

near by were similarly treated, and the ships looked like bits of cork bobbing about in a tempest. Almost immediately a tidal wave of huge proportions swept across the strait, mounting the coasts and carrying everything before it. Scores of ships were damaged, and the Hungarian mail boat Andrássy parted her cable and went crashing into other vessels. Messina Bay was wiped out, and the sea was soon covered with masses of wreckage, which was carried off in the arms of the receding waters."

Eight sailors from the Sappho were landed and took up the work of rescue. Officers and men from Italian and British steamers also went ashore as soon as possible, the British saving a family of five who were imprisoned in a burning house. Many prisoners from the jails made their escape and looted right and left. Hundreds engaged in the work of robbing the banks and business houses. In the opinion of the officers of the Sappho half the population of Messina perished.

Further accounts given by the officers of the Sappho show the tremendous force of the great wave which swept completely over the city, from which a dense cloud of dust arose as the buildings fell, while the air was rent by agonizing cries for help.

Almost the entire city was in the twinkling of an eye reduced to ruins, and in the midst of these still stood the gigantic and sinister walls of the great hotel Trinacria, where a hundred foreign guests met their death, the municipal palace and a line of what were once splendid offices along the sea front.

From a dozen sections tongues of flames were seen shooting out of the ruins, and soon half the town was enveloped in flames. Sailors from the Sappho, under the command of the head engineer, succeeded after a hard struggle against the waves in reaching land, and they were among the first to penetrate into the town and begin the work of rescue.

Bands of robbers entered the wrecked houses and then fought over the loot. One of the hands sacked the home of a rich merchant, sending a deaf ear to his pitiful appeal to help



PUBLIC SQUARE IN MESSINA, FACING VIA GARIBALDI. This picture was made from a window in the Hotel Trinacria.

himself and his family who were plinned by the walls. They stole the treasures and set fire to the ruins.

The first official news concerning Reggio reached the Home Office this evening from Genoa Marina, from which point an army officer, who escaped from that place, telegraphed that the town had been entirely destroyed and that the dead were numberless. Five earth shocks, all terrible in their effects, had been felt.

Several hundred soldiers were killed at Catanzaro, and many policemen were killed and wounded. Thousands of charred bodies have been seen floating in the strait. At Palmi three hundred corpses have been discovered, and many hundred more are still beneath the wreckage. Every house in Bagnara was leveled. All the railway stations between Messina and Rosetta were destroyed. Every little village has its quota of dead.

Before the departure of the King from Naples on the battleship Vittorio Emanuele, his majesty received a telegram from President Roosevelt, expressing the sympathy of the United States. The King highly appreciated this expression of concern.

A report from the observatory at Messina says the earthquake lasted for only twenty-three seconds. It was accompanied by remarkable atmospheric phenomena. The air was filled with sparks and flashes of flame which flared up until the heavens seemed afire. The crest of the earth appeared suddenly to drop. These phenomena were followed by distinct lateral oscillations which threw the people off their feet as they rushed to the streets.

A large number of people saw their majesties depart from Rome, and one among a number of Deputies at the station observed to the King: "The presence of your majesty will suffice to console the stricken population." The King turned sharply on the speaker and said abruptly: "Don't talk nonsense."

Reports indicate that the geography of the Strait of Messina has been so changed as to cause apprehension of serious commercial and strategic difficulties. It is believed that navigation has become extremely dangerous, in which case the fortifications, on which the government in recent years spent large sums, will be useless. The famous whirlpool of Charybdis, it is said, has shifted its position.

Desperate calls have been made from Rome to Messina, but these remain unanswered, and fears are entertained that Fort Spuria, near Messina, has been destroyed as the wireless station installed there, one of the most powerful in Italy, is evidently not working. The catastrophe has excited the superstitions of the entire populace, who are running about the country calling on all the saints and imploring the mercy of heaven. Their superstition has been increased by the rumor that in the general destruction of Messina the statue of St. Rose remained unharmed.

