

DEAD BY EARTHQUAKE AND TIDAL WAVE NOW ESTIMATED AT OVER 100,000

City of Messina Levelled to the Ground, Reggio Engulfed in the Sea, 4400 Square Miles Made Desolate in Italy by the Greatest Disaster in Modern Times.

Half the Population of Messina Buried in Its Ruins—All Towns and Villages Along the Straits Engulfed by Gigantic Tidal Wave—Titanic upheaval of Earth's Crust Changes the Face of Sicily, Hills Disappearing and the Courses of Rivers Being Changed—Entire Island of Sicily is Desolate.

Rome, Italy.—One hundred thousand dead; Messina, in Sicily, and Reggio and a score of other towns in Southern Italy overwhelmed; the entire Calabria region laid waste; this is the earthquake's record as far as is at present known from the reports which are coming slowly into Rome on account of the almost complete destruction of lines of communication with the stricken places.

The death list in Messina ranges from 12,000 to 50,000; that of Reggio, which, with its adjacent villages, contained 45,000 persons, includes almost the entire population. At Palmi 1000 are reported dead; at Casana, 1000; at Cosenza, 500, and half of the population of Bagnara, about 4000. The Monteleone region has been devastated, and Riposto, Seminara, San Giovanni, Scilla, Lazzaro and Cannitello, and all other communities and villages bordering on the strait, are in ruins.

London.—The measure of the greatest tragedy which has ever befallen the Christian world cannot yet be calculated. It is known in general terms that out of a population of 1,750,000 in the devastated area of Southern Italy and Sicily at least 100,000 perished.

The appalling news that the city of Reggio di Calabria has been totally engulfed by the sea may make it necessary to largely increase that estimate.

Besides, the figure given takes no account of dozens of towns near the centre of the disturbance whence no word has come and where there is only too good reason to fear there are no survivors to describe their fate. The destruction of property cannot be so great as at San Francisco, for Messina and Reggio, the two principal cities destroyed, were not rich or magnificent from a metropolitan point of view.

As a great cataclysm of nature, however, this disaster is on a far vaster scale than the California phenomena. The whole face of the country and the coast line have been altered. Even Scylla and Charybdis have changed the positions they occupied since the legendary voyage of Aeneas.

The three provinces where the greatest damage was done are Messina and Catania in Sicily and Reggio di Calabria on the mainland. They comprise about 4400 square miles.

Several hundred persons perished and much damage was done outside these provinces, but with them the devastation was so complete that scarcely a human habitation remains.

It will be days yet before the story of their destruction can be known. All accounts now agree that the time occupied by nature's gigantic spasm was but thirty-two seconds. It was some minutes later that a great wave came from the sea to complete the havoc in the ill fated coast towns.

The violence of the shock seems to have been unprecedented, except in volcanic eruptions of limited area. The buildings in Messina were not merely shaken down. Their foundations were literally wrenched from beneath them. To one side or the other they were toppled from the perpendicular and fell in ruins alongside their original sites.

This was the experience of Messina. That of Reggio, on the opposite side of the strait, must have been even more violent, for scarcely one stone remains on another of what was a flourishing city only two days ago. No one has yet been found to recount the fate of this town and its inhabitants.

Messina probably will not rise again from her ruins and ashes. This last overwhelming calamity will alter the future history of Sicily and Southern Italy. It may be regarded as certain that a considerable portion of the population of this fair land will bow before the wrath of the gods and seek homes elsewhere.

Next to Italy itself America will feel the effect of this calamity more than any other country, for a large proportion of the stricken population will seek refuge there as soon as the means of flight can be secured.

Although there was no eruption of Mount Etna at the time of the earthquake, it became active immediately thereafter and continues to threaten an eruption.

C. F. KING GUILTY.

Boston Jury Convicts Promoter on 27 Counts in \$25,000 Larceny Case.

Boston, Mass.—Guilty on twenty-seven counts was the verdict returned by a jury in the Suffolk County Superior Court at midnight against Cardenio F. King, formerly well known as a financial agent and promoter in this city and New York.

