

of St. Louis, and in his correspondence with Prof. A.D. Hager, state geologist of Missouri, in the year 1871, as follows:

"The first shock of the earthquakes was at 2 o'clock a.m. December 17th, 1811, and was very hard, shaking down log houses, chimneys, etc. It was followed at short intervals, half to one hour apart by comparatively slight shocks until about seven o'clock in the morning, when a rumbling noise was heard apparently in the west resembling and not unlike distant thunder. In an instant the earth began to shake and totter to such a degree that no persons were able to stand or walk. This lasted perhaps for one minute, and at this juncture the earth was observed to be as it were rolling in waves of a few feet in height, with visible depressions between. By and by these waves or swells were seen to burst, throwing up large volumes of water, sand and a species of charcoal, some of which were covered in part with a substance of which, by its peculiar odor was thought to be sulphur. When these swells bursted, wide and long fissures were left running north and south paralel with each other for miles. I have seen some that were four and five miles in length, and on an average of about four feet deep, and ten feet or less wide. The rumbling noise before mentioned and the waves, etc., appeared to come from the west, and traveled, as it seemed, eastward. After this slight shocks varying in severity, were at intervals, felt until the 7th of January, 1812, when the country was again visited by another earthquake as violent as the two first and characterized by the same frightful results; it was then that the cry arose among the people "sauve qui peu!" (save who can.) All but two families left this part of the country leaving all their property consisting of cattle, hogs, horses and portions of their household effects, that proved a total loss. . . . .

Slight shocks after this continued until the 17th of February when there was another very severe one, having the same effects as the others causing great injury to the land, by forming more extensive fissures, sinking high lands and forming it into lakes, making deep lakes dry land and many of these are now under cultivation. The damaged and torn up portions of the country embraced a circumference of not more than one hundred and fifty miles, taking the old town of Little Prairie as the centre. A very large extent of country on either side of Little River, also on both sides of the St. Francois river, in this state and Arkansas, and on the Reel Foot Bayou in Tennessee was sunk below its former elevation about ten feet, thus rendering that section of country entirely unfit for cultivation. It is a remarkable fact and worthy of notice that so few casualties occurred, among the citizens there were but two deaths, both victims being women: Mrs. La Font died from fright and Mrs. Jarvis received injury from the fall of a cabin log, from which she died. Not so fortunate

were flat-boat men many of whom must have perished judging from the quantity of debris seen floating on the river, consisting of barrels of flour, whiskey, etc., etc. A man moving from Tennessee to Arkansas with his family-wife and seven children-and a hired man were all lost from a flat-boat; except himself. A man named Glasscock-and family of six or eight in number-were all lost at Island No 16, the boat that they were in was supposed to have been capsized.

Mr. Le Sieur, in his answers to interrogations of Professor Hager says in his letter of June 17th, 1871:

First-That earthquakes in this region of the country mentioned in my former communications were never known, nor are their any signs left on the surface of the earth as in that of 1811 and 1812, to indicate that there had ever been any. And in many conversations had with the old men of several tribes, Shawness, Delawares, and Cherokees, all said that they had no traditionary account that earthquakes had ever visited the country before.

Second, with regard to the charcoal mentioned it may be the kind you mention (albertine, or solidified asphaltum) The peculiar order of the coal induced the belief that it was impregnated with sulphur, yet it may have been the order of petroleum. It's smell was unknown to us at that period.

Third-The water thrown up during the eruption of the "land waves" was luke warm, so warm indeed as to produce no chilly sensation while wading and swimming through it. Since the year 1812 the shakes have been of frequent occurrence appearing at intervals and not periodical, and seemingly growing less every year.

Fourth-It would be difficult to say with any degree of certainty how high the water, coal and sand were thrown up. The numerous fissures opened were of different sizes, some twelve to fifteen feet wide while others were not over four or five feet, by guess I would say the waters etc., thrown up were from six to ten feet high; besides theses long and narrow fissures the water, sand and coal was thrown out to a considerable height in a circular form, leaving large and deep basins, some of ten one hundred yards across and sufficiently deep to retain water during the dryest seasons. The following is a letter from the pen of Mrs. Eliza Bryan. First I will here give a short biography of the early life of this distinguished and admirable lady as furnished the writer by her no less intelligent granddaughter, Mrs. Mary Eliza Howard, the wife of Judge James H. Howard of New Madrid.

"My grandmother (Mrs. Bryan) was born May 10th, 1780, and died August 10th 1866 at New Madrid. She was born in the state of Pennsylvania; at an early age her father (Azor Reese) moved to Kentucky but only remained only a