

THE EARTHQUAKE AT SEA. CURIOUS EFFECT IN THE OFFICE OF THE SIGNAL SERVICE.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.—The Hydrographic Office has received a letter from Capt. Leo Voegel, of the steamer City of Palatka, briefly describing the effects of the earthquake at sea. He had just left Charleston and was about 12 miles off the harbor of Port Royal in eight and a half fathoms, when he "experienced a terrible rumbling sensation," which lasted one and a half minutes. There had been quite a heavy sea from the southeast, but when the rumbling began the wave motion ceased and the waters remained a perfect calm until the rumbling came to an end, when the swell was again manifest. The wind was southeast and light, weather cloudy, barometer 30.01, thermometer 80°. The sensation, Capt. Voegel says, resembled that upon a ship scraping a pebbly bottom. The ship's vibrations were very great.

The Lighthouse Board has received a report from Charleston to the effect that the main tower

The New York Times

Published: September 5, 1886
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of the Harris Island light is cracked near the third landing from the ground and that the floor in the watch room, upon which the lens rests, is somewhat loosened. Cape Romain light and tower have been seen since the earthquake and are supposed to be all right. The lens at the Bull's Bay lighthouse has been thrown off its pedestal.

A curious effect of the earthquake has been discovered at the Signal Office. The self-registering wind vane shows a horizontal mark preceding and subsequent to the shaking, denoting a mild, steady, almost invariable breeze, but for the 30 or 40 seconds of the most violent shaking the marks indicate that the pencil point was moved up and down the paper many times and with great rapidity. An explanation of this phenomena is difficult. This is the only instrument at the Signal Office which seems to have been affected by the earthquake.

Some anxiety is felt with regard to the possible effect of the earthquake at the Bermudas. The islands lie directly in what is now supposed to have been the path of the most violent agitation, and their physical features are such as to warrant the fear that they may have experienced a severe disaster.

In response to an application from the authorities at Charleston, Lieut. F. V. Abbott, of the Corps of Engineers, now stationed there, has been instructed to consult with the Mayor and render such assistance in the examination of buildings and otherwise as may be in his power, and Capt. Bixby, of the Engineer Corps, has been ordered from Wilmington, N. C., to Charleston for similar duty. The War Department has sent about 100 tents to Charleston, and this exhausts the supply on hand. Requests have to-day been received for about 500 more, but the department is unable to comply.

Acting Postmaster-General Stevenson to-day received a telegram from the Postmaster at Charleston, S. C., stating that mail connections and delivery had been delayed for 36 hours on account of the earthquake, but that now everything is working uninterruptedly, and that he does not require the Postmaster-General's proffered assistance.

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