

**EARTHQUAKE ITEMS**

**Astoria's Personal Interests in the Shock and Fire.**

**LETTERS, INTERVIEWS AT HAND**

**Trenchant Descriptions of Events, People and Incidents in the Stricken Metropolis by Astorians—Descriptive Week.**

Under date of April 23, the following very interesting letter was received here yesterday by Dr. A. A. Finch from his brother, Charles N. Finch, who is well known in this city, now with the Northern Pacific Steamship Company and stationed at San Francisco, where he has undergone his share of strange experiences and has given a succinct record thereof, in the words and figures following:

"Now that the first excitement and agony of our great calamity is over and there is a breathing spell, I will try and give you a description of the event from my own observations, and outside of the regular officials I think I have seen as much as any one for to reach the city I have had to go right through the districts which have sustained the great damage and where the greatest loss of life occurred.

"How long the quake had been going on when I woke up I cannot say, but being a seafaring man I can tell you it took quite a bit of rolling to disturb me, and then as I had to get our parents being my first thought I lost track of time, but knew afterwards that the shock commenced at 5:15 a. m. as the clock on the mantle stopped at that time and have found out since that it was correct.

"Having got them down stairs, naturally the first thought was to look out doors to see what damage had been sustained in the neighborhood, and although no houses were down around us all the chimneys were but saw heavy smoke in the direction of the city and remarked to mother that I thought a fire had broken out there, but concluded later that it was smoke from the

factories, but at 7 a. m. mother was so anxious about the other boys that I started for town when I got to the avenue there were no cars running so I started to hike but had only gone a few blocks when a car came along and jumped it, under protest, it being a load of dynamite but stayed with it as far as it went, 11th and Bryant, and then commenced the sights of terror.

"Went up Ninth to Market where buildings had fallen in all directions and could see the fire in the southern part of the city working westward and and it was coming in leaps with thousands of people fleeing before, it some with bundles which they had collected and others with nothing on but their night shirts; gave a and when ever I could, but being anxious on account of Will and Clara kept going towards them as fast as I could; when I got to 9th and Market and looked down the latter street the sight was appalling as far as eye could reach nothing but fire and ruin the seven story majestic building was laying across 9th street, the city hall although the steel frame work stood had peeled like an orange and up Larkin street to the Margaret Hotel where Will was living the buildings were the same where they were of brick construction when I reached my destination found they had gone to Jefferson Square the first thing along with the rest of the guests of the hotel for the shock must have been awful for them as they had a suite in the third story. I looked all through the park, but it was like looking for a needle in a straw stack as thousands were already there, so went out to Vic's place and all the way out found everyone in panic on account of the earthquake, but none were expecting the awful scenes which were to follow.

"Even at the time I had reached Vic's, 10 a. m. the people had made their camps in the streets, a majority were afraid to go into their houses, he and I went up Devisadero to California st. and went down that street to the Stanford residence and could get a grand view of the conflagration, all the south side as far as Seventh and Market was in flames and from the line of East st. as far as Sansome street.

"We saw the Call, Emporium, Hearst and in fact all the big blocks on that side of Market catch, and wonderful to relate the earthquake did them practically no damage and from that fact Frisco has learned her lesson thoroughly as to the style of buildings to erect in the future, for let me tell you right here that there are plans out now for a grander and more beautiful city to re-



Copyright 1906 by Hart Schaffner & Marx

**We Don't Claim a Monopoly**

On good fabrics and good making, other stores can give you this, but **STYLE, INDIVIDUALITY**, That's another matter altogether. Clothes Craft is exemplified in

**Hart, Schaffner & Marx**  
AND  
**Brandege, Kincaid & Wood**  
**Clothes**

They're a true type of high art in men's apparel --because of the distinctive style they possess, and the absolute consistency of perfection, which bear the best of actual wear, You can dress yourself if you will.

**P. A. STOKES,**

Public Confidence is Our Greatest Asset.

place the destroyed one, and I venture to say in less than five years we will have a city which will be a model for the rest of the world, for Arthur I do not know but what I will give up plans of going north and remain here and give what little help I can in the rebuilding.

"For the three days the fire raged I was in the city during the day but as it would have been cruel to have left the old folks alone after dark, I would get home about 7 p. m. for although I could not do much for anyone still when ever I could give a hand I did so as did everyone else and will say that after what has been gone through I think we have the most cheerful and hopeful people in Frisco, I think in the universe and although it is a case of receiving charity from the rest of our grand country just at present, still it would do you good to observe the good heartedness and kindness displayed one to another for just now rich and poor are all alike for it is practically impossible to buy goods as all the business district is wiped out.