The work of rescue at Messina, according to the meagre details received here to-night, presented harrowing scenes. Hundreds of persons were plinned under walls and rafters, alive, but terribly injured, for thirty hours. One of the rescuers found under the ruins of a house five children, alive, but unable to speak, clinging around the corpse of their mother. In some cases heroic rescuers met death in the falling ruins. In one house twenty persons suspended on the fifth floor, and unable to reach the street because the lower floors had been torn away, were rescued with a rope by a sailor. Six criminals were killed while attempting to loot the Bank of Sicily, where cash amounting to \$500,000 lay in plain view.

Refugees from Reggio who reached Catanzaro this afternoon said that they could see huge columns of smoke rising from the ruins of Messina. They affirmed that Reggio, Cannitello and Lazzaro were destroyed. A tidal wave demolished the railroad between Lazzaro and Reggio, and a small army of men is working desperately to re-establish communications with the latter place, for which a train with troops and telegraphers has started.

Reports received from Cassano and Cosenza, in Calabria, give 1,200 dead and 500 wounded in the former town, and say that 500 bodies

PUBLIC SQUARE IN MESSINA, FACING VIA GARIBALDI.

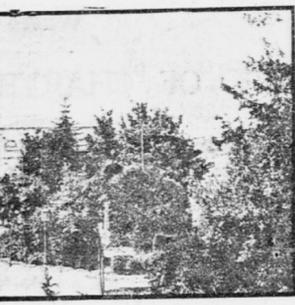
This picture was made from a window in the Hotel Trinacria.



have already been taken from the ruins in the latter. Cassano has 6,730 people, while Cosenza is the centre of a commune with a population of 21,000.

Vandalism of the worst kind broke out at Messina, and the government adopted the most severe measures for its repression. Robbers and looters are shot on sight.

When the prison at Messina collapsed some of the convicts were killed, but the survivors made their escape and joined the mob in sacking the city. There was at first such confusion that the robbers met no resistance. The local chief of police lies dead in the room of his office. The barracks at Messina were demolished.



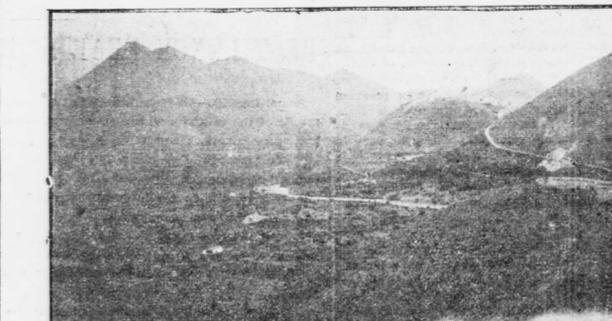
PUBLIC GARDEN AND PREFECT'S PALACE AT COSENZA.

The commander of the troops was killed outright, and there are many victims among the enlisted men.

The government last night sent General Feltr di Cossatto, an army corps commander, to take full charge of the troops in the devastated territory.

The robbers pillaged the ruins of shattered buildings, and even stole clothing and valuables from the corpses of the victims. They were not deterred by the flames that broke out in several sections of the city, but took advantage of the light for their vandalism. The night in Messina was one of indescribable horror—fire, robbery, death and dying on every side, the city in the utmost confusion and the people panic-stricken.

Troops began to pour into Messina last night, and this morning a number of steamers arrived from the peninsula with soldiers on board. Patrols were at once organized and efforts made



LANDSCAPE NORTH OF COSENZA.

to bring some order into the situation. Bands of citizens were formed and helped heroically in the work of rescue. Many courageous acts were performed by soldiers and citizens alike, and in some cases the rescuers themselves lost their lives in trying to help others. Toward morning several of the worst fires had been extinguished, the looting was under partial control and comparative order had been partially established.

The finest palaces, churches and theatres of Messina are now heaps of ruins. Countless dead bodies are scattered through the wreckage.

The devastation over the entire district was more or less complete. No part of the province of Reggio di Calabria escaped. In more than one town the shocks caused gas meters to explode, and the fires which resulted helped greatly to swell the death list.