King had been on trial for two weeks for the alleged larceny of \$25,000 from patrons.

The World of Sport.

Gerard Meister, a French swimmer, won from an Italian opponent and four others in a race in the Seine.

G. Greiff won the holiday cup and R. M. Owen the monthly trophy at the New York Athletic Club shoot.

George Standing defeated Peter Latham, of England, at racquets at the New York Racquet and Tennis Club.

At Los Angeles, Cal., James J. Jeffries issued a statement declaring positively and emphatically that under no condition would he re-enter the prize ring.

MOUNTAIN OF WATER HIT SHIPS IN THE HARBOR

Torpedo Boat Commander Graphically Tells of Havoc Wrought by Tidal Wave at Messina.

Rome.—Lieutenant Saccarese, commander of the torpedo boat Sappho, which arrived at Porto Santa Venera, thus describes the seaquake at Messina.

"We were anchored off Messina when, at 5.20 yesterday morning, there was a fearful upheaving movement which, coming from the bottom of the sea, struck violently all the ships anchored in the harbor.

"Then the sea suddenly arose into a mountain of water which, running down the strait, struck with a thunderous crash on the piers and jetty.

Ships Sunk at Anchor.

"The bridge giving communication between the breakwater and the shore was swept away. Many ships at anchor in the harbor were totally wrecked; the Austrian steamer Andriana was torn from her moorings and ran amuck, greatly damaging other steamers.

"In a few moments all the harbor works were destroyed. The sea became less agitated, and its surface appeared to be absolutely covered with barrels, casks and pieces of broken boats. Then a black cloud came over and hid the town.

"Only when dawn broke was it possible to get an idea of what had happened on land—a disaster whose horror and tragic magnitude no one can describe. The whole town was reduced to ruins, among which stood the sinister skeletons of the Town Hall and of the Hotel Trinacria. All the splendid palaces and villas which

"INFERNAL," SAYS WOMAN SURVIVOR, TELLING OF EARTHQUAKE HORRORS

Catania, Sicily.—The following graphic story is told by a woman who arrived here from Messina. She was herself badly injured. She describes the horrors that accompanied the disaster at Messina in these words:

"Infernal" is the only word that will adequately describe the fearful and terrifying scene," she said.

"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 to the floor. I was half stunned, but knew that the only thing to do was to make my way outdoors. The streets were filled.

"Everybody had rushed out in their night-clothes, heedless of the rain 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.

SCIENTISTS SAY DISASTER WAS CAUSED BY SINKING OF THE EARTH'S CRUST

Baltimore, Md.—Dr. Harry Fielding Reid, professor of geological physics in the Johns Hopkins University, and one of the leading authorities in the United States on seismic disturbances, attributes the earthquake in Southern Italy to a general dropping down or sinking of the earth in that locality. Speaking of the shock and the reports concerning it, he said:

"Southern Italy seems to be what may be termed earthquake territory. Seismic shocks occur there frequently at irregular intervals. The whole of that section of the country seems to be sinking in pieces, and personally I am inclined to think that the shock was due to this general dropping down of that portion of the earth's strata."

London, England.—John Milne, the well known seismologist of the Isle of Wight, said that his records showed the Italian earthquake to have been the most severe in Europe in many years. He fears that when the full effects are known the loss of life

RUEF GETS FOURTEEN YEARS.

Former Boss of San Francisco Sentenced for Bribing a Supervisor.

San Francisco, Cal.—Fourteen years in the penitentiary, the maximum sentence provided for bribery of a Supervisor, was the penalty meted out to Abraham Ruef, who for years directed the political destinies of San Francisco as adviser of the administration of Eugene E. Schmitz, formerly Mayor.

Fall River Mills Prosperous.

The review of the dividends of cotton manufacturing corporations of Fall River, Mass., for the year, shows an average dividend of 6.99 plus for the year. The total payments were \$1,741,135 on a capital stock of \$27,125,000.

Prohibition Wave Swamps a Firm.

Giving as a reason that their business, though solvent, was being run at a loss on account of the prohibition laws, a receiver was appointed for Eckhouse Brothers, wholesale liquor dealers, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

RELIEF WORK IN AMERICA.

