Abbeville

VOL. 2.

# ABBEVILLE, S. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1886.

# The Great Earthquake.

OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY BY THE SEA AGAIN DESOLATED.

It Extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Missouri River-From Maine to Mexico.

#### [Augusta Chronicle.]

CHARLESTON, Sept. 1 .- [Special.]-The first shock of carthquake was felt at Sullivan's Island, but no loss of life approaching last night at 9.50, and be- is reported there. Fissures in the earth fore the people could realize what the are noticed from which fine sand, appatrouble was they found themselves being thrown around and their houses falling down on them. Every one ran screaming into the streets, and in a 'few minutes the city was wild with human you could here exclamations such as : 8:25 a. m., and one at about 1:30 p. m., "My God save us; God have mercy neither of them did any further destrucupon us sinners"-and people could be tion. Not even during General Gilseen kneeling everywhere in groups, more's bornbardment of the city has offering up prayers. The first shock was followed immediately by another, of affairs here. The city is literally in although of less effect, and screams and rnins, and the people are living in the shricks from the time of the beginning open squares and in the public park. to daylight, were heard. The shocks There is a great rush to the depot to get were felt at intervals of half an hour. away, but owing to the earthquake no but each succeeding one being less dis- trains have been able to be dispatched tinct.

### FIRES ALL OVER THE CITY.

sections with the first shock, and the Telegraph Company, which is crowded came the cry of, "God help us;" "God city was soon illuminated with flames, with anxious private messages. It is thus leading all to believe that what was impossible te depict the ruin and desoleft by the eartquake would be devour- lation that prevail here; not a single ed by fire. However, the fire depart- place of business in the city, save a drug ment was so well directed and handled store, which is busy preparing prescripthat the fire were gotten under control tions for the wounded, is open. It is by daylight. From fifteen to twenty impossible also to give any correct estiresidence and stores were consumed. timate of the killed and wounded, as The loss by the fire and earthquake bodies are constantly being disinterred cannot be accurately estimated, but can from the debris of the wrecked houses. be placed safely at five million dollars. One undertaker stated that he had As far as could be ascertained during the furnished eight coffins up to noon tonight 15 to 20 persons were killed, and day. a much greater number wounded in all Many of the dead are lying unburied

got to reach the stores to sell them. mattresses and FISSURES IN THE EARTH. DEPOSITED ON THE ROADWAY. The city is wrapped in gloom, and No thought was given to the treasures business is entirely suppressed. People left behind in the effort to save the pegenerally remain in the streets in tents culiar treasure of life itself, suddenly

and under improvised shelter, and will become so precious in the eyes of all camp out to-night, fearing another invalid woman and robust man alike. shock. The gas works are injured, and Until long after midnight the streets probably the city will be without light were filled with jugitives in sight of to-night. St. Michael's church is shattheir homes. Through the long hours tered and the steeple will come down, that followed few were the eyes, even likewise the steeple of St. Phillips. The of childhood, that were closed in sleep. steeple of the Unitarian church has fall- Charleston was full of those who watch en. The porticos of the Hibernian Hall ed for morning, and never in any city,

and the main station house are demol- in any land, did the first grey shades ished. There is much injury to manthat mark the approach of dawn appear sions on East and South Battery. The so beautiful, and so welcome to the eye portico of the Ravenel mansion is down. as they appeared to thousands of people Hardly a house in the city escaped inwho hailed them this morning from the jury, and many are so shaken and crackmidst of countless wrecked homes in ed that a hard blow would bring them our thrice scourged, but still patient, to the ground. The shock was severe still brave, still hopeful, still beautiful

## city by the sea.

ANNOTHER ACCOUNT.

An earthquake such as has never before been known in the history of this city, swept over Charleston last night shortly after 10 o'clock. Causing more loss and injury to property and far more to life than the cyclone of the year being, crazed with fright. On all sides felt here since morning. The first at before. The first shock was by far the most severe.

