

Natchez, MS

VI(08:15)  
V-VI(14:15)

Dec. 16, 1811

Louisiana Gazette  
Dec. 31, 1811

Natchez, Dec. 18th, 1811

SIR,

Having made a few observations with respect to the Earthquake, which has drawn the attention of the citizens of this place and its vicinity within a few days past, I present them to you, thrown together in a hasty way, for publication, if you think fit, under the impression that they will not be uninteresting to your readers.

On the morning of Monday last the 16th inst. several shocks were felt - four have been ascertained by an accurate observer to have been felt in this city. The principal one, as near as can be collected, was about ten minutes past two o'clock, A.M. There was no noise heard in the atmosphere but in a few instances in certain situations - The shock was attended by a tremulous motion of the earth and building - felt by some for about one and a half minutes; by others about five; and my own impression is, that I am conscious of its lasting at least three, having been awakened from my sleep. Several clocks were stopped at two or ten minutes after. Several articles were thrown off the shelves; crockery was sent rolling about the floor; articles suspended from the ceiling of the stores vibrated rapidly without any air to disturb them, for about nine inches; the plastering in the rooms of some houses was cracked and injured; the river was much convulsed, so much that it induced some of the boatmen at the landing, who supposed the bank was falling in, to cut adrift. The shocks in the morning were six or half after, one of them considerable. The vibration of suspended articles was, wherever room would admit, from east to west. Accounts from Louisiana state, that the first shock was felt about ten minutes past 2 A.M. at Black river, thirty miles distant, and at different places on the road to Rapide, where the trees were violently agitated. It was also felt on the river at a considerable distance above and below Vidalia - The shock was also felt as far up as the Big Black, and at the different intervening towns; in the vicinity of Washington the trees were observed to be much convulsed, nodding their heads together as if coming to the ground.

Another shock was experienced yesterday at fifteen minutes past eleven o'clock, A.M. The houses in several instances shook considerably, and suspended articles in the stores were violently convulsed. Some clocks were again stopped, and in one of the stores a cowbell was heard to tinkle.