



4-23-1906

## Letter to loved ones

Unknown

(20)

San Jose Calif. 4-23-1906.

Dear Loved Ones.

The earthquake occurred about 15 minutes after five o'clock 4-18-1906. I had been awake most of the time since 3 o'clock praying for loved ones, for the church, for our Yearly Meeting, for our little meeting here and for a better condition of surroundings for the help of gospel workers, and especially that the terrible curse of intemperance might in some way be removed that there might be an open door for preachers of righteousness. These may not have been especially mentioned during those two hours but they had been the burden of my heart almost ever since coming to San Jose August 15th last.

There are many other things that we have realized have been in the way of progress in religious work, I think we might mention the Roman Catholic Church as one. While we do not want to in the least interfere with the good work it is doing in some ways, we cannot indorse some of its work. The hardest part of the shock did not come instantly but in a few seconds perhaps not more than two seconds the house was shaking so that a person could not stand up. Dishes were rattling, tinware was falling, the chimney was falling in pieces down the roof the hose was creaking, people were screaming not far away, a large ten-story brewery brick building about two blocks away was crumbling into ruins, farther up town and near the center, fine brick buildings and several frames were a pile of rubbish in a few seconds, a few taking fire and in one lodging house 7 people were burned to death.

Many others were killed in various parts of the City number not known to this date. Caroline was awake also at the time and neither of us felt alarmed. It felt to both of us like the Lord was taking hold of things to move peoples hearts in a way that his servants had been unable to do with the help of the Holy Spirit. We felt praise swelling up in our hearts, ofcourse thankfull that our lives were spared