Wireless telegraphy has been of the greatest assistance in getting reports from the devastated regions, and in helping the authorities to realize the extent of the disaster and to send help to the places where it was most urgently needed.

A flying squadron of the Italian navy, composed of the best three battleships, had started for an Atlantic cruise before the news of the disaster arrived. Through the medium of wireless telegraphy, it was possible to reach these vessels and order them to go at full speed to Messina. A British squadron that was at Syracuse has started for Messina, taking a number of doctors and supplies.

The dome of the cathedral at Catania collapsed, and other churches, as well as the city hall, threaten to fall at any moment. The tidal wave sank numberless small boats in the harbor there.

At Riposto the tidal wave was thirty-five feet high. It swept in with appalling power and lasted forty-two seconds. First the sea receded for a great distance from the shore. Then it swept forward with tremendous violence. The water advanced in a huge wave and swept before it every house and building for a thousand feet from the shoreline. The waters rushed through the streets of Riposto to a depth of from ten to twenty feet.

The government is sending troops with the

LOSS OF LIFE IN GREAT EARTHQUAKES.

Year.	Place.	Lives lost.
1693.	Sicily	60,000
1703.	Yeddo, Japan	200,000
1731.	Peking	100,000
1755.	Lisbon	50,000
1783.	Calabria	60,000
1797.	Quito	40,000
1861.	Peru and Ecuador	25,000
1883.	Krakatoa	35,000
1896.	Japan	26,000
1902.	Martinique	25,000
1905.	India	15,000
1906.	San Francisco	500
1906.	Valparaiso	1,000
1907.	Kingston, Jamaica	1,500
1907.	Turkestan	14,000

utmost dispatch, by land and by sea, to the scene. Four thousand men from the garrison at Rome already are on their way. Various steamship companies have placed vessels at the disposition of the government, and the system of wireless communication is being increased.

The Minister of the Interior has received a telegram from Messina saying that the bodies of seventy English travellers and thirty Germans are buried beneath the ruins of the Hotel Trinacria, Victoria and Bellevue at Messina.

REGGIO MASS OF RUINS.

Few of 50,000 Inhabitants Escape Death or Injury.

Catanzaro, Calabria, Dec. 29.—Refugees are beginning to come in here from Reggio, on the Strait of Messina. They confirm the previous reports of the havoc caused by the earthquake in that city. It is most difficult to get any connected account of the occurrences from them, for they are stunned and exhausted. They say, however, that the disaster there was as appalling as at Messina, if not worse. The lower part of Reggio has disappeared and the public buildings, the churches, the barracks, the city hall and numerous smaller houses are to-day only heaps of ruins. Any estimate of the death list is as yet impossible. The refugees could see Messina in flames. Other refugees from Bagnara say that half of that town has been destroyed.

London, Dec. 29.—A dispatch received here from Catanzaro says that only a few thousands



LANDSCAPE NORTH OF COSENZA.

of the entire population of Reggio have escaped death or injury.

Lieutenant General Fiera di Cossatto has ordered that all looters and robbers be shot on sight. Martial law is enforced in the earthquake zone.

A dispatch from Rome says that the Pope has been notified that the entire religious communities of Messina and Reggio, including bishops, priests, monks and nuns, have been wiped out by the earthquake and fire.

TWO TOWNS DESTROYED.

A Thousand Dead at Palmi—Many Lives Lost at Bagnara.

Monte Leone, Calabria, Dec. 29.—The town of Palmi has been practically destroyed, as has also Bagnara. The dead at Palmi number 1,000, and it is impossible to estimate the injured. Large numbers were killed also in Bagnara, and the list of wounded there also will be heavy. Details are lacking.

The tidal wave inundated a villa at San Giovanni, 2,500 feet from the shore line.

Palmi has 10,000 inhabitants, and Bagnara, 7,500.

IMMENSE SPOT ON THE SUN.

Coincident with Disaster in Italy—Commented on by Astronomers.

