68 of this article

A. A. MacRae

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result was the direct opposite of what Julian expected. The excavation had proceeded only a short time when fire shot out from the earth and a series of explosions occurred. frightened workmen rushed from the spot and no 6 entreaty or offer could persuade them to continue the work. The death of Julian, a few months later, prevented any second attempt. Even the cynical and antichristian writer, 10 Gibbon, was convinced by the historical evidence that this event occurred. However, he proceeded to assert that it was not a supernatural act, 13 but simply the result of the fact that the gases imprisoned for many years in the subterranean chambers under the temple had become so com-16 pressed that when they were released by the

17 beginning of the excavation explosions occurred.

18 Yet Jesus had made no claim that divine inter-

19 vention in supernatural form would cause the

20 fulfillment of the prophecy. Regardless of

21 whether the occurrence was a miracle or a purely

providence of God many centuries passed during

which Jerusalem was trodden down of the Gentiles

and the site of Solomon's temple remained in the

natural event, the fact remains that in the

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