Movement to Express Sympathy in Financial Terms is General.

Washington, D. C.—From all the large cities of the country come reports of prompt action for the relief of the survivors of the devastation wrought by the earthquake in Southern Italy.

Governor Guild, of Massachusetts, issued an appeal to the people of that State for money to be sent by cable to the Italian Government, and Boston citizens began a response immediately. Mayor Reburn, of Philadelphia, called a meeting of the Citizens' Permanent Relief Committee, and, upon receipt of a message from President-elect Taft, national head of the Red Cross, that organization began to raise funds. In New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Louisville and other large centres plans for the relief of the Italian sufferers were under way soon after the news of the extent of the disaster was received.

Italians all over the country were greatly stirred by the tidings, a large proportion of them having relatives or friends in the stricken portion of their native land.

San Francisco.—Mayor Taylor issued a proclamation calling on San Franciscans and all Californians for aid for the sufferers.

Graphically Tells of Havoc Wrought by Tidal Wave at Messina.

had risen on the sea front and Corso Garibaldi had disappeared; the streets were full of debris, and at various points the town was reduced to a mass of horrible ruins, from which arose a deafening din.

"Petty Officer Dennin landed in a small boat manned by eight sailors, after a long struggle with the angry waves, and entered the town.

Moans Greet Sailors' Ears.

"Cries, moans and desperate appeals for help arose from the ruins with disheartening insistence.

"Meanwhile convicts and other prisoners escaped from jail began to plunder the ruins of the Bank of Sicily, the Military College and other public buildings; nothing could be done against them at first.

"Dennin and his few men, working from 8 o'clock until noon, were able to dig out 160 injured people and keep life in many others by giving them liquor; unhappily their force was inadequate to the needs of the moment. Officers and men of the cruiser Piemonte also accomplished miracles of valor and self-sacrificing aid.

"At least half the population must have perished. The survivors wander about the ruins stupefied and half naked, imploring aid.

"Italy needs several millions of dollars even to partially relieve the suffering and want.

"Mourning women and men fill the railroad stations here, trying to proceed to the devastated region."

"INFERNAL," SAYS WOMAN SURVIVOR, TELLING OF EARTHQUAKE HORRORS

ty. But this was not done before I was struck down and badly injured by a piece of furniture that 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 a huge wave, accompanied by a terrifying roar.

"The sky was aglow with the reflection of burning palaces and other buildings, and as if this was not enough they suddenly shot up into the air 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 2000 or 3000 utterly terrified people assembled. None of us knew what to do. We waited in an agony of fear. Men and women prayed and wept as if crazed. 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."

SCIENTISTS SAY DISASTER WAS CAUSED BY SINKING OF THE EARTH'S CRUST

at irregular intervals. The whole of that section of the country seems to be sinking in pieces, and personally I am inclined to think that the shock was due to this general dropping down of that portion of the earth's strata."

London, England.—John Milne, the well known seismologist of the Isle of Wight, said that his records showed the Italian earthquake to have been the most severe in Europe in many years. He fears that when the full effects are known the loss of life

Navy Bureau Consolidated.

The practical consolidation of the naval bureaus of construction and of steam engineering was effected at Washington, D. C., the President appointing Rear-Admiral Capps, head of the former bureau, as head of the latter bureau, also.

Mexico Pacifics Yaquis.

The long warfare between the Mexican authorities and the Yaqui Indians has ended by a treaty between three chiefs and the Governor of Sonora.

Feminine Notes.

Mme. Vincennes, better known by her pen name of "Arvidé Barine"—died recently in Paris.

Mrs. Jane Bancroft Robinson has just been elected president of the Woman's Home Mission Society of the Methodist Church.

Mrs. Mary Anderson de Navarro, the former American actress, accompanied by her husband and two children, came from England on a visit.

A mortgage deed for \$70,000 was placed on record in Hawaii by former Queen Liliuokalani, the deed being executed in favor of Claus Spreckles and W. G. Irwin.

will prove to be even more appalling than the present reports indicate.

The shocks were as severe as those which devastated San Francisco and Valparaiso.

