

NOT EXAGGERATED.

Previous Reports of the Damage at Charleston Are Fully Confirmed.

The Force of the Great Upheaval Apparent Upon Every Side.

A Description of Some of the Scenes Witnessed in the Stricken City.

Fissures in the Earth's Surface Vomit Forth Mud and Other Substances.

People Driven from Their Homes to Vacant Lots—Millions of Dollars Lost.

Extraordinary Phenomena Produced by the Earthquake at Sea.

Effect of the Unusual Disturbance Upon the Colored Populace of Charleston.

Origin of the Great Shake—Previous Subterranean Disturbances in the United States.

TAKING ACCOUNT.

A Glance at the Ruin Wrought by the Great Upheaval.

The people are gradually taking account of the details of the injury worked by the earthquake, and the list of damage to property is startling, says a Charleston telegram. A limited section in the south of the city is a sample of the whole. Standing at the Postoffice and looking west an almost impassable roadway of debris meets the eye. The building of the Chamber of Commerce is badly damaged, a portion of the south and east walls having been thrown down by the violence of the shock, and the buildings of Walker, Evans & Bogwell have also suffered, while the heavy granite slabs which formed the parapet of the *New and Courier* building lie upon the sidewalk, leaving the slate roof and a portion of the attic floor exposed. Almost the entire front of the building occupied by Myer's cigar store and Smith's stencil establishment is torn out, leaving the upper floors exposed. The Pitt building, at the corner of Church street, was badly damaged. Most of the buildings on the street are more or less damaged, but the violence of the earthquake is most perceptible at the historic intersection of Broad and Meeting streets. The police station is almost a complete wreck. The upper edge of the wall has been torn down, and that of the north wall has fallen on the roof of the porch, carrying it away and leaving only the large fluted pillars standing.

The City Hall apparently escaped serious damage, but is badly cracked on the east wall, and the Court House building is badly damaged, the walls being cracked in several places, and portions of the roof and gables being thrown down. The fire-proof building seems to stand as a rock. The gables of the north and south porches, however, made of solid brown stone, have been thrown to the pavement below. This appears to be the only damage done to the building.

The worst wreck in the locality, however, is St. Michael's Church, which seems to be doomed to destruction. The steeple, the repairs on which had just been completed, seems to be intact, but it is out of plumb, and is in momentary danger of falling. The massive porch has been wrenched from the body of the church, and the building has been cracked in four places.

The buildings between Meeting and King streets are all more or less damaged, the effects of the quake being the same in nearly every instance.

What a scene of desolation the fashionable boulevard of Charleston presents. Commencing at Broad street one passes through a block of burned houses. The fire, starting at 118, the third building from the corner of Broad street, on the east side, consumed the entire row of buildings as far north as the Quaker graveyard. The few houses left on that side of the street are more or less shattered and gutted. The few houses on the west side of the street, north of Broad street, have not escaped the general fate, although the damage is not as great as in other portions of the street. From Queen street to Horbæk's alley almost every house is shattered, the tops of the walls near the roof being torn down.

All over the city the injury is of the same character. Near Shell street there is a cabin, occupied by a colored man, that is completely surrounded by yawning chasms extending through the earth's surface for ten feet and over. All around this there are sinks of fresh water and masses of mud, with queer-looking soft substances that have never been seen before. It is contended by many that the mud and other substances found around the village are volcanic matter.

Just after the first great shock there was a decided and distinct smell of escaping sulphuric acid gas over the entire village. The smell lasted throughout the night, and was distinct in those localities where the cavities in the earth were most numerous. Some say that portions of the mud were thrown up by the waterspouts are strongly impregnated with sulphur, and that small portions of sulphur can be found in the mud.

