

James Fletcher
Mississippi River

Pittsburgh Gazette
Feb. 14, 1812

Nashville. (Ten.) January 21
Earthquake

From Mr. James Fletcher, in whose statement we place the utmost reliance we have received the following narrative:---At the Little Prairie, (a beautiful spot on the west side of the Mississippi river about 30 miles from New Nadrid), on the 16th of December last, about 2 o'clock, A.M., we felt a severe concussion of the earth, which we supposed to be occasioned by a distant earthquake, and did not apprehend much damage. Between that time and day we felt several other slighter shocks; about sunrise another very severe one came on, attended with a perpendicular bouncing that caused the earth to open in many places---some eight and ten feet wide, numbers of less width, and of considerable length---some parts have sunk much lower than others, where one of these large openings are, one side remains as high as before the shock and the other is sunk; some more, some less; but the deepest I saw was about twelve feet. The earth was, in the course of fifteen minutes after the shock in the morning, entirely inundated with water. The pressing of the earth, if the expression be allowable, caused the water to spout out of the pores of the earth, to the height of eight or ten feet! We supposed the whole country sinking, and knew not what to do for the best. The agitation of the earth was so great that it was with difficulty any could stand on their feet, some could not---The air was very strongly impregnated with a sulphurous smell. As if by instinct, we flew as soon as we could from the river, dreading most danger there---but after rambling about two or three hours, about two hundred gathered at Capt. Francis Lescuer's, where we encamped, until we heard that the upper country was not damaged, when I left the camp (after staying there twelve days) to look for some other place, and was three days getting about thirty miles, from being obliged to travel around those chasms.

Previous to my leaving the country I heard that many parts of the Mississippi river had caved in; in some places several acres at the same instant. But the most extraordinary effect that I saw was a small lake below the river St. Francis. The bottom of which is blown up higher than any of the adjoining country, and instead of water it is filled with a beautiful white sand. The same effect is produced in many other lakes, or I am informed by those who saw them;

and it is supposed they are generally filled up. A little river called Pemisece, that empties into the St. Francis, and runs parallel with the Mississippi, at the distance of about twelve miles from it, is filled also with sand. I only saw it near its bend, and found it to be so, and was informed by respectable gentlemen who had seen it lower down, that it was positively filled with sand. On the sand that was thrown out of the lakes and river lie numerous quantities of fish of all kinds common to the country.

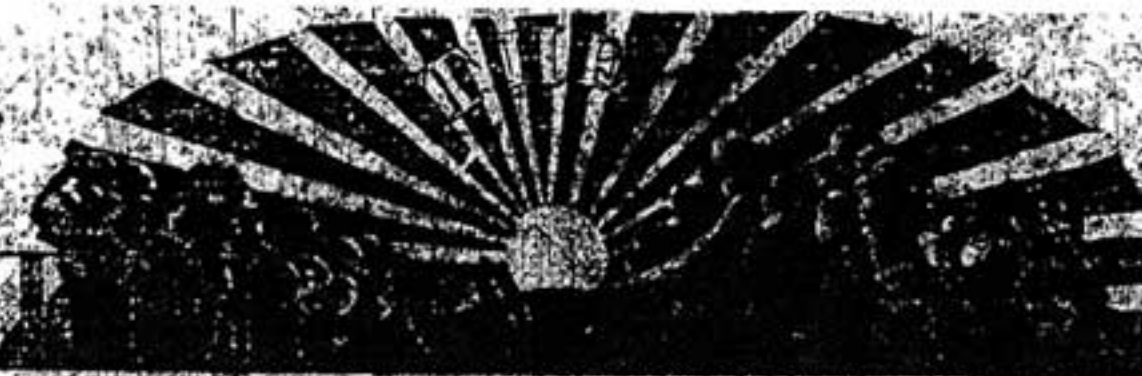
The damage to stock, &c was unknown. I heard of only two dwelling houses, a granary, and smoke house, being sunk. One of the dwelling houses was sunk twelve feet below the surface of the earth; the other the top was ^{about} even with the surface. The granary and smoke house were entirely out of sight; we supposed sunk and the earth closed over them. The buildings through the country are much damaged. We heard of no lives being lost, except seven Indians, who were shaken into the Mississippi.---This we learned from one who escaped.

Previous to the shocks coming on, we heard a rumbling noise like that of thunder. They continued until I left the country---some very sincere.---I cannot tell how many there were.

The above account is confirmed by letters from the country. A gentleman attempting to pass from Cape Girardeau to the pass of St. Francis, found the earth so much cracked and broke, that it was impossible to get along. The course must be about 50 miles back of the Little Prairie. Others have experienced the same difficulty in getting along, and at times had to go miles out of their way to shun those chasms.

We have no idea that the principal cause of the shocks originated on the Mississippi---we have not yet heard the worse."