[By Telegram to The Tribune.] Philadelphia, Dec. 29.—Local astronomers are deeply interested in the appearance of a huge spot on the sun about the time of the earthquake in Southern Italy Monday, although they are not prepared to claim connection between the two, further than to assert that the same disturbing causes operate simultaneously on the sun and earth at certain irregular periods.

The spot now upon the sun disk appeared to view on Monday and will be visible about ten days. It is believed to have been caused by violent outbursts of gases from the interior, making their way to the surface and obscuring the sun's light.

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MANY FOREIGNERS DEAD

A Hundred Perish in Messina—Strait Twisted Into New Shape.

Palermo, Dec. 29.—Refugees from Messina say that one hundred foreigners at the Hotel Trinacria, in the Via Garibaldi, lost their lives. The building was obliterated.

Navigators who have come in here from the Strait of Messina report that the strait has taken an entirely new shape since the earthquake. They describe it as "twisted." Many villages and forts along the strait have been destroyed. Lighthouses have been swallowed up by the sea, and navigation is impossible at night and dangerous by day.

The captain of the steamer Washington, which was in the strait at the time of the shock, says his vessel shuddered as if she had run aground. A thick fog prevailed at the time, and it was impossible for him to see the Messina lighthouse or the Calabrian coast. The Washington was soon surrounded with boats appealing for aid. The people were taken on board. The sea was littered with wreckage in every direction.

Among those who lost their lives at Messina are Commandant Passino and all the members of his family. They were crushed in the ruins of their residence.

One of the men picked up by the Washington was named Francesco Lojaco. He was wounded and unconscious. On reviving he called wildly for his wife and children. All efforts to quiet him were useless, and he insisted that the steamer put him ashore. Finally he became insane, and, springing to his feet, jumped overboard, still calling for his wife and babies. He started swimming toward land, but soon sank.

A traveller returned here this afternoon from the other side of the strait. He says that Reggio, San Giovanni, Scilla, Cannitello and all the other communes and villages bordering on the strait are in ruins. Great numbers of dead are believed to be still under the wreckage.

The British steamer Ebro came in here this afternoon from Messina. She has on board sixteen wounded, including Alfred J. Ogston, the British Vice-Consul at Messina. Mrs. Ogston lost her life, but the consul's daughter was saved. Mr. Ogston describes the destruction of Messina as "rightful beyond words and exceeding in horror the wildest flights of the imagination."

One of the trains that came in here from Messina this afternoon brought the widow of the chief of police of that city and her son. Both seemed half crazed with grief. They made frantic but vain efforts to save the life of the husband and father and the other children. The clothes of the widow and her son are in rags.

The reported deaths of Deputy Nicolo Fulci and his wife have been confirmed. Ludovico Fulci, who also is a deputy, refuses to leave the wreck of his brother's home. He is there now, working with bleeding hands and half dead from fatigue, determined to remain until he finds the body of his brother.

A trainload of refugees from Messina came in here this morning, most of them mad from terror. All agree that Messina has been destroyed and that the victims will be counted by the tens of thousands.

A tidal wave thirty feet high swept up three streets of the city in the height of the confusion following the shock. Hundreds of half dressed men, women and children who had fled from their houses to the streets were caught in the onrush of waters and drowned.

The refugees say that the entire country around Messina has been devastated and that several villages have disappeared.

Geographic reports have been received here from all parts of the island of Sicily. They say the inhabitants everywhere are terror stricken and praying in the streets and churches.

Reggio is described as a vast desolure. A trainload of doctors, nurses and hospital equipment has been sent out from here for Messina, and the steamer Marguerita, loaded to the guards with persons who had relatives in the doomed city and others who will join in the work of relief, also has left here. A naval hospital ship has also started for that port. The Russian warships at Syracuse are on their way to the stricken city.

The news that the King and the Queen of Italy are coming down with medicines and dressings for the care of the wounded has created a splendid impression here.

TALES OF SURVIVORS.

The Horrors at Messina Described—Many Refugees Insane.

Catania, Dec. 29.—Refugees are pouring into Catania by trains, steamers and automobiles. They are half naked and stupefied with terror and suffering. Some of them appear almost insane from the horrors through which they have gone. In the beginning they could only babble "Messina has been devastated; the city has been annihilated." Little by little some idea of the horrors was obtained.

