runs to every train. At the Millheim Hotel accommodations will be found first-class and terms moderate.
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For Diseases, Root of Blood to the Head, leading to Ringworm, Dyspepsia, Fever and Ague, Dropsy, Pimples, Eruptions, Eczema, Scabies, Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, Neuralgia, White Swelling, Erysipelas, Sore Eyes, and for young men suffering from Weakness or Indolence caused from Impediments, and to form a delicate health, Frazier's Root Bitters are especially recommended.
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