

is near the end, not only of his political career, but also of his life."

San Francisco, March 31.—Owing to damage done by last night's earthquake work has been shut down at the Mare Island navy yard temporarily, and the 1,700 employes are idle.

Only two of the buildings escaped damage.

Now that the excitement over last night's earthquake has subsided it is learned that very little damage was done. The shock occurring so late at night when most people were asleep seemed more severe than it really was to the frightened inhabitants of this and other cities. The only thing approaching a casualty in San Francisco was the collapse of a frail tenement building on Clementina street. This building stood on the sand supported on thin wooden uprights and it sank gently to the ground.

The five families inhabiting it were got out in safety. In other portions of the city a few bricks were thrown from chimneys, windows cracked, clocks stopped, pictures thrown down and various other little happenings incident to earthquakes, were noted. The earthquake seems to have been confined to within a radius of one hundred miles of San Francisco Bay. Considerable damage is reported from Mare Island navy yard, where the sawmill was levelled to the ground and in the town of Vallejo nearby, water mains were broken.

At Martinez, a few miles from Mare Island, the earthquake lasted forty seconds. Chimneys were toppled over and the brick library building and the court house walls were cracked.

In San Francisco after the people discovered that buildings were not toppling about their heads many amusing sights were witnessed. At the downtown hotels, especially, those from the east rushed out into the halls and courts and even so far as the street without stopping to dress. An alarm of fire turned in a few minutes after the shock added to the excitement, but the blaze was only a small one caused by the overturning of a lamp and was soon extinguished.

The most serious phase of the earthquake was the demoralization of the telegraph and telephone service for a few minutes. Circuits were broken and for a short time, San Francisco had no telegraphic connection with the outside world.

The earthquake served to demonstrate that modern architecture is impervious to the effects of seismic disturbance.

The big building recently erected in this city, although they swayed in an alarming manner, did not suffer any injury. Not a beam or a girder was displaced nor a brick nor a stone moved.

Washington, March 31.—The military information division of the war department has made public a table hearing on the strength of the militia in the United States in 1897. It also gives data as to the number of men liable for military duty, information in regard to the appropriations, military officers, encampments and mobilization.

The table is compiled from the reports made to the department by army officers detailed for duty with the militia of the states. The authorized strength of the militia of the entire country (which, however, includes several states where this strength is not limited), is 186,848, while the aggregate strength is 113,760, made up as follows:

Infantry	100,179
Artillery	5,055
Cavalry	4,973
Special troops	2,270
Generals and staff officers	878
Non-commissioned staff officers	400
The total number of men liable to military duty in the country is 10,378.	

118. State appropriations made for the maintenance of the militia in 1897 amounted to \$2,723,564.

New York, April 4.—The steamer La Bretagne has arrived from Havre with 11 survivors of the crew of the British bark Bothnia, wrecked off the Irish coast on March 23.

The Bothnia sailed from Lobos de Afuera, off the coast of Peru, on Nov. 5th.

When fifty miles off the Irish coast on March 23, a squall struck the bark. Four men, George Herbert Jackson, Robert Hodgson Arnett, James Plummer and John Osmanson, were sent up to stow the foretopgallant sail. They had gathered in the canvas, secured the gaskets and turned to quit the foot-ropes, when the foretopmast snapped off above the cap. Down it crashed, with the four men, one dropping into the sea, two dead and the fourth wounded. Arnett fell overboard, Jackson and Plummer had their skulls crushed in. They were lifeless before striking the deck. Osmanson fell athwart a stay, striking on his stomach. The breath was knocked out of his body, but he contrived to grab the backstay, down which he lowered himself to the deck.

The Bothnia drifted helplessly until March 27, when the crew were taken off by La Bretagne's lifeboat. The Bretagne liberated carrier pigeons, through one of which news of the rescue and the consequent delay to the Bretagne was carried to Swansea.

Evansville, Ind., April 4.—Mayor Carney of Shawneetown appealed to Congress for aid this morning for destitute people of his stricken city. It is said that the town is absolutely destroyed and that there is not enough food in town for one meal. He says 300 people are drowned.