The refugees say that thousands of demented survivors are still wandering among the ruins of the city. A wounded soldier said:

The spectacle was terrifying beyond words. Dante's "Inferno" gives you only a faint idea as to what happened yesterday morning at Messina. The first shock came before the sun had risen. It shook the city to its foundations. Immediately the houses began to crumble. Those of us who were not killed at once made our way over undulating floors to the street. Beams were crashing down through the rooms.

I found the streets blocked by fallen houses. Broken chimneys, bell towers, entire walls had fallen down. From every side of me arose the screams and moanings of the wounded. The people were half mad with excitement and fear. Most of them had rushed out in their night clothes. In a little while we were all shivering under a torrential downpour of rain. Everywhere there were dead bodies, nude, disfigured and mutilated. In the ruins I could see all that happened yesterday morning. From every quarter came piteous appeals for aid.

The portion of the town down near the water was inundated by the tidal wave. The water reached to the shoulders of the fugitives and swept them away.

The city hall, the cathedral and the barracks crumbled, and churches, other public buildings and dwellings without number were razed to the ground. There were two hundred customs agents at the barracks; only forty-one of them were saved. At the railroad station only eight out of 250 employes have been accounted for. Many of those who succeeded in escaping with their lives are incapable of relating their experiences coherently. I questioned all who were in a condition to talk. Most of them told the same story. They said the first thing they knew they were thrown out of bed, and amid crashing ceilings and falling furniture managed to make their way to the street. Then in the blackness of night and amid a pouring rain, which added to their horror and distress, they rushed blindly away amid the crash of tumbling buildings and the shrieks and groans of those buried in the ruins. Many were struck down

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while trying to escape by falling balconies and masonry, and still many others lost their reason and are to-day wandering aimlessly in the open fields outside the city or up and down the ruined streets they knew so well.

The looters and robbers were shot down by the rifles of the soldiers.

It has been proposed here to remove all the survivors of Messina to Catania.

The previous reports from the provinces that a number of villages were wrecked have been confirmed. Seventeen in Calabria, twenty miles from Reggio, is said to have been destroyed, with the loss of a hundred lives.

The following graphic story is told by a woman who arrived here from Messina this morning. She was herself badly injured. She describes the horrors accompanying the disaster at Messina in these words:

Infernal is the only word which will adequately describe the fearful scene. When the first shock came most of the city was fast asleep. I was awakened by the rocking of the house. Windows swayed and rattled, and crockery and glass crashed to the floor. The next moment I was violently thrown out of my bed. I was half stunned, but knew that the only thing to do was to make my way outdoors. The streets were filled. Everywhere I rushed out in their night-clothes, heedless of the rain, which was falling in torrents. Terrified shrieks arose from all sides, and we heard heartrending appeals for help from the unfortunates pinned beneath the ruins.

Walls were tottering all around us, and not one of my party expected to escape alive. My brothers and sisters were with me, and in a frenzy of terror we groped our way through the streets, holding our own against the panic-stricken people, clambering over piles of ruins, until we finally reached a place of comparative safety. But this was not done before I was struck down and badly injured by a piece of furniture which fell out of the upper story of a house.

All along the road we were jostled by scores of feeble people, half clad like ourselves. The houses seemed to be crashing to the ground in whatever direction we turned.

Suddenly the sea began to pour into the town. It seemed to me that this must mean the end of everything. The oncoming waters rolled in in a huge wave, accompanied by a terrifying roar. The sky was aglow with the reflection of hurrying rain and other buildings, and there suddenly shot up into the sky a huge burst of flame, followed by a crash that seemed to shake the whole town. This probably was the gas works blowing up.

Eventually we reached the principal square of Messina. Here we found two thousand or three thousand terrified people assembled. None of them seemed to know what to do. We walked in a agony of fear. Men and women prayed and groaned and shrieked. I saw one of the big buildings fronting on the square collapse. It seems to me that scores of persons were buried beneath the ruins. Then I lost consciousness, and I remember no more.