"Of course you will get details in the daily papers, I can not give you, but one thing I want to say right here is that although I have not here to fore had much use for Mayor Schmitz I think he was the man for the time along with General Funston, and the city is a great deal more orderly than one would expect.

"Yesterday I went up on Nob Hill, again, what a change from Wednesday as far as the eye could reach, from bay line to Channel street and as far west as Franklyn street all gone, no more trouble on account of moving Chinatown or the barbary coast as the great element has done that in a thorough manner.

"Now the problem is to get the people under shelter, as last night it rained and it must have been very hard on the women, children and sick who are exposed."

Astoria is gathering in her own, day by day, from the late perils of the doubly devastated city of San Francisco: Hardly a train or boat arrives now, but brings one or more of the absentees who are mixed up in the turmoil and risks of that awful week, and she is glad to welcome them, and glad repeat the cheering stories they bring, of the quick salvation of the dispossessed host that fell under the dual ban of earthquake and fire.

Among the latest to arrive are Judge Frank J. Taylor and his wife and two daughters, after whom he went. He left here on the 12th of the present month; little thinking of the dreadful things in store for them all before they should be homeward bound.

He arrived in San Francisco on the night of the 13th and went directly to the boarding house where his family was domiciled, at the corner of Pine and Taylor streets, high up on what is known as "Nob Hill," and in the very heart of the hill residence district. He found them all well and overjoyed to see him, and they prepared for and passed the Easter season most happily.

From the account of the dreadful

work of early Wednesday given an Astorian reporter yesterday, by Judge Taylor, the vital shock of the series, which wrecked the city at 5:15 on the fatal morning, was preceded, during the night by a very perceptible tremor which awakened him and his wife but was not serious enough to keep from sleeping.

The awful force and duration of the one that followed in the dawn, however was ample to put the whole San Francisco world on its mettle and the defensive, if any defense lies against such an invasion of human peace and safety. The judge says it lasted the better part of an hour, at least, he had it figured out that way, but long before the first moment had passed after it ceased its action, he was doing all that laid in the power of man to assuage the fright and dread of his own dear ones, and calm the perturbation of the balance of the household. He insisted on all remaining in the house, which was a low frame one, and much safer than the street lined with towering brick edifices all about them and he had his way.

Then the word came that the fire was sweeping the lower levels, and he and his party climbed the Californian street hills and took a long view of the tremendous holocaust raging far below them: The effect, from their lofty point of view, was sublime, while it was tintured with deep sadness for the home that were being devoured before their eyes, and for those who were fleeing before the great wall of fire that had made them paupers on the instant. The wind was blowing from the northeast, directly against the advancing flames, and so kept the sight untrammelled from smoke, and the sight was one to be remembered to one's dying day. Step by step, the long red wall of flame encroached slowly but surely on new territory until it had crossed the two-hundred foot barrier of Market street, and then in the night, the warning was brought them, by the police that the fire fighters of the city were exhausted and the flames were beyond control.

The family got together their hand chattels, packed their trunks, dressed carefully and warmly, and with the whole household, began their migration to the westward in the early morning light of Thursday. They went out to Webster street, and as Judge Taylor had had the forethought to provide an abundance of food-stuffs for just such an emergency, all hands were fortified against undue want in that premise.

After putting the party in a safe place at the new location, the judge went back with an express wagon and got the trunks of his family and of the whole party at the house which was now seriously threatened by the advancing fire. And he says the man who moved his trunks absolutely refused any compensation for his services, saying that the company he worked for had forbidden him to charge any fee a cent, but to do all the good he could for those in need of hauling; the judge was compelled to force some money on the man, in the guise of a contribution to those whom the driver might find elsewhere, worse off than he, and the man took it gratefully

and said he would do as he was bid.

The Taylors and their friends rested in safety at this new point, although all were out of doors, and the whole street as far as the eye could reach, one long veritable camp. They camped, too, and out of their abundance, gave what of comfort they could, to the passing thousands who came within the radius of their particular camp.