Not far from Charleston on the road to Summerville extensive mounds of clay were thrown up and hillocks of sand, in most cases in the shape of inverted cones, the hollow part of which had evidently been formed by the action of the water returning into the depths from which it had been raised. In many cases the erupted matter had streamed away from the breaks in the surface of the earth to a distance of from twenty to fifty feet. In other places there were fissures almost invariably extending from north to south. These cracks were made wide and extended downward, always in a slanting direction. The matter that was thrown up was of a dull, dark slate color, and was mixed with gravel. There was also a little shale, and in general the mud resembled that which is thrown from the bottom of the phosphate pits along the river. The water in some places had the taste of our artesian water, but in many instances it was just as clear and limpid as from a mountain spring. These evidences of the great convulsions are not sporadic; they extend far and near in every direction, from the city limits of Charleston to Summerville, and at the latter place it was found, from trustworthy information, that the cracks and fissures are everywhere visible for miles and miles around. Strangely enough some of them were in active operation, and the constant shocks that were felt at Summerville sent the water out of these fissures in jets to the height of from fifteen to twenty feet.

This was evidently the result of the cracks being filled with water and then the sides opening and closing by each succeeding shock. These appearances were, of course, suggestive of still more violent eruptions, and there was a constant dread everywhere that there would be a general inundation caused by some extraordinary force of the earthquake. Not only was the water emitted in the low places where it might be expected to exist all the time, but on

tops of the highest elevations the mud could be seen. This latter fact indicated that the force was being exerted at rather more than the depth that was at first thought to be the limit of the force.

The horror of the situation in Summerville on Wednesday was much intensified by certain manifestations that were not observed in Charleston to any great extent. All during the day there was a constant series of detonations, now east, now west, and from all possible directions. It resembled the discharge of heavy guns at intervals of about ten minutes, and was like the sounds of a bombardment at a great distance. All of these explosions were not accompanied by tremors of the earth, as it was only occasionally that the earth moved, from subterranean discharges. A remarkable fact was noted in Summerville in respect to the bulging of the water from the interior of the earth. Nearly all of the wells had been at low water. There was a sudden rise in all of these wells, and the additional water was pure. Looking down into one of these wells the observer could, on the eve of any of the loud detonations, see the rivers rise up the walls of the wells, and after the shock again subside.

Mr. P. L. Bonnett, of Washington, left Charleston on the first outward train, after the disaster. There he found a large crowd of refugees. For the first two miles the train moved very slowly. The rails were twisted. As the train went along the people in the car noticed another shock. This further twisted the rails. It was, however, possible to proceed slowly.

"Have the reports of the disaster been exaggerated?"

"Not a bit of it. It would be impossible to put into words any description of the disaster and its effects. My wife and I spent two nights on the commons, as did thousands of other people. To depict the dreadful scene would be beyond any man's powers. There is a house in ten that will not have to be rebuilt. There was a peculiar difference in the manner in which brick and frame buildings went under. The walls of the brick buildings swayed and fell over, while those built of wood simply collapsed."

"Were there any peculiar conditions preceding the shock?"

"Yes. It became terribly hot about twenty minutes before the shock. It was a peculiar, scorching heat that I never felt before. I saw people on the streets taking off their coats and vests as they walked along. Then there was a rumbling noise. It was like a train of cars passing under a tunnel on the top of which one stands. The rumbling and roar were followed by the shocks and the terrible swaying movements and then the falling of walls."

DEMORALIZED NEGROES.

Effect of the Earthquake on the Colored People of Charleston.

It would be simply impossible to exaggerate or depict in sufficiently descriptive language the effect of the earthquake on the colored people of Charleston, says another correspondent. They fled from their homes, and as they ran hither and thither through blinding clouds of pulverized mortar, which was shaken from houses and arose again from the streets, they fled the air with dismal groans of despair and lamentations of terrible distress. As usual with them, the natural distresses, the name Jesus was most frequently used, and, as if suplicating God face to face, they shrieked out in the very helplessness and pathos of despair such sentences as "Do, my Master Jesus, have mercy on me!" "Oh, sweet Jesus, save me, save me!" "Let me live through this night, dear God, my Savior!" "Hold me up once more, then blessed Christ, my Master!" and other tearful supplications, which intensified the horror of the situation, and went far toward demoralizing the white people, who were also rushing blindly hither and thither. As usual, the faces of the white man and white woman in the time of danger was a sight of sudden joy in the gloom of despair and the blinding darkness. The name Jesus was most frequently used, and, as if endeavoring to stop their white friends as they ran by in the confusion to supplicate that they would remain with them until the "judgment was done." In many an instant a trembling girl sank down on her knees and seized with frantic energy the folds of some white lady's dress, and failing to express their terror in words with scarcely moving lips, that they wanted only the moral support of a friend in the hour of distress and agony.