> Its effect can be judged by the experience of Captain Dawson of the News and Courier, who lives in a massive brick residence in Bull street near Rutledge street. Captain Dawson was in his room on the second story when first shock occured, his house seemed literally to turn on it axis.

The first shock was followed by a second and third, less severe than the first. The air was filled with cries and Telegraphic communication is also shricks of women and children. From Three or four fires started in as many cut off excepting wire of the Southern every side of that quiet neighborhood save us," "Oh, my God!" It was worse

#### than the worst. BATTLE OF THE WAR.

When the first agony was over it was found that the ceiling of every room in cle detailed several of the staff, who the house was cracked; a big cistern made a tour of the city. The scene on was broken apart and a huge tank in the Broad street, as the reporter started attic was pouring its flood of water into the bed rooms.

In the parlors statues had been wrenched from their cases and thrown to the scenes are without equal, and there is no floor. In the hall a massive lamp had instance in the history of the city that

provisions, but because no one can be streets. Invalids were brought out on falling portico of the main station Louse

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In Mary street near Meeting a house was shaken down but all the inmates secaped except a little colored child who was crushed to death.

Just as the first shock came a wagon bearing two men was passing the corner of Reid and King streets, when the gable end of the store on that corner fell and covered the unbortunates with the debris, one of whom was killed. It was very late when the body was extricated and it was impossible to ascertain the person's name.

M. J. Flynn, compositor on News and Courier jumped from the window of the composing room into a side al ley.

Two gentlemen, who were near the Pavilion Hotel, heard piercing cries for help. They went down Hazel street in the direction of the cries and found a white man and woman half buried in the ruins of a building. They were extricated and sent to the hospital.

As the night wore on search for the dead and wounded continued. Stretchere were improvised out of shutters doors ane loose planks, and the dead rnd wounded conveyed to open spaces. Washington park was speedily filled with improptn stretcners on which the dead and wounded were placed.

#### The Effect in Augusta.

No such scene was ever witnessed and we trust never will be again, as the one that was seen on Broad street as the reporter reached there from the third story of the Chronicle building-ladies in Mother Hubbards and other gowns, ringing hands and crying, clinging to mothers, fathers and brothers. The scene was one that could not fail to affect the strong men, who tried to assure the distressed ones that it was all over. Hardly had they become quieted before the second shock occurred, and then the whole of Broad street was lined with ladies and children-families who had rushed from their homes. The Chroni-

down, beggared description, ladies and children, uncontrollable, still crying and

faces and throbbing hearts. The sight Mr. Davis proceeded to declare his conwas beyond description. One gentleman

Messenger,

last."

"I am completely unnerved," said another, "and don't think I shall be myself for a week."

that several young ladies up town had for a nucleus around which the whole fainted from fright and physicians had to be called in. Opiates were necessary in several cases, and even then it was difficult to put them to sleep.

#### AT THE JAIL

the prisoners cried, prayed and begged to be taken out. The people in the vi-

cinity describe their cries as heartrending. Jailor Collins, the ever-faithful and kindhearted officer, felt for the prisoners, but had no way of taking them out of juil. We were unable to see him but are told that he says he never had such feelings in his life.

NUMBER OF SHOCKS AND TIME.

The exact number of shocks was 13the first one at 9:22 (city time) and the last at 12:33 (city time.)

The following are the times of the different shocks, the one at 9:51 being the severest, and the one at 10:27 next in severity : at 9:51, 9:52, 9:59, 10:07, 10:12, 10:26, 10:27, 10:29, 10:34, 10:38, 10:45,

1:03 seventy-fifth meridian time. STILL IN THE STREET.

At the time we go to press people are still in the street waiting for breaking from our miuds all idea or hope that a of day-families together, little ones warmed by nestling in the laps of their mothers, the strong arm of the affectionate brother supporting the timid but loving sister, while boys, white and colored, are stored away in doorways and dry goods boxes waiting the dawn of day. Such a dreadful night of suspense the citizens of Augusta never witnessed and we pray they never will again. The latter portion of the night was bleak and cold, making it doubly uncomfortable for those who remained in the streets.

