

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM Mr. ZADOK CRAMER TO HIS FRIEND IN
PITTSBURGH, Dated Natchez, Jan. 23, 1812

This morning, at 3 o'clock, another pretty severe shock of an earthquake was felt. Those on the 16th utl. and since, done much damage on the Mississippi River, from the mouth of the Ohio to Little Praire particularly. Many boats have been lost, and much property sunk. The banks of the river, in many places, sunk hundreds of acres together, leaving the tops of the trees to be seen above the water. The earth opened in many places from 1 to 3 feet wide; through whose fissures stone coal was thrown up, in pieces as large as a man's hand. The earth rocked, trees lashed their tops together. The whole seemed in convulsions, throwing up sandbars here; there sinking others; trees jumping from the bed of the river, roots uppermost, forming a serious impediment to navigation, where before there was no obstruction; boats rocked like cradles; Men, Women, and Children confused, running to and fro, and hollering for safety; those on land, pleaing to get into the boats, those in the boats willing almost to be on land.

This alarming and distressing scene continued for several days, particularly at and above Four-island. The long reach now, though formerly the best part of the river, is said to be the worst, being filled with innumerable planters and sawyers which have been thrown up from the bed by the extraordinary convulsions of the river. Little Praire, and the country about it, suffered much, new lakes having been formed, and the bed of old ones raised to the elevation of the surface of the adjacent country. All accounts of those who have descended the river, since the shocks, give the most alarming and terrific picture of the desolating and horrible scene.