Judge Taylor says that one of the happiest features of the whole terrible season he spent there, was the constant evidence of fellow-kindness that marked the association of these tens of thousands of strangers, all beggared by the one dreadful disaster; there was no bickering, no waiting, nor reproaches, nor unseemly squabbling, but, on the contrary, a general, equable, friendly and helpful spirit that was as remarkable as it was gratifying. And there was every cause conceivable presented for the exercise of the grasser and more bitter feeling and contentions, but as far as he could see, the universal idea seemed to be that the hour was one of the kind when the human soul cannot stoop to the pitiful things; that all had to be brave and generous and thoughtful, each of the other, and he is glad he left the great concourse of sufferers with just such a memory of their splendid and chivalric conduct.

On Friday morning, he managed to secure the service of an expressman and had his family and a destitute lady friend, and all their luggage, removed to the ferry dock, by a long and circuitous route, to Fort Mason on the north shore of the waterfront, whence all were transported around to the great ferry house, and from there they crossed to the Oakland side and went on to Berkeley from whence they took passage to his home. The family is well and are quietly resting from the tempestuous week they put in, and will soon be happily normal, but each with a living memory of their experiences that will never leave them in this world.

In conversation with a gentleman by name of G. T. Ellis, who arrived here on the F. A. Kilburn yesterday morning, it was learned that the recent earthquake shock was felt as far north as Fort Bragg, in Mendocino county, and an even hundred miles north of the doomed metropolis. Mr. Ellis was in bed there at the time, and was thrown to the floor; the drawers of his bureau slid over and across the floor, and bowl and pitcher landed on his bed.

The brick hotel in which he was domiciled did not fall down, but it leaned over in a fashion that made it seem only a matter of pushing it down, and was burned to the ground an hour later from fire caught from its own range. Mr. Gilbert left there for San Francisco on the first steamer out, and the first thing that presented itself to his view when he went up through the stricken city was the eating of the dead by the starving dogs of the city. But he noticed that the dogs were being shot to death on all sides, and it is said there are no dogs of any sort to be found in the city now.

Mr. Ellis was for some years in charge

**Fancy Oregon Rhubarb**

Direct from the grower. Its nice and fresh.

**Fancy Naval Oranges**

Sweet and Juicy, from 25c to 60c per dozen.

**ASTORIA GROCERY**

Phone Main 681 523 Commercial St.

of the saws at the north shore logging camp on Deep River, and left that employment to enter the service of the Simon Saw Company, as a drummer, and now lives in Eureka and travels out of San Francisco. He has been ordered to the Portland branch for temporary duty. He says there is not a county bridge left of any of the county bridges in Humboldt and Mendocino counties, California.

Alexander Gilbert of this city, who made a flying trip to the center of Pacific coast interest for the past ten days, San Francisco, returned on the noon train yesterday, and brings an altogether cheerful report of his journey, which was made to ascertain the conditions confronting his daughter, Mrs. Martha Finch, and his grand-daughter, Miss Watson. He had no trouble in entering the city, secured his passes all right, and found his people almost intactly, and though they were practically homeless, they were in the hands of friends and amply provided for. Satisfied most happily on this score, he took a hasty review of general conditions there, and is unstinted in his praise, of the mayor, the military and the committees in charge, but he is particularly frank and cordial in his commendation of the splendid work of the army officers and men detailed for duty there under martial law; nothing, he says, could surpass the perfect order and discipline that prevails everywhere, and he is certain that without this formidable and rigid control, the authorities despite Mayor Schmitz's firm and forceful control of things, would have been over-riden by the criminal element, and the record of the disaster made infinitely worse. He left the city satisfied that all would be well with his people and the rest of mankind that came within the purview of the regime down there.

Along with there being less danger in being a heretic in these days, there is also considerably less advertising.

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday**

**Grocery Specials**

Green Coffee, Our Regular 20 Cent Value

**7 lbs \$1.00**

English Breakfast Tea

**5 lb Boxes \$1.50**

Firelight Matches,

**45 Cents Pkg.**

Carnation Wheat Flakes Each Package Contain 1

Cup and Saucer Free,

**25 Cent Pkg.**

Hills Pickle Chips, Reg 20 Cents Value **15 Cents**

Reg 15 Cents Value **10 Cents.**

Whole Alaska Cod Fish **7 1-2 Cents lb.**

Our Liberal Money Back Guarantee Gives **Absolute** Protection to All Who Trade At Our Store

**THE FOARD & STOKES CO.**

ASTORIA'S GREATEST STORE.