

West Tennessee

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY A GENTLEMAN OF GREAT RESPECTABILITY NOW IN WEST TENNESSEE TO HIS FRIEND IN KNOXVILLE, DATED JAN. 25, 1812

I have heard accounts of the Earthquake, on the other side of Mississippi, a great deal of the country in the neighborhood of Little Prairie is said to be much injured. Cracks are yet in the earth in places 18 feet wide, - the cypress swamps are said to be the highest part of the country, - such large quantities of white sand have been thrown up that in many places what was formerly rich land now looks like a sand beach - from all these stories I conclude that the shock has been severe, and that the country has sustained some injury. It is certainly true that many people are removing from it. I saw a gentleman who told me that he was in a barge twelve miles above New Madrid when the first shock we experienced took place - that in the morning during the shock he was the water in the river at some places boil up 12 or 15 feet higher than the surface of the surrounding river, that in those places large quantities of leaves, dirt, and as he supposed, stone-coal were thrown up; that the shock was so violent, that he saw cotton-wood trees 18 or 24 inches through snapped off; and that he thinks, at least, two hundred acres of land along the margin of the river, fell in.

On Thursday morning last, a little before 8 o'clock, where we then were, there was a shock equal in severity to any I have experienced.--Mr. Huff says he felt two last night at your house.

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