

THOUGH THE EARTH BE REMOVED

Baron Alexander von Humboldt, the traveler and explorer, gives an interesting account of the first earth quake he witnessed. It was in Cumana, in South America.

The first shock came after a strange stillness. It caused something like an earthquake in his mind, for it overthrew in a moment all his lifelong notions about the safety of the earth. When it took place, he could no longer trust the ground which up to that day had felt so firm under his feet. He had at that time only one thought – universal, boundless destruction.

Even the crocodiles ran from the river Orinoco howling into the woods; the dogs and pigs were powerless with fear. The whole city seemed to be tottering. The houses could not shelter, for they were falling in ruins.

Humboldt turned to the trees, but they were being overthrown. His next thought was to run to the mountains, but they were reeling like drunken men. He then looked towards the sea. Lo! it had fled; and the ships, which a few minutes before were in deep water, were rocking on the bare sand.

He tells us that being then at his wit's end, he looked up, and observed that heaven alone was perfectly calm and unshaken.

Many strange things are yet to come upon the world – earthquakes, overturnings, upheavals. But amid them all, as Scripture tells us, the Christian will be able to look up to the heavenly One, “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever,” and to His heavenly Kingdom, which cannot be moved.

The prophet Isaiah says, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever; for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength” (26:3, 4).