

ANTIOCH.

The earthquake which seems to have passed from California to Syria, has found in the latter province a serious victim—illustrations not account of its present rank, but though the long catalogue of past forces.

Antioch was one of the sixteen cities erected by Seleucus Nicator, and by far the most magnificent of them. The location is simply perfect, being in the midst of a large and fertile plain on the left bank of the river Orontes, about twenty miles from the sea. Originally it stood upon an island in the stream, but that has long since been united with the main shore, and now the remains of this once flourishing emporium rest partly on level ground, and partly on the rugged ascent of Mount Casius.

The slopes of the mountain were, in former days covered with luxuriant vineyards, and even now the banks of the river were fringed with plantations of oriental fruit trees, which give a most picturesque appearance to the landscape. Through its harbor, Seleucia, Antioch had maritime communication with all the western ports, and across the vast Syrian desert which lay in its rear, came caravans from Mesopotamia and Arabia, bringing the richest productions of the East. Famous for its wealth, its luxury, and classic refinement, the ancients called the city "The Beautiful," "The Crown of the East," and it became the favorite residence of Roman aristocracy when Rome gave laws to the world. The palace, the Senate house, the Temple of Jupiter, the theater and many other noble buildings were hardly surpassed in splendor by the colossal architectural monuments of the metropolis. At this era of its greatest prosperity, Antioch was equal in size to the Paris of to-day, and so continued until the decline and fall of the empire.

When the capital was transferred to Constantinople, the city lost some of its political importance, but gained a certain theological notoriety—no less than ten councils of the church being held there. According to tradition, the Antiochians were remarkable for their keen and somewhat scurrilous wit, and this dangerous proclivity was the means of accomplishing their ruin. When the Persians under Chosroes invaded Syria in 563, the citizens, instead of making terms with the conqueror, or preparing for a desperate defense, contented themselves with cracking satirical jokes at his expense. It was rebuffed by the Emperor Justinian, and maintained much of its former reputation until the seventh century, when it fell into the hands of the Saracens, who held it about two hundred years. The Greeks under Nicephorus Phocas then recaptured it, but in 1084 the Mohammedans regained possession, and were in turn compelled to give way to the Crusaders, who besieged and took the city in 1098. In the thirteenth century it was seized by the Sultan of Egypt, and has ever since owned allegiance to the followers of the prophet. Nothing is left of its ancient grandeur but a mass of crumbling rubbish, and the population does not number more than 7,000.

SCISSORINGS. A sal dog—One who carries long at his whig. Live claims have been dug from the prairie within a mile of Houston, Texas. Douglas Jerrold, said: "Ere ate the apple that she might indulge in dress."

Cincinnati papers omit an issue on account of "the inclemency of the weather." An English woman, lately deceased, had lived over 100 years without a sick day. "Ought men to vote?" is the title of a leader in Woman's Journal of a recent date.

A disgusted youth in Nashville advertises his girl as a liar, because she broke the engagement. Washington has a ghost that haunts the roof of the Capitol, and scares the police out of their wits. A woman lecturer opposes the re-education of the sexes, because "it is not safe to hold fire to flax."

A female house painter of Toledo recently had a small boy arrested for looking at her as she ascended a ladder. An ardent soul in Decatur has rid himself of a disagreeable mother-in-law by greasing the cellar steps with soap. The wickedest woman in Boston is named Jimena Jakes. She claims to have yanked fifty husbands from the domestic hearth.

"Massa Christopher Columbus was a queer man," said a negro orator. "A notion crossed him one day, and den he creosol an ocean." Horace Grosely is said to sometimes wear that he will quit the business of journalism and take to teaching a writing school for a living. "Those who buy tombstones of us look with pride and satisfaction on the graves of their friends," is the advertisement of a Western stone-cutter.

The last question that has troubled philosophers is this: "Which can be a girl the most pleasing, to hear herself praised or another girl run down?" A jilted lover in Mobile, Alabama, stole the presents he had given the fickle fair one while she was being married to his successful rival. He is in jail. A political aspirant, after an electioneering harangue, met his particular friend with, "Well my dear sir, did you hear my last speech?" "I hope so," was the reply.

The editor of the New Orleans Republican thinks it must have been the proof-reader who made him Governor "our enterprising thief," when he meant to say, "our enterprising chief."

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GENTS' AND BOYS' CLOTH... Gents' and Boys' Hats & Caps! AN ENTIRE NEW STOCK HARDWARE BOOTS AND SHOES! BASKETS AND WOODEN WARE! GROCERIES!

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