Mount Etna, the volcano a short distance from here, is showing this morning considerable activity, and the detonations, which can be plainly heard in this city, and the volume of smoke rolling out of the crater have added to the panic of the people.

According to the director of the local observatory this activity is directly connected with the earthquake of yesterday, which wrought such havoc in Calabria and Sicily, but a great eruption is not expected. Such phenomena, the director says, seldom accompany violent seismic disturbances.

The majority of the refugees are being treated in the hospitals, while the others have obtained shelter in private homes. A woman who escaped unhurt told her experiences as follows:

We were all sleeping in my house when we were awakened by an awful trembling, which threw us out of our beds. I cried out that it was an earthquake, and called to the others to save themselves, while I quickly pushed a feather into my eyes. 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 scarcely open the doors.

To increase the terror, a rainstorm accompanied by hail, swept through the broken window. Finally, with my brother and sister I succeeded in galloping the street, but soon lost them in the mad race of terror-stricken people, who surged onward, uttering cries of pain and distress. During this terrible flight balconies, chimneys and tiles showered down upon us continuously, but there found the grand promenade transformed into a miry lake, in which I slipped and often fell. I learned afterward that I was rescued senseless by a soldier and carried to a train.

IEWS OF SEISMOLOGISTS.

John Milne Thinks Casualties Underestimated—Professor Reid's Opinion.

London, Dec. 29.—John Milne, the well known seismologist of the Isle of Wight, said to-day 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 reports indicate. The shocks were as severe as those which devastated San Francisco and Valparaiso.

Baltimore, Dec. 29.—Harry Fielding Reid, professor of geological physics at Johns Hopkins University, and one of the leading authorities on seismic disturbances, attributes the earthquake in Southern Italy to a general dropping of the surface of the earth in that locality. He said: "The whole section of the country present to my mind is sinking, and I think that the shock of yesterday was due to this general dropping of that portion of the earth's surface."

To increase the terror, a rainstorm accompanied by hail, swept through the broken window. Finally, with my brother and sister I succeeded in galloping the street, but soon lost them in the mad race of terror-stricken people, who surged onward, uttering cries of pain and distress. During this terrible flight balconies, chimneys and tiles showered down upon us continuously, but there found the grand promenade transformed into a miry lake, in which I slipped and often fell. I learned afterward that I was rescued senseless by a soldier and carried to a train.

Vienna, Dec. 29.—Professor Edward Suess, the celebrated geologist, says he believes the earthquake in Calabria and Sicily was not due to volcanic eruptions but to the subsidence of the earth's crust, and that it is likely to be repeated by volcanic movements. Should this settling down of the earth's crust continue, says Professor

After the death of Anaxias the town became a republic, and so remained until the Carthaginians destroyed it in warring with Dionysius of Syracuse in the fourth century B. C. Dionysius rebuilt it, but it was again taken by the Carthaginians, who were driven out by Timoleon in 343 B. C. The end of the first Punic War left Messina in the hands of the Romans, who retained it for several centuries, and it attained considerable importance. In 831 A. D. the Saracens seized it, and in 1061 it was conquered by the Normans.

In the time of the Crusades it was a rendezvous for soldiers and pilgrims. In the Middle Ages it became a seat of trade, and received important privileges from Charles I of Spain. But factional feuds rent the city in 1574, and an appeal was made for aid to France, but the Spaniards secured control and deprived Messina of both its political privileges and commercial importance. Its population being greatly reduced. Subsequent disasters prevented it from regaining its former importance. It was bombarded in 1684, cholera carried off sixteen thousand persons in 1854, and in 1860 it was occupied by Garibaldi.

Catania was founded at about the same time as Messina by the Chalcidians, and suffered much from wars in its early history. It was partially destroyed by an eruption of Mount Etna in 124 A. D. and nearly annihilated by an earthquake in 1560. Again in 1683 it suffered greatly in like manner. Reggio was nearly destroyed in 1783, but afterward was rebuilt.

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