courage and daring, slaves and freemen, all are terrified  
by this awful visitation. But soldiers and strong men  
are not terrified at revolutions. They are at home in  
scenes of conflict. Slaves are little troubled at such  
events, for they have nothing to lose.  
 All classes of mankind have been guilty of persecuting the saints; and this fearful sight is sent in  
consequence of it.  
 Their actions declare their fear. Their houses are no  
security against the earthquake; but when they flee  
forth into the open air to escape the falling walls, then  
the terrible phenomena of the troubled heavens disclose  
themselves to their terrified gaze. Where now shall  
they hide? Even kings leave their palaces in haste,  
and dread both the city and the open field. They  
flee to the rocks and caves. Revolutions do not make  
all men alike fearful, nor lead them to desert their  
homes for the caves of the rocks. Many, aye most,  
are busily employed then in attack or defence. No,  
it must mean nothing less than the literal appearance  
of the sky. There, where all is usually calm and orderly  
they see tremendous perturbation. How should they  
not be disturbed? These rare sights of dread, visible  
to all, strike in a moment profound dread to the heart  
of savage and of civilized alike.  
 “There is no event which makes so deep and lasting  
an impression on the mind as an earthquake, nor does  
any other phenomenon of nature affect it to an equal  
degree; hence those who have not experienced an  
earthquake are unable to judge of the state of mind  
into which people are thrown by it. Confusion, distraction, and horror carried to the highest pitch, do  
not convey an adequate idea of what is passing in their  
hearts. The principal cause of this extraordinary state  
of mind is doubtless founded in the circumstance that  
an earthquake unsettles our whole system of thinking