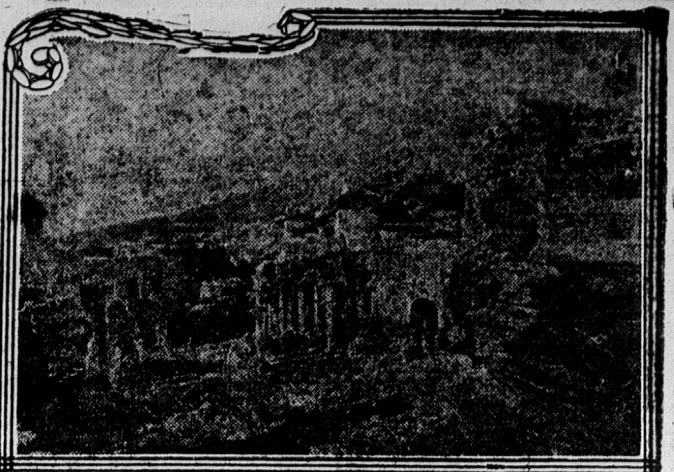


# The LAND of RUIN

By Roger A. Blackmore



City of Taormina destroyed Roman Ruins in foreground

In Sicily, Palermo is the largest city, with a population of nearly 350,000, and it belongs almost in the class of the world's largest cities and is certainly of second rank as regards population. It was not much injured, although the earth shocks were distinctly felt. It is 120 miles west of Messina. It contains many art objects of great value, and is noted for a university which numbers about 1,400 students. The city possesses a great cathedral, surrounded by 16 gigantic holy statues, and a Norman structure, built in 1145, with five imposing domes, called the San Giovanni degli Eremeti, which is one of the unique specimens of architecture in the world, as it shows the effect of the crusades on the stern Gothic structures of the true Norman style and period. Girgenti is about 84 miles southeast of Palermo. It is noted for its fine cathedral, which was constructed in A. D. 1400, and we had a consulate here because the town had a population of over 25,000. The cathedral contained a celebrated Madonna by Guido Roni, and a famous marble tomb, with relief, illustrating the legend of Hyppolytus. There were several royal educational institutions and a municipal museum that contained a marvelous statue of sulphur annually, and had, as well, important salt mines.

### MANY SMALLER CITIES DEMOLISHED.

Monteleone di Calabria was a small town in Catanzaro, situated about two miles from the coast, and had a fine cathedral, a big hospital and a population of 25,000, mostly very poor and very ignorant. Palmi was in Calabria, 21 miles northeast of Reggio, the capital, and is near Mount Elias, from which a superb view of the surrounding territory can be obtained. It had a population approximating 14,000. Pizzo had a population of 8,000 and lay five miles to the north and east of Monteleone, on the Gulf of Santa Antonia. Bagnara, one of the smaller cities mentioned as being practically wiped off the map, was on the coast of the Gulf

### FACTS AND FANCIES.

Sixty languages are spoken in Russia. Saccharine, an artificial product, is 550 times sweeter than sugar. There is a growing demand for American pearls. Those taken from the Western waters last season were valued at \$500,000. It is said that there is 25 per cent. more nourishment in sugar than any other food that can be purchased for the same money except wheat flour and corn.

### UP-TO-DATE.

Mrs. Newwood—"He who rocks the cradle rules the world; don't forget that. Mr. Newwood thinks you come in and rule the world while I'm tired."



Ruined Catania, Sicily, Overthrown by Earthquake

ITALIAN COUNTIES AND SICILY, THE ISLAND KINGDOM, WHERE QUAKE, FIRE AND FLOOD HAVE BROUGHT THE GREATEST CATASTROPHE OF MODERN HISTORY—THE CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES AND WHOLE SECTIONS WHICH WERE VIRTUALLY WIPED OUT.

The country which today and must for months continue to be of constant inter-nature, Messina is a name to conjure up fair Italian southern country and that island of historic memories, Sicily, which were involved in the Titanic grasp of the earthquake of December 27 and 28.

Americans are disposed to look on this land as of slight importance and noted mostly for poverty and its crop of emigrants to this more-favored land of the West, yet Calabria, in the toe of the Italian peninsula, and Sicily have figured largely on the pages of European history. Poetry and prose literature have rung with its praises.

