

sider the enfranchisement of their new city, by some system of state municipalization?

Having visited this city more than once and being familiar with every part of it, these great disasters during the past week seem to have created the opportunity to put into effect, even if only to some partial extent, the main great idea which was so eloquently advocated by one who lived in that great city—Henry George—and who wrote there in that city his famous book thirty years ago, "Progress and Poverty."

The glorious site of San Francisco, visited by Sir Francis Drake, and many years later named and founded as a mission station by the Spanish monks of the Order of St. Francis, owes its greatness to-day to no one man, or to men, but to its unrivaled natural position, one of the finest harbors in the world, and almost the only one for thousands of miles along the Pacific Coast from Vancouver to Valparaiso. The city of San Francisco, built on seven miles of sand waste, surrounded on three sides, east, north and west, by sea, extends from the great bay of San Francisco on the east for about five miles across to the full Pacific Ocean on the west. All the most valuable property is on the bay front, with its docks and landing stages, and diminishes in value as the five miles or so are traversed towards the Pacific; the last three miles are little more than half unbuilt on sand wastes, ending in complete sand wastes along the Pacific shore. All that is not built on is mapped out for that purpose, and has therefore some fictitious value. The abnormally valuable land lies on some eight square miles out of about thirty square miles, ready to receive a far greater city in course of years. The wealthy land owners possess, therefore, but a small fraction of the whole, and the majority of owners are what is known as "land poor," waiting for the development of sites.

Would it not be an act of great recklessness with this remaining twenty-two square miles almost unbuilt on to rebuild the city of to-morrow upon the comparatively small site of the ruined city of yesterday? Should not the new city, with the warnings of the past week, be built in quite a different way, in sections, to withstand earthquakes, and surrounded by garden spaces, across which no flames can be carried by the ever-blowing winds of the Pacific, which so much cause the always beautiful climate of San Francisco? Vienna of to-day, and many German cities, illustrate this style of building with open spaces. This new way of rebuilding San Francisco could not be done except by some great system of municipalization, or land enfranchisement, a system which will add to the glory of a great city, and which must yet become even a greater city, uniting as it does now the eastern world with the western world.

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## AN EARTHQUAKE EXPERIENCE.

A Portion of a Letter Written to Mrs. Marie Howland, of Fairhope, Ala., by Mr. Ng Poon Chew, Editor of the Chinese Daily Paper of San Francisco.

It is impossible to relate fully what we have passed through in the earthquake and fire which have almost destroyed the whole city of San Francisco.

At 5:13 o'clock in the morning of the 18th ult. I

was rudely awakened by the shock of the earthquake. Immediately I was thrown from my bed onto the floor. The house, it seemed to me, almost tipped over on its side. I tried hard to get up on my feet, but was unable to do so while the earth trembled so violently. It seemed hours long, although it lasted only half a minute. The noise was simply fearful. Our bookcases fell upon the floor one after another. Every glass globe was also thrown down and broken. One heavy bookcase fell in front of our children's bed, and came near killing or injuring them. They were half scared to death.

But our little baby, the three and a half year old Caroline, who was sleeping in another bed with her mother, in my room, sat up on her bed. Seeing me sitting on the floor, she pointed her little finger at me, crying out and laughing, saying, "Look at papa! He is a baby sitting on the floor!" She thought it was a funny sight to see me on the floor.

When the shake ceased, we all ran out to the street, only half dressed. The street was already full of people, some dressed, some half dressed, and some only in their night gowns. The women and children were crying and the men fearful. The front walls of many houses in our neighborhood fell upon the street, and all chimneys were thrown down. Some injured and dying were here and there. The atmosphere was filled with dust of falling chimneys and buildings, which caused the early morning light to be very peculiar and extraordinary, thereby increasing the apprehension of the people. Few dared to return to their homes, on account of the frequent shaking of Mother Earth during the whole day, with more or less violence.

Soon we noticed fire in different parts of the city, and we were startled to know that the water mains were broken by the quake, hence no water to put out the fires. Still we did not realize that the city was doomed. But in the afternoon of the 18th we were confronted with the cold realization of our danger. It was then too late to save anything except what we could carry in our hands. No street cars, no teams or any other vehicles could be had for love or money. So we ran for our lives, for the fire threatened to cut off our retreat in the rear, our only way to safety. So we led our five children along as fast as we could walk.

We slept in the open air, on the public highway, on the night of the 18th; and after trodding along the whole day of the 19th, covering many miles, we were picked up near the shore of the Golden Gate and conveyed to Berkeley, where we are now, staying with friends.

We lost practically everything we ever possessed on earth. Our whole newspaper plant went up in smoke, including every volume of my large library of 2,600 volumes, and all my household effects.

We are to-day just as innocent of earthly possessions as a new born babe. But we are thankful it is not worse. We might have been killed or injured, as so many of our less fortunate fellow beings were killed or injured.

With good health, strong arms, brave heart, and faith in the future we will begin life again. God has taken care of us in the past and He will provide for us in the future. Yours very truly,

NG POON CHEW.