Vienna, Austria.—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 followed by volcanic movements. Should this settling down of the earth's crust continue, says Professor Suess, the granite hills of Scylla and a great portion of the Peloritani Mountains will be submerged by the sea.

THE CALABRIAN CALAMITY.

City of Reggio Disappears Under the Sea and is One Vast Sepulchre.

Naples.—Latest information received here says Reggio, in Calabria, is a vast sepulchre, having been utterly destroyed. No part of the province escaped the awful calamity.

The ominous absence of details concerning Reggio proves to be due to the fact that not only the city itself but its whole population, with the exception of a mere handful, has disappeared.

The warships which were ordered to relieve the survivors were unable to approach the coast owing to the changed configuration of the Strait of Messina. Ultimately a torpedo boat ran close to the shore, but was unable to discover a trace of the city.

Where an aggregation of buildings and busy streets stood two days ago there was nothing but rocks and earth. The city had vanished as completely as Aladdin's palace under the magician's spell.

Only five of the city's 17,000 inhabitants have yet been accounted for. These unhappy wretches reached Cattanzaro and Palmi half demented by fright. They were scarcely able to talk intelligibly, but their incoherent stories are sufficient to confirm the horrible fate of the city.

In view of this latest development of the catastrophe the death roll may well reach 125,000. One estimate is 200,000 dead.

The Ministry of Marine has received wireless reports of the obstruction of the Strait of Messina, showing that its safe navigation will be impossible until it is recharted, while its future navigation is likely to be extremely difficult. The news, for its consequences, from commercial and military points of view, will be incalculable.

The strait was of great strategic importance and the Government has spent immense sums in fortifying it. It is now anticipated that such fortifications as may be undamaged will be useless. Moreover, the strait formed the shortest route from Marsella, Genoa and Naples to Egypt and India, and if it be found impracticable voyages to and from those countries will be lengthened by many hours.

Even Scylla and Charybdis, the great whirlpools in the Strait of Messina, which have resisted the force of nature for centuries, were moved by the tidal wave, thus rendering navigation dangerous and preventing aid from reaching the stricken cities by sea. The whole channel of the Strait of Messina is altered.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

Rome.—The first stories of the rescue work at Messina reveal to the full the horrors which accompany such catastrophes. In addition to thousands of corpses, often hideously mangled, hundreds of injured are lying beneath the wreckage.

Many of these are women and children in their night gowns. Shrieks and cries are heard on all sides. Now and again some unhappy wretch, mad from terror or grief, is seen sitting in the mud the sea deposited in the streets, or clinging with useless energy to some support, fearing the sea will return and wash him away.

Instances are recorded of such deluded persons deliberately plunging into the burning ruins and perishing in the flames. In one place five children were found around their mother's corpse, themselves only just alive. The torments of rain have helped to check the fires, but make it difficult for the rescuers to accomplish anything. They are also aiding the decomposition of the bodies.

Crowds of destitute, too much hurt or too dazed to help themselves, huddle in the higher parts of the town. Many have fled into the country seeking refuge in caves and crevices in the mountains.

Reports from numerous places in Calabria and Sicily bring tales of disaster, any one of which would alone cause a sensation. At Riposto the sea suddenly receded, and as suddenly returned in a wave of enormous height, overwhelming everything for a distance of a quarter of a mile inland, and in its ebb sweeping hundreds of inhabitants into the sea. It stated that the dead are lying in thousands at Monteleone and throughout that neighborhood.

All kinds of reports of robbery in Messina have reached here. The prison was demolished and many of the prisoners were killed, but others made their escape and started to join the vandals who were looting the city.

These reports, as they are being hurled about, suggest a picture of the collapsed buildings and took valuables from the bodies of the dead.

The fear of the pestilence that usually follows such disasters confronts those in charge of the situation.

Savings Banks' Dividends.

New York City's savings banks will pay to depositors a semi-annual interest estimated at more than \$20,000,000.

Embezzler Lowe Caught.

Detective Flood brought back to New York City from California Theodore C. Lowe, accused of robbing the United States Express Company of \$2500, whom the detective found with the wife of an Amsterdam avenue butcher.