Immediately after the first shock there was an exhibition of joy and the voice of congratulation were heard on every side, and all mingled with words of thanksgiving to the divine Providence. People clung to each other like brothers and sisters. The world was strewn with the remains of their loved ones, and, as far as possible, with them in their natural positions, the name Jesus was most frequently used, and, as if suplicating God face to face, they shrieked out in the very helplessness and pathos of despair such sentences as "Do, my Master Jesus, have mercy on me!" "Oh, sweet Jesus, save me, save me!" "Let me live through this night, dear God, my Savior!" "Hold me up once more, then blessed Christ, my Master!" and other tearful supplications, which intensified the horror of the situation, and went far toward demoralizing the white people, who were also rushing blindly hither and thither. As usual, the faces of the white man and white woman in the time of danger was a sight of sudden joy in the gloom of despair and the blinding darkness. The name Jesus was most frequently used, and, as if endeavoring to stop their white friends as they ran by in the confusion to supplicate that they would remain with them until the "judgment was done." In many an instant a trembling girl sank down on her knees and seized with frantic energy the folds of some white lady's dress, and failing to express their terror in words with scarcely moving lips, that they wanted only the moral support of a friend in the hour of distress and agony.

Not so with the trembling and demoralized colored people. After the hand of Providence had been apparently removed they began to prophesy and to recall all they knew, in a confused way, of Bible scenes and Biblical history. "It's the night of Sodom and Gomorrah," shouted one, in a frenzy of apparent delight. "The city of St. Michael is down to the ground," yelled another. "I told you so! I cried to God, 'Ha! Ha! Ha! about my wife and friends now,'" said a fourth. "Look for the rock of Herod to split!" said another. "Pray, my white people, why don't you pray?" said another. For fully five minutes in the fearful excitement the colored people never ceased to utter what might be considered a torrent of prophetic interpretations and unintelligible prayers. In the dismal gloom some lady cried out: "Get to the green, get to the green!" and almost in a twinkling the colored people made a rush for that of safety. It seemed as if all Charleston was already there. Women hurried along, dragging their little charges by their hands, in all kinds of night apparel. It was only, however, when the older class of the colored people arrived that the characteristic scene of place, they ran about the town with one of "Doubtless" on your face, down on your knees, miserable sinner; pray to God, my sister, my brother; pray, pray, pray; don't I tell you, the night is come!" Prayer meetings were organized, and the singing and screaming were kept up until daylight.

Thursday night, on Marion Square, the sight and scenes baffled description. The colored people were unrestrained and committed all manner of riotous and frenzied excesses. A report of their actions as they took place would perhaps be considered blasphemous. The first object, and one that arrested everybody's attention, was an assemblage of colored boys, about a half dozen in number, who had fallen to the ground in a paroxysm of religious frenzy. They were grovelling in the dirt, rolling down the grass and were singing a hymn in a half-dreamed voice. The hymn was "The Angels A'rearing at the Door" and the refrain sang rapidly was: "Oh, tell ole Noah to boll on de ark, to boll on de ark, to boll on de ark." This song they repeated over and over again until they were worn out, and then ceased from utter exhaustion.

REPORTS NOT EXAGGERATED.

Stories Related by Eye-Witnesses of the Terrible Scene at Charleston.