Perhaps no section of the earth combines fertility with beauty more than this poor scorched country of classic legend, medieval romance and haughty nobles grouped around with their thousands of impoverished but usually beautiful peasants. The town of Messina in the middle ages was one of the prizes of Europe, and many battles were fought by dukes, kings and even emperors to obtain possession of it. It is the chief background of Shakespeare's famous comedy, "Much Ado About Nothing," and to the student of history and especially of liter-

ature Messina is a name to conjure up a thousand memories sublime and rare. The crunch, crunch of the earthquake toppled practically every building in the country involved and red-tongued fire swept the piles of debris licking up all combustible material in the ruins and ending the lives of tens of thousands of mangled, imprisoned unfortunates caught within the intricacies of the devastated buildings. On the sea coast tidal waves, variously estimated from 30 to 60 feet in height, plunged upon the shelving sea benches and washed miles inland, wiping out all vestige in many cases of the country ever having been inhabited by the courageous animal, man.

But it is of Messina; Reggio di Calabria as being the metropolis of that devoted province; Catania, Catanzaro, Taormina and Palermo that most should be related. Even if Italian indomitability reconstruct in a score of years some pretense of cities on these historic sites, the towns of medieval times halved about with mystery, poetry and romance have gone down forever like veritable structures of mist under the mighty shaking nature inflicted.

MESSINA FOUNDED BY PIRATES Legend sets forth that ill-fated Messina was founded by pirates in the eighth cen-

tury before the Christian era, or just a few years before Romulus is alleged to have started digging a trench where the imperial city of Rome now stands. So Rome and Messina were founded about the same period—Messina by pirates and Rome by a band of highwaymen and robbers.

Since it was founded, Messina has passed through an unparalleled career during which the town has been devastated by confagurations, the plague, wars and frequent small earthquakes which occasionally amounted to considerable damage. But the last far exceeded the damage wrought by all previous disasters combined.

In 1783 Messina was given a terrible earthquake shock, which destroyed many of her public buildings, but the city soon reared her new structures. One of the world-famous buildings that disappeared in the total destruction in December was the cathedral, which, as its photograph shows, was a noble structure founded by Count Roger of Messina, one of the heroic figures of Sicilian history away back in 1088, or just after William the Norman conquered England at the Battle of Hastings.

The cathedral, or La Matrice, retained the general style of Gothic architecture but only the portals of the facades were actually built away back in the Eleventh

century in the awakening dawn of modern European history. These portals to the facade showed marvelous carvings in solid stone, relics of dead and gone architecture never to be restored now and worth untold wealth to the student and lover of art.

La Matrice also contained a sculptured marble pulpit that was historic and a statue of St. Jerome by Gagini. Mosaics dating back to within 100 years of the founding of the edifice have perished forever now.

With a sickle-shaped harbor Messina ranked fourth among the cities of Italy in commercial importance. The views across the Messina straits were magnificent and fortunately the views at least remain, although now terror inspiring in their aspect.

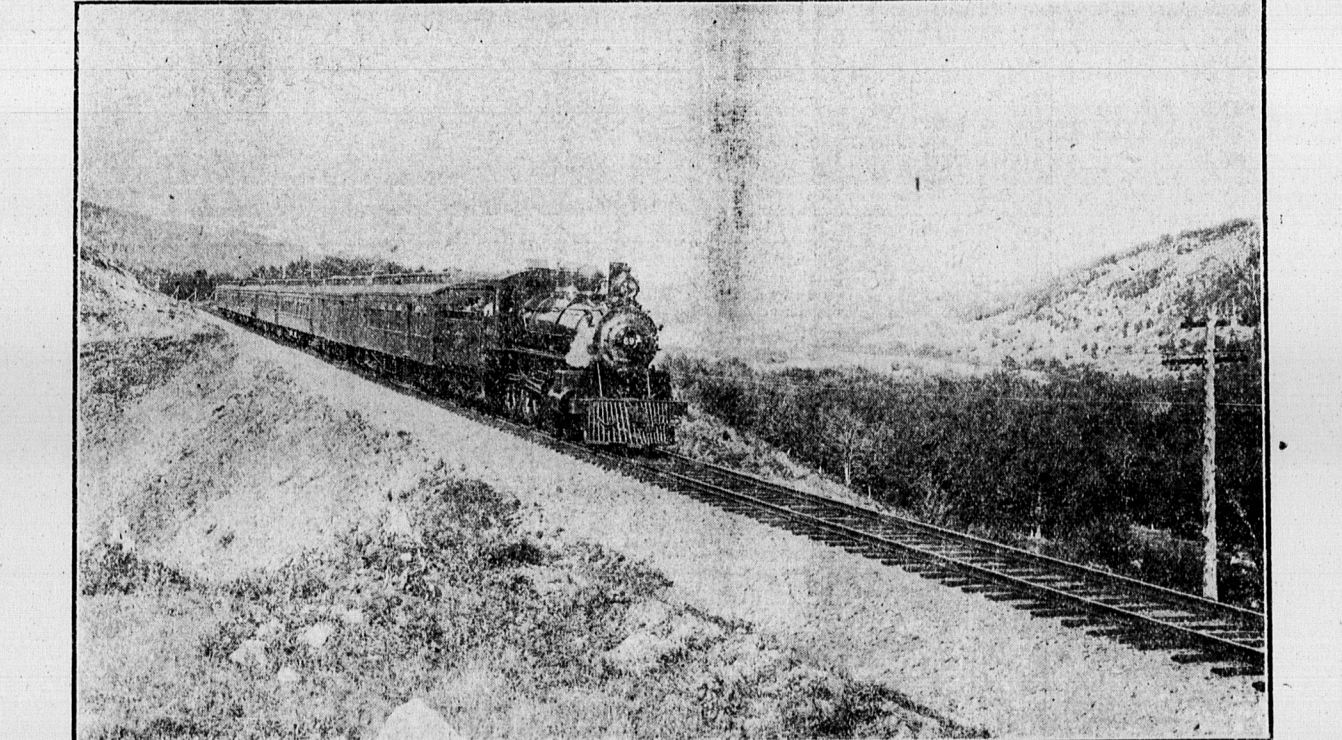
The building of most interest to tourists in Messina was the Villa Rocca Guelfonia, built by the Normans, who controlled Messina and Sicily, at the time Richard the Lion Hearted, King of England, sailed for his first crusade against the Turks, and failed to release Jerusalem the Holy City, from infidel dominion. There was also a creditable museum in the convent of St. Gregory, which had fine paintings, statuary and some rare majolica vases.