#### The Last Conncil of War.

At Abbeville, South Carolina, Mr. Davis held a conference with the officers praying to God to save them. The street in command of the troops composing his escort, which he himself characterized actually been turned around. In front has caused such a panic of fear-infants justified, therefore, in so designating. It as a council of war, and which I may be was, perhaps, the last Confederate council of war held cast of the Mississippi River, certainly the last in which Mr. Davis participated.

viction that the cause was not lost any said : This is my first experience with more than hope of American liberty was an earthquake, and I hope to God, fer- gone amid the sorest trials and most disvently and from my heart, that it is the heartening reverses of the revolutionary struggle ; but that energy, courage and constancy might yet save all. "Even," he said, "if the troops now with me be all that I can for the present rely on Word was received late this morning three thousand brave men are enough people will rally when the panic which now afflicts them has passed away." He then asked that we should make such suggestions in regard to the future conduct of the war as we deemed advisable.

NO. 51.

We looked at each othr in amazement and with a feeling a ltttle skin to trepidation, for we hardly knew how we should give expressoon to views as diametrically opposed to those he had uttered as we entertained. Our respect for Mr. Davis approached veneration, and notwithstanding the total dissent we felt and were obliged to announce to the programme he had indicated, that respect was rather increased than di minished by what he had said. We recognized that his high and dauntless spirit abhorred submission, not from personal considerations so much as because of the patriotic love he bore his cause and people.

I do not remember who spoken first, but we each expressed the same opinion. We told him frankly that the events of the last few days had remoqed prolongation of the contest was possible.

The people were not panic-stricken but brocken down and worn out after every effort at resistance had been exhausted. We said that an attempt to continue the war, after all means of supporting warfare were gone, would be a cruel injustice to the people of the South. We would be compelled to live on a country already impoverished, and would invite its further devastation-We urged that we would be doing a great wrong to men, if we persuaded them to such a course. That if they persisted in a conflict so hopeless, they would be declared and treated as brigands, and would forfeit all chance of returning to their homes.

He asked why then were we still in the field. We answered that we were

sorts of ways. The loss of human life principally the poorer classes of colored heavy pillars and solid marble steps. at the accurate number.

SUMMERVILLE COMPLETELY WIECKED. Shocks, equally as severe were felt at a distance of thirty-five miles, and have done inestimable damage to railroad and telegraph property. Charleston is now entirely isolated from the outside world.

Summerville, twenty-two miles from Charleston, was nearly destroyed by the earthquake. The passenger train from Columbia to Charleston was thrown from the track, near Summerville, and the engineer and fireman killed. The passengers on the wrecked train, and those on this morning's train, including the telegraph company's linemen, have not reached Charleston.

ANOTHER SHOCK IN THE MORNING.

At precisely 8:25 this morning another wave swept over the city, coming, as did the other, from the southeast and going in a northwesterly direction. By that time many people who had been out on the public parks and open places all night had ventured into their house to get clothing and food. The approach of the shock was heralded by the usual rumbling sound resembling thunder. Then it gradually approached, the earth' quivered and heaved, and in three secout in the distance. This is the only wave felt since 2:30 a. m. It was not destructiv2-all the destruction having been done at 9:55 last night.

#### THE CITY A COMPLETE WRECK.

The city is a complete wreck. St. Michael's and St. Philip's churches in the city are in ruins. So is Hibernian Hall. The police station and many other public buildings and fully two-thirds of the residence in the city are uninhabitable, being wrecked either totally or partially. It is impossible at this time to get a correct estimate of the casualties. It is expected that between fifty and 100 persons have been killed and several hundred wounded. Scarcely 100 houses

will be large and it will take days to get people, who will be buried by the coun-

rently from a great depth, exudes.

able.

from the city.

A sulphurous smell is very notice-

THE SHOCK CONTINUING

there ever been such a deplorable state

Two slight shocks of earthquake were

ty. There are not half a dozen tents in the city, and the women and children are experiencing great privations in consequence.