All goods in the city are lost and the situation is distressing in the extreme. This city sent two steamboat loads of provisions last night. All the telegraph and telephone wires to Shawneetown are down.

Chicago, April 4.—A special to the Chronicle from Carmi, Ill., says: The disaster at Shawneetown, Ill., came when the great majority of the people were in their homes eating supper.

The break in the levee occurred a mile above the town and was within ten minutes more than a half mile wide. A stream of water, twelve to twenty feet deep, carrying half the current of the flood-raised Ohio, descended on the unsuspecting people. It came down in a great rush, like a tidal wave. There was no slow rising of the waters to give warning. The houses on the outskirts were lifted up and rolled over and over.

Most of them were torn into splinters. Their inhabitants were drowned in them.

Nearer the center of the town, brick structures stopped the onrush of the water for a few minutes, but about two-thirds of the dwellings were lifted from their foundations and floated careening out into the current of the river.

After a few minutes the horror of the situation was added to by the catching fire of a large house that had started down stream with the others. The people on the roofs were already in danger of being thrown off by collisions with other floating houses, but the occupants of this floating firebrand added horror. As it struck one house after another in its course some others caught fire and their unfortunate occupants were compelled to trust themselves to the mercy of the swirling water on pieces of wood to avoid a more terrible death by fire.

The break in the levee flooded four miles of the valley land and cut off communication on two railways, the B. & O. Southwestern and L. & N. The first rush of the current did not

do all the damage. When the water had slackened somewhat, many houses were still standing, but it was quickly seen that the frame ones would not last in the steady crush of the flood.

By means of rafts and swimming on the cold water, seventy or eighty people were transformed from their garret windows and roofs to the flat top of the Gallatin county bank, a brick and stone building, and the court house, which is of brick. It was hoped that these would withstand the pressure and the undermining, but when the single courier who rode for help to Cypress Junction left Shawneetown only those two buildings showed above the broad sheet of the flood in the lower part of the town and as its full force was being thrown against them, it was doubtful if they would not collapse and throw the refugees into the river.

Besides the hundred or more who were on the roofs of the two sound buildings, it is known that nearly 1,000 of the inhabitants managed in one way or another to make their way to high hills back of the town, or to houses in the higher section of the village itself.

A few of these survived the sudden burst of the waters, but the first and at times their second floors were under water. Those who made their way to them went only in clothes they were wearing when the water came. No one had time to secure either treasure or clothing. The property loss is very heavy. The scene at the upper end of the town where men and women have struggling against the muddy water to higher ground some carrying babies on their heads, where water was up to their necks, others half swimming, half floating on odds and ends of lumber from homes that had gone floating down the river, many struggling in vain and sinking in the roaring waters, was one that will live in the memory of every beholder. At one place a mother had reached a safe spot and turned to help her husband, who had followed with their child. As she reached down from a window for his hand, he was thrown from his footing and he and the child were swept away in the current. The woman saw him sink the second time and then threw herself into the water.

Another family paddled half way to safety on a broad plank that but half held them out of water. A side current caught them and sent them out toward the middle of the stream, where, in the rougher water, they were seen to capsize and sink.

An old man of the name of Griffin, living on high ground, stopped in the upper story of his trembling house to secure a hoard of money hidden under the bed. His son, a young man of 21, had to climb up the porch to rescue him, so quick was the rise of the water and when the two attempted to swim to safety, the younger man supporting the other, a floating house that came rolling and tumbling on the current overwhelmed them. A school teacher whose name is supposed to be Josephson, was warned of the danger in time to get the higher ground, but in turning back to help her mother, was caught with the older woman in an eddy and they were drowned. One woman made an effort to save her lover by throwing a clothes line to him from the roof of her house. His house was swept away at the moment and he was thrown into the water. He swam to aid the girl, but she was standing on the side of a gable roof and was pulled from her insecure footing. Both were drowned.

These are some instances told by John Graham, who, reached Cypress Junction, from which place he telephoned her for help. He said that he himself pulled twelve persons out of the water.

On the bosom of the mother rests the future of the world.