Outside of Louisville (private letter).

In 1811 there occurred a series of shocks from earthquakes, which astonished and frightened the people of this vicinity very much. The shocks occurred at irregular intervals for several months, sometimes two or three in a week, and then probably none for a week or two. Some of the shocks were hard enough to cause the chairs to rock on the floor, the crockery to rattle in the cupboard, and caused the doors which were open to swing to and fro. Others were slight. My father's log house was built on wooden blocks, two or two and a half feet high, and, as the first shock occurred at night and was sufficiently severe to awaken the whole family, my father supposed that some of the blocks on which the house was built might have given way. He therefore lit a candle and went to examine, but, finding everything secure, returned to the room in which all were assembled and told us it must have been an earthquake shock. The damage sustained in this vicinity was very slight – only a few brick walls in the city of Louisville being cracked and the tops of a few chimneys thrown off. But in the southwestern portion of Kentucky and the border state of Tennessee and about New Madrid, Missouri, the shocks were much more severe, large portions of the earth sucnk, and filled with water, forming large ponds or lakes. The earth was cracked in many places