WEST



EACH CENTURY HAS ITS PECULIAR MODE OF DOING BUSINESS, AND MEN GUIDED MORE BY CUSTOM THAN BY ENQUIRY, THE MANNERS WHICH ARE PREVALENT IN THEIR OWN TIME.—HUMPHREYS

Vol. IV

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1812.

THE WESTERN SUN,

IS printed weekly at Two DOLLARS per annum, paid in advance or an attested NOTE, payable at the end of the year for Two DOLLARS & FIFTY CENTS. No Subscription will be received for a less term than one year—and will not be discontinued until all arrearages are paid.

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ALL Letters addressed to the Editor must be Post paid, or they will not be taken out of the office.

Extract of a letter from His Excellency William H. Harrison to the Secretary at War, dated.

VINCENNES, Dec. 10, 1811.

"In my official account of the late action I did not mention that Captain Prescott and his company was in the last charge that was made on the left flank. I had placed him on that flank early in the action, and recollecting that I had returned him to his original position, I had supposed it to have been before the charge; but I now find that it was afterwards. Lieut. A. Hawkins with the few men of the Rifle Company that remained also assisted in the charge on the right flank. The late Welsh company of the 4th Regt. under the command of Lieut. Gooding, had been previously to the action united with Capt. Barton's, which was the reason of their not being particularly mentioned in my letter.—Mr. Gooding behaved with great gallantry, and was wounded in the neck. I also omitted to mention from the haste with which my letter was written, my obligation to Captain Dubois of the Spies and guides. This gentleman rendered us the

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Previous to my leaving the country I heard that many parts of the Mississippi river had caved in; in some places several acres at the same instant. But the most extraordinary effect produced that I saw was a small lake below the River St. Francis, The bottom of which is blown up higher than any of the adjoining country, and instead of water, it is filled with a beautiful white sand. The same effect is produced on many other lakes as I am informed by those who saw them, and it is supposed they are generally filled up. A little river called Pomisco, that empties into the St. Francis, and runs parallel with the Mississippi, at the distance of about twelve miles from it, is filled also with sand. I only saw it near its head, and found it to be so, and was informed by respectable gentleman who had seen it lower down, that it positively was filled with sand. On the sand that was thrown out of the lakes and rivers, lie numerous quantities of fish of all kinds common to the country.

The damage to stock was unknown.—I heard of only two dwelling houses, a granary and smoke house being sunk twelve feet

we trust discomfited forever. The great Metropolitan county of Ireland had its meeting yesterday, and certainly a more gratifying one or heart cheering spectacle we never witnessed. Upwards of 20,000 Protestants and Catholic Irishmen assembled for a great national object, formed coup d'œil irresistibly impressive and affecting—never was unanimity more complete; never was decorum more strictly observed—never did a public body exhibit more firm, more constitutional conduct.

The speeches of the different gentlemen that addressed the meeting were excellent, Both the members for the county of Dublin delivered their sentiments in a very handsome style. Col. O'Chea, an officer of high rank in the Austrian service, and who fought in the memorable battles of Aspern and Wagram, spoke with the happiest effect. Sir N. O'Donnell and Mr. Barnes were also very eloquent and animated.—Counsellor Fishlay, on this occasion, exceeded all his former powers of eloquence, in advocating the rights of his Catholic countrymen; this learned and enlightened lawyer will, we trust experience the gratitude and marked support of the Catholic body in his professional career—no man has been more able, more zealous, or more disinterested in their behalf, few perhaps, have given up brighter prospects of preferment, than he has done, by attaching himself to the cause of Catholics and of Ireland.

[Dub. Herald.]

The following extract of a letter to a member of congress from one of his constituents, shows the language used towards us by our enemies, and how erroneously and ridiculously they reckon upon assistance from a party in this country. It should act as a monitory lesson to that party to restrain the intemperance of their opposition to their rulers, as it leads foreigners to suppose they have only to open their arms, and the whole party will hasten to their embrace.

Nat. Intel.

"I must intrude a little on your patience by informing you that I was lately in Canada, and can assure you, sir, I had to bite my tongue in silent indignation, to hear the coffee-house and common bar-room conversation of the royalists. They assert roundly that the Prince of Wales has made an open declaration that when he ascends the throne he will speedily retrieve his father's losses—that it may easily be effected,

NASHVILLE, January 2^d 1812.
EARTHQUAKE.

From Mr. James Fletcher, in whose statement we place the utmost reliance we have received the following narrative: "As the little Prairie on the 16th December last, about 2 o'clock A. M. we felt a severe concussion of the earth, which we supposed to be occasioned by a distant earthquake, and did apprehend much danger. Between that time and day we felt several lighter shocks; about sunrise another very severe one came on, attended with a

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