"I was staying at the Charleston Hotel," said Mr. Thomas H. Tolson of Baltimore, to an Associated Press agent. "I was in my room, which was on the third floor. When I lit my gas I heard a noise and supposed I had broken something, but could find nothing broken. I went to place my hat on a bureau, and just then the shock came. I would have fallen if I had not thrown my hands out and clung to the window. It seemed as though the hotel was lifted up and swung backward and forward a distance of fifteen or twenty inches at each vibration. I was terrified. At the first shock the lights in the house all went out. Then the plastering began to fall. It started on my ceiling, that I should endeavor to get out of the house, and I got into the corridor and groped my way, in utter darkness, through falling plaster. Other people in the house were likewise groping their way out. The air was filled with plaster dust. All around was a terrible roaring and moaning sound, and the din was heightened by the falling of timbers. I found the front door of the house closed, a fortunate thing for me, as it saved my life. It took me a moment to find the knob, and as I was looking for it tons of brick fell down from the upper part of the house, in front of the door. I ran out through the heaps of fallen bricks and fell twice in getting to the middle of the street. There I remained terror-stricken.

Two shocks came after I reached the middle of the street, a fall one seven minutes after the first, and another more violent, nine minutes later. The three shocks occurred within sixteen minutes. I remained in the hotel until 1 o'clock. I did not know what to do. I was so unnerved that I could scarcely stand. As it became quiet, no more shocks occurring, I went up the street to an open space and remained there until 3 o'clock. There we had another slight shock. At 3 o'clock I went to the Battery Park and found it crowded, several thousands of terrified people having assembled there. There I remained during the remainder of the night. At 5 o'clock another shock was felt. At daylight I, like the others, felt more encouraged, and I moved around to see what destruction had been done. I found the battery front some of the most costly houses in the city cracked from the top to the bottom, and some portions of the buildings were completely demolished. All of the Charleston residences are built with porches in front, many having substantial pillars, and these porches were all thrown down. There was not a house in Charleston that had its chimneys standing.

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"The terror among the people during the night was intense. They rushed through the streets frantically calling on God to have mercy on them. People who, perhaps, never prayed before, then prayed aloud. There were added the shrieks of the wounded and the lamentations of those who had lost friends. Here and there parties with lights were looking through the ruins for missing people. The greatest terror and confusion reigned everywhere. The people, when the shock came, ran, men, women, and children, out into the streets in their night clothing, remaining in that way during the night huddled together in the street. None would venture back into the houses."

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STRANGE FREAKS.

Singular Results of the Shocks In and Around Charleston.

Pedestrians in their wanderings through the ruins discover many interesting freaks of the earthquake. Some of them were found at the residence of Major J. H. Robinson, a well-known citizen. The building was badly wrecked in some places, while in others it seemed to have escaped injury. In one bedroom of the house the following freaks took place. On one side of the chimney oil paintings were thrown from the wall with such force as to destroy the canvas and crush the frame, while on the mantelpiece a few feet away in the same room stood a slender tall vase which retained its perpendicular. On another wall in the room two or three small photographs in frames were left undisturbed, while within three feet of them the plastering was, as it were, wrenched off and ground into dust, and the lathing which the plastering was nailed to was torn out of its place. A lounge was hurled across the room and broken to pieces, while chairs a few feet away were not even overturned. In some places gate-post on one side of an entrance was twisted off, while the other post, but far more distant, was neither loosened nor cracked. The old magazine in Cumberland street, a building constructed of brick, stone, and concrete, in the eighteenth century, which stood as a monument among the landmarks of the city, having weathered three wars and the many earthquakes and cyclones of the country in its time, and which carried in the revolution—a building which the oldest inhabitant believed could not be destroyed by any ruins.

Some curious freaks of the earthquake were found and photographed at Summerville, a suburb of Charleston. Most of the three hundred houses there are wooden buildings, and, as a consequence, the damage is largely confined to their interior. Of the buildings the foundation had been affected on one side, so as to ascertain that the structure had toppled over in a half-reeling position, while the remainder of the foundation was unimpaired. The foundation of both sides of another house, it was found, had parted and shot outward, permitting the structure to drop to the ground. On many houses one chimney had been destroyed and the other left intact. A large number of geysers were found, some ten feet in diameter, and nothing had been found long enough to probe their depth.

PECULIAR PHENOMENA.