Beekman Winthrop Selected.

That Beekman Winthrop has been selected as First Assistant Secretary of State, upon the suggestion of Judge Taft, was announced by Senator Knox in Washington, D. C.

Notes From Across Seas.

The Dutch cruiser Gelderland arrived at Willemstad, having been relieved from Venezuelan waters.

A royalist adherent attempted to pull the beard of President Fallieres in Paris and was arrested.

A picked bodyguard is being formed to protect Prince Chun, the Regent of China, against assassination.

M. Iswolsky, speaking before the Russian Duma, said that the only way to curb the arbitrary Austrian action was through a conference of the Powers.

"EXPLAIN!"



—Cartoon by Davenport, in the New York Mail.

EARTHQUAKE LOSSES.

Many Thousands Killed in Previous Disasters.

Losses of life in previous big earthquakes were as follows:
Island of Yeddo, Japan, 1703; 190,000 lives lost.
Lisbon, November 1, 1755; 50,000 lives lost; damage, \$100,000,000.
Island of Krakatoa, August 26, 1883; 50,000 lives lost.
Charleston, S. C., August 31, 1886; 50 lives lost; damage, \$5,000,000.
Japan, June 15, 1896; 30,000 lives lost.
St. Pierre, Martinique, May 8, 1902; 25,000 lives lost.
Calabria, September 8, 1905; 3000 people killed, 30 towns wiped out.
Mount Vesuvius, April 5, 1906; 500 believed to have perished.
San Francisco, April 18, 1906; earthquake and fire, 500 killed; damage, \$500,000,000.
Valparaiso, Chile, August 17, 1906; 1000 killed; 140 small towns destroyed.
Kingston, Jamaica, January 14, 1907; 1500 estimated killed.
Calabria, October, 1907; 600 estimated killed.
Karateg, Russian Turkestan, October, 1907; 14,000 killed there and in adjoining villages.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE REGION IN ITALY DEVASTATED BY EARTHQUAKES AND TIDAL WAVES

Messina, the Ruined City, is 2700 Years Old and Has Had Many Masters and Catastrophes.

Studied with maps and accounts of the more recent of the great earthquake disasters of Italy, it is seen that in the latest catastrophe the disturbance reached the surface on the northern border, close to Swiss territory. Bomodossolo is among the Alps, and the mountain range seems to have been the route of the earthquake. It passed to the southward, following the Apennines. There is a twenty minutes difference between the time of the shocks reported in upper and lower Italy.

In Calabria, which has been laid waste again and again by such disturbances, this earthquake first touched the surface with its full effect. Lofly signal posts of disaster marked its way, for it struck with full force at the extinct volcano of San Giovanni, spread its devastation across the Strait of Messina to Sicily, and rolled up another score of death and ruin all about the slopes of Mount Etna, reducing to ruins the ancient and famous city of Messina and tumbling the buildings of Catania, fifty-nine miles farther south, only to again overwhelm the busy port soon afterward with a great tidal wave.

The spread of the earthquake in Sicily and Southern Italy according to the cable dispatches, was through very much the same area as that of the earthquake of 1873, which was the most destructive in the history of Italy. Then, as now, the earthquake caused enormous damage on both sides of the Strait of Messina, which separates the toe of the so-called "boot" of Italy from Sicily.

The historic disaster completely wrecked the populous seaport of Messina in Sicily near the northern end of the strait and destroyed many smaller cities and towns in Southern Italy and Sicily.

The loss of life in this disaster of 1783 was estimated at 60,000, Messina, a city which is for the most part but little above the level of the sea, suffering terribly—then, as now, from a tidal wave. The region to the south of Messina has also been often overwhelmed by eruptions from Mount Etna. The southeastern and eastern portion of the island has been damaged time and again by eruptions of Etna and very little by earthquakes, while the northeastern portion has sustained heavy loss of life and property from earthquakes and very little from volcanic eruption.