As a business town Messina was the most important city in Sicily, and, in fact, in the south of the Kingdom of Italy. It did an annual export and import business of about \$20,000,000. It traded principally in fruits and in fruit flavorings and essences, in coral ornaments, silks, wines, oils, mullin, linen and hardware—the last three articles clearly being brought in to supply the demand of the island population.

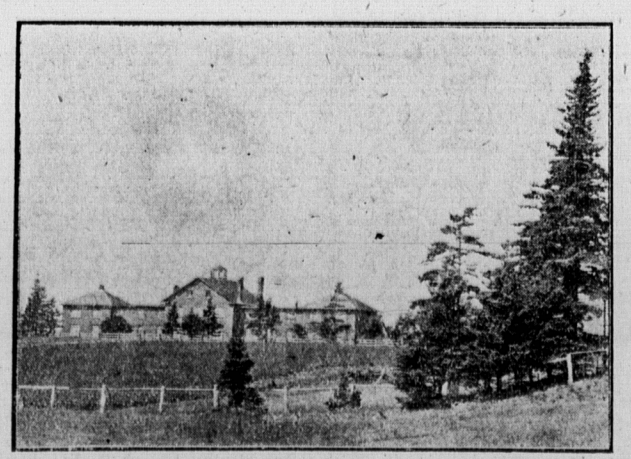
Messina had a fair university and a well equipped technical school, and was the centre of success in Southern Italy and Sicily. Its destruction cannot be reckoned but as a deathblow to prosperity in all that portion of the kingdom, it had a population of 150,000.

### REGGIO NOW A CLASSIC RUIN.

The once thriving city of Reggio di Calabria was almost directly opposite to Messina across the quake-tortured Straits of Messina. It is said to have been founded a couple of centuries later than Messina, but, as a matter of fact, all these dates are purely imaginary—not authentic nor historic. Its very name means "to break," and refers to an origin through an earthquake—that is, Reggio, now a seaport, was said to have been founded as an inland city, but awoke one fine day to discover that an earthquake had opened the earth and created the Straits of Messina and made Reggio into a seaport. Reggio was the chief town of Calabria Ulterior. It was noted for a superb cathedral about a century old, a famous statue of Garibaldi, a museum, a lyceum for girls and a technical school.



A TRAIN ON THE INTERCOLONIAL, BY WHICH RAILWAY THE GUARDIAN'S HAPPY PARTY WILL TRAVEL FROM PICTOU TO HALIFAX AND ST. JOHN TO PT. DUCHENE ON THE BIG FREE TRIP.



OLD ASYLUM, PULLED DOWN SOME YEARS AGO.

**SUNLIGHT SOAP**

The finest fabric is not too delicate to be safely washed with Sunlight Soap. When other soaps have injured your linens and faded the coloured things, remember the word Sun-light.



**COMMONWEALTH HOTEL**  
Opposite State House, Boston, Mass

Offers rooms with hot and cold water for \$1.00 per day and up, which includes free use of public shower baths. Nothing to equal this in New England. Rooms with private baths for \$1.50 per day and up; suites of two rooms and bath for \$1.00 per day and up. Dining room and cafe first-class. European plan.

**ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF**  
Stone floors, nothing wood but the doors.

**Equipped with its own Sanitary Vacuum Cleaning Plant.**  
Long Distance Telephone in Every Room

**Strictly A Temperance Hotel**  
Send for Booklet.

**STORER F. CRAFTS.**

**FOSTER'S PLYMOUTH ROCKS**

Winners at Amherst, St John, Halifax, Hartland, Grandby, Charlottetown Winter Fair and Charlottetown Provincial Last year's winners, 1 Diploma, 11 first 6 seconds and 2 thirds out of 22 entries.

**For Sale**  
Eggs from above stock.  
Pen No 1, BARRED \$3 for 15, Pen No 2, \$2 for 15, Pen No 3, \$1 for 15,  
Pen No 1 BUFF, \$2 for 15, Pen No 2 \$1 for 15,  
L. H. D. FOSTER  
Marshfield, P. E. I.  
—24dttrmwfim

## BIG FREE TRIP FOR YOUNG LADIES

(Continued from page 1.)

1st—a big trip to New York City and return.  
2nd—a full course scholarship in the Union Commercial College.  
For the district of King's County there will be the following prizes:—  
1st—a big trip to New York City and return.  
2nd—a full course scholarship in the Union Commercial College.  
3rd—the choice of one of several mail scholarships from the International Correspondence Schools.  
4th—same as for 3rd.  
For the district of Montague, Georgetown and Souris East there will be the following prizes:—  
1st—a big trip to New York City and return.  
2nd—a full course scholarship in the Union Commercial College.  
For the district of Charlottetown and Royalty there will be the following prizes:—

1st—a big trip to New York City, and return.  
2nd—same as for 1st.  
3rd—a full course scholarship in the Union Commercial College.  
For the district of Queen's County there will be the following prizes:—  
1st—a big trip to New York City and return.  
2nd—same as for 1st.  
3rd—a full course scholarship in the Charlottetown Business College.  
4th—the choice of one of several mail scholarships from the International Correspondence Schools.  
5th—same as for 4th.  
6th—a beautiful new Cooking Range with warming closet, thermometer &c.  
7th—a brand new Ladies Bicycle.  
8th—Fifteen dollars in gold.  
9th—Ten dollars in gold.  
10th—Five dollars in gold.  
All new and renewal subscriptions received through candidates are in very case credited to the candidate who sends them, and cannot be transferred to another.

**TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.**  
Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. B. W. GROVE'S signature on each box. 25c.



**STOP THAT COUGH**

Don't you know that every day you neglect it, on allows it to become more deeply rooted in your lungs?

**Wine of Tar Honey and Wild Cherry**

is simply what its name implies. It contains no opiates or other injurious drugs, and we absolutely guarantee it to cure any form of cough, cold, bronchitis, trouble, business, loss of voice, and any irritation or inflammation of the throat or bronchial tubes.

If it is not all we claim it to be, go back to your dealer and he will refund your money.

**AT ALL DEALERS. GET IT TO-DAY.**  
Large 6 oz. bottle (enough for any ordinary cold) 50c.

MAN'D BY  
**THE BAIRD CO. LTD.**  
MFG. CHEMISTS  
**WOODSTOCK N.B.**

**THE CUP**

that cheers—but not inebriates.

The famous  
**Dominion Blend Tea**  
REGISTERED

**Pressmen and Tailors Wanted**

First class Pressman, competent to take charge of workroom. Two good Tailors for high class work. Good wages, steady employment.

Apply to E. C. COLE & CO. LTD.  
1-202B, Montreal, New Brunswick.

**HOTEL BRUNSWICK**  
MONCTON, N. B.

The largest and Best Located Hotel in the City. Accommodating 300 guests situated in the centre of business ground and surrounded by elegant shade trees, making it especially desirable for tourists in the summer season.

GEO. MESWENEY

**G. D. Wright**

Funeral Director and embalmer—Miss A. Ferguson Lady Assistant—Personal Attention and Promptness Guaranteed.

Ambulance calls answered at shortest notice.

**Specialties**  
Disinfecting and Fumigating, Furniture Repaired and Re-upholstered.  
Silent Salesmen made to order OFFICE—King Square, Phone 2373  
RES. DWIGHT, King Square, North Phone 3372.

**THE EDITOR**

A JOURNAL of information for all Literary Workers. Thirteenth year. Only permanent and successful magazine of its class. Tells what editors want; how MSS. should be prepared; where to find the best market. Answers every question that you want to know about the business of writing for the press. 10c a copy. \$1.00 a year. Send for sample copy, or 25c for three recent numbers.

**THE EDITOR**  
Deposit, N. Y. —25dtf