

CALABRIA THE HOME OF THE EARTHQUAKE

A Region Marked for Devastation
Where Towns Are Not Per-
mitted to Grow Old.

FERRUZZANO EVER YOUNG

Some Calabrians Not Averse to Earth-
quake Visitations—They Found
That of 1905 Very Profitable.

Special Correspondence THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, Nov. 9.—The terrible devastation caused by the recent earthquake shocks in Calabria is strikingly exhibited in a series of photographs of ruined villages just published by a Rome photographer.

One of the most impressive of these photographs pictures a scene in Ferruzzano, which suffered quite as severely as any other Calabrian village. In the midst of the wreck of one of the houses, at the time the photograph was taken, there was assembled a group of Ferruzzanese women contemplating the mass of debris under which were buried a number of victims of the earthquake.

Ferruzzano has been destroyed by earthquake twice within two years, and it is quite generally believed in Rome that whoever rebuilds his dwelling upon the site of the ruined town may confidently count upon its being shaken to pieces within a comparatively short time. There may be truth in the old saying that lightning never strikes twice in the same spot, but the same thing could not be said about the Italian earthquake, which seems to have marked Ferruzzano for its own.

It is said that Calabrians who live in villages which have never been seriously damaged by earthquakes look upon such disturbances in the light of blessings rather than calamities. At any rate, inhabitants of villages not much the worse for the earthquake of 1905 managed to make the visitation financially profitable to themselves. Soon after that earthquake large relief funds poured into Calabria from home and abroad, and the King went south with a large amount of his own money to distribute among the sufferers.

Well-to-do persons applied for relief in money, which of course they got, the committee being too busy to investigate each application. Several of these persons went to different committees, and they thus got together tidy sums, which they put to various uses. One man came out with a well stocked farm, while before the earthquake he had only one cow; two or three gave large dotes to their daughters, who at once found husbands.

But above all it was considered necessary to touch the kind heart of the King, who was known to be large-handed. He passed through one village where, although the houses were all in good condition and the usual pig was in evidence, to say nothing of dogs and hens, the entire population was in rags, men and women more naked than covered, and the children entirely naked.

Choruses of groans and demands for bread went up so that the King could not help stopping. He spoke to many and heard such heartrending tales that he left a substantial sum behind him. The rags were assumed for the occasion, and the people were so much to the good.

A village or two beyond women, seemingly in the last stages of starvation, crowded about the royal motor, but not a masculine being was to be seen. King Victor, much concerned, asked the reason, and was told that they had all gone to America and that the earthquake, by a curious fatality, had killed off the few able-bodied women, leaving the others to starve, and they were on the point of death because the relief committee had refused them food. Another large sum was forthcoming and the King went on.

If he had returned the next day he would have found more men than women, and a fête in progress, the expenses of which were being defrayed out of his money.