Messina, which as in 1783 suffered the greatest loss of life and property from this earthquake, is a city and seaport of upwards of 80,000 inhabitants, while in the commune embracing the city, suburbs and adjacent country, the population is upward of

152,000. Next to Palermo, it is the chief commercial town of Sicily and its harbor, which is formed by a peninsula, is the busiest in Italy from the standpoint of steamboat traffic.

The principal object of interest to tourists, apart from the scenic attractions of the place, is the cathedral, which was begun in 1093, at the time of Norman occupation of the island, and parts of which are still standing as originally constructed with the exception of the evidences of damage wrought by the frequent earthquakes.

The town is one of great antiquity, and derived its first known name, Zanoale (a sickle), from the shape of the harbor. It was founded by Cuman pirates and Chalcidians in 732 B. C., and was governed by the laws of Charondas.

In 396 B. C. the town was destroyed by the Carthaginians, but was rebuilt a few years later by Dionysius of Syracuse, only to fall again into the hands of the Carthaginians under Hannibal in 269. The first Punic war, however, left the place in the hands of the Romans, and the place was of importance second only to that of Syracuse and Lilybaeum in Sicily during a period of Roman occupation lasting for several centuries.

In 831 A. D. the town was taken by the Saracens, but in 1061 it was taken from them by the Normans. The city prospered greatly during the Crusades, being a favorite rendezvous for soldiers from the continent en route to the Holy Land. In the Middle Ages also it became a flourishing commercial city.

Its commercial importance disappeared after a bitter struggle between the aristocratic faction, of Merli, and the democratic faction, or Mavizi, in 1674. The democratic faction appealed to the French and the other to the Spaniards. The former faction were at first victorious, but eventually were deserted by the French, the city was taken by the Spaniards, and when the struggle was over the population was reduced from 120,000 to about a tenth of that number.

The town never fully recovered from this disaster. Whatever recovery was made was neutralized in the eighteenth century by a series of disasters. In 1740 about 40,000 persons died of the plague, and in 1783 the town was almost entirely overthrown by the great earthquake of that year. Great damage was caused by bombardment in September, 1848. The cholera carried off no fewer than 16,000 victims in 1854 and earthquakes in 1894 and 1906 also caused loss of life and property. In 1880 the town was occupied by Garibaldi. It became a part of united Italy the following year.

Prehistoric City Being Unearthed Near Florence, Ariz.

Washington, D. C.—An American Pompeii is gradually being brought to light, according to the annual report of Charles B. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The work is the excavating of a buried city at Casa Grande, near Florence, Ariz. Already a number of structures have been discovered, but the largest one excavated during the year was a building 200 feet long, with eleven rooms, the massive walls inclosing a plaza.

Newspaper Paragraphs.

Mr. Taft expects to visit the Isthmus of Panama in the latter part of January.

It was said that a bill would be introduced at Albany, N. Y., making art forgery a crime.

The burning oilship Kalomo was sunk by shots from the Singapore fort, two miles distant.

The United States, Great Britain and Japan agree on most points of propositions submitted to a meeting of delegates appointed to frame rules governing the International Prize Court.

AWAIT WORLD'S END MINUS THE PROPHET

Followers of Spangler Vainly Listen For Angel's Trumpet.

LEADER MAKES EARLY FLIGHT

Followers of Lee J. Spangler Still Await Destruction of Earth He Predicted, While He Escapes From N. Y.

Nyack, N. Y.—Lee J. Spangler, who has preferred to be known as "The Prophet," is missing. It is just as well for Mr. Spangler's peace of mind that he is.

Some time ago, in a prophetic mood, this modern Isaiah ventured the prediction that Sunday, December 27, would mark the end of all that is destructible on this planet. In that he made an error. When the day of annihilation had slipped by the town was in the first stage of its beauty sleep, having got over whatever fright it may have had.

The prophet's followers spent a very many night and day and part of another night. Many of them did not go to bed at all, determined to be in at the first blast of the trumpet of the destroying angel. At the first sign of dawn, a party of the faithful—all women—performed their ablutions and put on white dresses, "especially made for the occasion." Then they foregathered. After that they went in procession to the railway station to meet a party of Saints who were expected by the early morning train.