Effect of the Earthquake Shock at Sea—Captain Voegel's Observations.

The hydrographic office in Washington has received a letter from Captain Leo Voegel, of the steamer City of Palatka, briefly describing the effects of the earthquake at sea. He had just left Charleston, and was about twelve miles off the harbor of Fort Royal, in eight and a half fathoms of water. When he was about a mile from the shore he observed a tremor and a trembling sensation which lasted one and a half minutes. There had been quite a noisy sea from the southeast, but when the trembling began the wave motion ceased and the waters remained a perfect calm until the trembling came to an end, when the swell was again manifest. The wind was southeast and light; weather cloudy; barometer, 30.01; thermometer, 80 degrees. The sensation, Capt. Voegel says, resembled that upon ship scraping a pebbly bottom. The ship's vibrations were very great.

Singular Sights Witnessed in Chesapeake Bay.

The officers of the revenue cutter Ewing, which was cruising in the Chesapeake Bay, during the shock had a peculiar experience. Between 11 and 12 o'clock on the night of the earthquake a strong gale came from the north, catching the Ewing in the vicinity of Smith's Point. All at once there was a strange and violent commotion about everything. Nothing looked natural. In the heavens the stars were shooting in all directions, and the breaking seas were charged with phosphorus to such a pronounced degree that no one on board recollects ever seeing such a display. The fixed stars seemed to move and balls of fire first appeared on one bow, then on the other, which the pilot thought were vessels. Lighted he kept an anxious watch as he progressed. It was only when they became general that the pillars found they were due to an atmospheric disturbance. A haze peculiar to earthquake countries was visible along the horizon, and it excited the interest of Lieutenant Brann, who had had a thrill of the same kind before. The atmosphere was filled with phosphorus, and so strongly impregnated the water of the river for 150 miles below that it could hardly be used for any purpose for a number of days. New Madrid, which stood on a bluff fifteen or twenty feet above the next rise of the river, stood so low that the next rise covered it to a depth of five feet. The bottoms of several lakes in the vicinity were elevated so as to become dry, and have since been planted with corn. The walls of several buildings in Cape Girardeau were cracked, in some instances from the ground to the top, and wide fissures left. The shock was so severe that fowls fell from the trees as dead; crockery fell from the shelves and was broken, and many families left their cabins in fear of being crushed beneath their ruins.

Historical Earthquakes in the United States.

One of the most remarkable earthquakes recorded in modern history occurred at New Madrid, in the State of Missouri, some miles below St. Louis, in 1811. The quaking of the earth and in the vicinity of the town continued at intervals for several months, during some of the most violent of which fissures were opened in the earth, from which spewed masses of mud, sand, smoke, and steam, like geysers, as high as the tree-tops. At some localities the earth sank out of sight, and small lakes of water formed. Buildings fell into ruins, and the entire valley was in a terrible state of excitement and terror for a year or two. The fissures and the little lakes formed by that earthquake are still to be seen in the vicinity of New Madrid. The convulsion ceased as suddenly as it began, and it was subsequently ascertained that the cessation was simultaneous with the occurrence of the great earthquake which in 1812 destroyed the city of Caracas, in the South American Republic of Venezuela, where 12,000 people were swallowed up.

The next great earthquake was in New England, in 1818, when there were violent convulsions, and fissures opened in the earth at several localities, out of which arose steam and sulphurous fumes. This was the first of a series of earthquake shocks that were felt in that region at intervals until 1847.

There have been frequent earthquake shocks in various parts of this country, east of the Rocky Mountains, during the past century, but these were the only disastrous ones until the recent one at Charleston, which was the most appalling and destructive visitation of the kind ever known in this portion of the world.

THE SITUATION.

People Deserting the City—Liberal Cash Contributions Pouring In.

Advices from Charleston report the excitement abating. Business has been resumed, and, as a means to aid the city, the special trade of the surrounding section is invoked. It is believed that 40,000 to 60,000 persons are sheltered by tents. The assistance of a corps of Government engineers has been requested for the purpose of making examinations and dismantling ruined structures. Aid is being liber