

San Francisco Correspondence.
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 1st, 1852.
Dear Mitchell:—We are now enduring one of those cold, raw, disagreeable rain storms, for which the winter of '49 was proverbial. The streets, although plank-ed, are in such a dilapidated condition, that the travelling can scarcely be called better than at that eventful period alluded to above. For the past four or five days the flood gates of heaven have been brased upon us, and a portion of the time, the rain has poured in the old mountain style, i, e, several drops to the bucket. The high wind is howling through our streets, and creating a great commotion among the shipping in the harbor, and no doubt ere the gale subsides, much damage must inevitably be done, to say nothing of the foundations being washed away by the undulations of the sea, which is becoming every moment more boisterous. Many of the brick buildings in process of erection are suffering considerably from the storm, and on Monday afternoon a brick house on Commercial street, between Kearny and Commercial, was entirely prostrated, leaving scarcely one brick standing upon another. It was built up to the upper part of the second story, and in its fall stove in the side of an adjoining frame building, which has been used for a gambling saloon. The report frightened many of the residents in that vicinity, who thought they were being visited by an earthquake. It would be an advantage to our city if every such house could before it were occupied, as they are put up with no claim to durability. The material of which this house was constructed was examined after it fell, and the mortar was found to be nothing more than sand and water with scarcely a particle of lime in it, and no hair. The law ought to be very stringent upon this subject, where now it is silent, if not in letter, assuredly in act,

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1852 12 04 House Collapses SF storm

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