As night approaches, many of the heads of families are trying to construct tents out of bed shcets, spare awnings or any other material that comes to their hands. The sun is about to set upon another night of horror for poor Charleston. It is calculated that at least threefourths of the city will have to be rebuilt if the houses are to be inhabited. The colored people everywhere were loud and increasing in their declamations of alarm, in singing of hvmns and fervent appeals for God's mercy, in which appeals. God knows, many a proud heart who heard them arising in the night and in the hour of His wondrous might devoutly and humbly and

### sincerely joined. Danger brings all of us to the level of the lowliest.

There were no distinctions of place or power, pride or caste, in the assemblages that were gathered together in Charleston on Tuesday night. It was a curious spectacle to look back upon. It is a good one to remember, for white and black alike. There were instances of onds it had passed, the sounds dying unselfish devotions, of kind and loving regard between master and servant, mistress and maid, in the presence of the common ill and of the threatened ruin. that showed, as nothing else could showhow strong is he that binds our white people and our black people together and this lesson of the dread visitor we

hope, too, will never be forgotten. Arrived at his home, the writer found the same scenes of distraction and wreck which marked nearly

#### EVERY OTHER HOME IN THE CITY.

All the houses in the neighborhood had suffered seriously, and the streets yards and gardens were filled with fallin chimneys and fragments of walls, while walls that were left standing were in the city are occupied at this time, rent asunder in many cases from top to the people all encamed in open places. bottom, and were badly shattered in All stores are closed, and a scarcity of every instance. Women and children Susan Middeton, colored, and another had gathered together in the middle,

All this was swept away as though it had been saved off with a razor. And what was Capt. Dawson's experience was that of hundreds of others in knees, shouting, praying, and in dread Charleston.

SOME OF THE CASUALTIES.

From the long but imperfect list o asualties the following are taken. Mrs. Williams jumped from the second story of her residence, at the corner of Wentworth and Meeting street and injured her spine badly.

Mrs. Robert Martin, wife of a shoe merchant in Market street near King, was badly hurt.

U. J. Lynch was desperately hurt in front of his son's store in Meeting street, A stone of great weight fell upon him and broke one of his legs, if not both, and he is supposed to be dying.

Dr.R. Alexander' a young dentist ran out of his house and was crushed to death by a falling chimey.

Mr. Hammond, brother of Isaac Hammond said to be fatally wounded both his hips and legs being broken and also his left arm. He said that he did not know whether he jumped from the third story window on Broad street or was thrown. He orawled ftom the sidewalk to the middle of the road.

A. Robinson was killed by the falling of a piazza.

J. C. F. Ricardson, living at No. 12 Friend street, was seriously injured in the head by his house falling in upon him. His condition is very critical.

The side of the house fell on him and dren clinging to them. The mother had badly injured his back and head. He a young babe at her breast and was incrawled from under the debris and saw consolable. She was weeping and wail-Mazyck and Queen streets whom he and little ones. It was not until several and then fell, completely overcome.

Among those who were killed were localities all the people on the square

clinging to their mothers, crying, and brave men giving way.

As the lower portion of the city was reached, in Robertson's alley, negroes were found heaped together on their

fear. Sounds of falling bricks from housetops, chimneys toppling and plastering cracking caused considerable consternation. The entire populace was by this time-the third shock--in the street. Houses were all entirely deserted. The night may be put down as the most fearful ever realized here. Invalids on stretchers and on mattresses were in the middle of the streets, and half-clad people, airaid to return to their homes to clothe themselves.

A TOUR THROUGH DUBLIN.

All the citizens in this part of the city had taken quarters in the street for the night, and the colored people were praying and seemed particularly frightened. It is impossible to give any of the damage done, though it will amount to a great deal. A heavy glass-face bookcase in the law office of Hon. J S. Davidson was thrown to the floor and demolished. Ornaments, chandelicrs and other breakables were destroyed all over the

Bells rang in all parts of the city, and the reporter was by the Christian church at the time of the first shock, and heard the bell sing twice.

