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Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Springfield, (Ten.) to his brother in Washington City, dated Dec. 18, 1811

We have since yesterday morning about 2 o'clock, experienced one of the most sublime, grand and awful scenes perhaps on record; the night of the 15th being remarkably dark and cloudly, accompanied by a stillness of the air equal to the silence of the tomb; at a little past 2 o'clock, Mr. - and myself being awake, there appeared to be a rattling of something similar to wind at a distance; we were however undeceived, by a rattling of things in the house, and through a sensible rocking of the same, to a very great degree. - I made up a light as soon as possible, and opened the door, more effectually to discover the cause, when, to my utter amazement, there was a perfect calm, and nothing but an agitated rolling of the earth from south west to north east; this continued I think from seven to ten minutes, when a second shock, though much lighter than the former, alarmed us, if possible, more than the first. An interval then took place till about sunrise, when another shock, equal I believe to the first, gave us fresh alarm; I walked out into my yard, - with difficulty I could stand steady; - saw the earth under my feet oscillate, as plainly as I ever saw the pendulum of a clock, for some minutes; it then stopped, and was followed by three or more in succession, for the space of thirty or forty minutes, since then we have had six light shocks. It is now 1 o'clock at night, - we are in dread of other returns before morning. The consternation we are all in, has prevented any speculative conjectures.