

half a block, we were compelled to turn back on account of the wreckage.

Fire was spreading in every direction. Had the water mains not burst I doubt if the flames could have been controlled, for they began in hundreds of places almost simultaneously.

An old steamboat man consented to act as our guide, and with his help we were able to reach the ferry. We arrived at Oakland about 8 a. m., where we found the earthquake had wrought considerable damage although it was not as serious as in San Francisco. While waiting for our train, which left at 10 a. m., we felt a second. We could also hear the sound of explosives which were being used to check the flames.

As our train could get no orders we spent fully three hours in traveling the first fifty miles. It was reported that the track at one point near Oakland had sunk six feet and we were for that reason compelled to take a much longer route."

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