THE SHOCK UP TOWN.

In the upper portion of the city, along the streets, the people were found talking and gesticulating excitedly, and wondering whether their time had come or not. In one instance a husband and Edmund Lively, of Richmond, Va was wife were sitting on chairs in the midwalking in front of the City Hospital. dle of the street, with their roung chil-

same scene was witnessed, and in some ment.

We had gone into camp in the vicinity of the little town, and although becoming quite anxious to understand what was going to be done, we were expecting no immediate solution of the problem. We were all convinced that the best we could hope and do was to get Mr. Davis safely out of the country. and then obtain such terms as had been given General Johnston's army, or, failing in that, make the best of our way to, the trans-Mississippi.

The five brigade commanders each received an order notifying him to attend at the private residence in Abbeville where Mr. Davis had made his headquarters, about four o'clock of that afternoon. We assembled promptly at future welfare of the men who had so the hour indictaed, and were shown into a room where we found Mr. Davis point had been reached, when to speak and Generals Breckinridge and Bragg. No one else was present. I had never

seen Mr. Davis look better or show to better advantage. He seemed in excellent spirits and humor ; and the union had become very pallid, and he walked of dignity, graceful affability, and de- so feebly as he proceeded to leave the cision which made his manner usually so striking, was very marked in his reception of us. After some conversation briefly what occurred in a conference of a general nature, he announced the which lasted for two or three hours. I purpose which had induced him to call believe that I have accurately given the us together.

some definite plan upon which the fur- erals DeBrell and Ferguson and Colonel ther prosecution of our struggle shall be conducted, I have summoned you for consultation. I feel that I ought to do mine. nothing now without the advice of my military chiefs."

He smiled rather archly as he used this expression, and we could not help we had taken. They had foreborne to thinking that such term addressed to a some men at a store on the corner of ing and begging God to spare herself handful of brigadiers, commanding altogether barely three thousand men, by supposed to have been killed, as he left had gathered around, all arguing the one who so recently had been the masthem lying on the sidewalk. He stag- uselessness of such excitement, that she ter of legions was a pleasantry, yet he gered on as far as the City Hall park was quieted. In every direction the said it in a way that made it a compli- without further delay to get out of the

After we had each given, at his 're- his capture and imprisonmen provisions is feared-not from want of roused from sleep and rushed into the colored woman both crushed under the discussing the situation with blanched condition of our respective commands, Bivouac. quest, a statement of the equipment and haps execution .- GEN. DURE, in August

desirous of affording him an opportuniy, of escaping the degradation of capture and perhaps a fate which would be direr to the people than even to himself, in still more embittering the exasperated feeling between the North and South. We said that we would ask our men to follow us until his safety was assured and would risk them in battle for that purpose, but would not fire another shot n an effort to continue hostillities.

He declared, abruptly, that he would listsn to no suggestion which regarded only his own safety. Resuming his previous tone, he appealed with an eloquence that was sublime to every sentiment and reminiscence that might be supposed to move a Southern soldier, and urged us to accept his views. We remained silent, for our convictions were unshaken; we felt responsible for the heroically followed us, and the painful again in opposition to all that he urged would have approached altercation. For some minutes not a word was spoken. Then Mr. Davis aro. e and eia ulated bitterly that all was indeed lost. I e room that Goneral Breckinridge stepped hastily up and offerred his arm.

I have undertaken to narrate very substance of what was said by Mr. Davis in quotation marks, I have correctly "It is time," he said, "that we adopt reproduced it, or very nearly so. Gen-Breckinridge are still living. I think their recollection af this somewhat remarkable occurrence will agree with

Generals Breckinridge and Bragg took no part in the discussion. Both, however, after Mr. Davis retired, assured us say anything, because not immediately commanding the troops, and not supposed, therefore, to know their sentitiments so well as we did. But they promised to urge upon Mr. Davis the country, and not permit other and se-rious complications to be produced by