

WAS A WILD NIGHT AT THE CLIFF HOUSE.

WINDOWS SMASHED IN AND A SMALL FIRE STARTED.

Gale Blowing Off Shore Eighty Miles
an Hour—Guests Dining at the Famous
Resort Panic-stricken—Scenes in San
Francisco.

(BY DIRECT WIRE TO THE TIMES.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 3.—[Exclusive Dispatch.] With the wind sending the seething seas clear over the thirty-foot Seal Rocks, and churning the breakers into milky foam extending out 200 yards from shore, the Cliff House was the center of a wild and picturesque scene during the height of tonight's storm.

The Cliff House received the full force of the storm on the south and west sides for fully fifty minutes, while the gale was blowing off the ocean at nearly eighty miles an hour. More than a dozen large windows were violently smashed in, and the glass was scattered in tiny pieces far into the rooms and along the stairways, while parts of the window sashes and strips of the curtain were added to the interior debris.

Shingles were stripped from the roofs in patches, some of the minarets were dismantled, and boards were loosened, causing small openings for the driven rain. The telephone and electric-light wires were flung down on the front porch and crossed. The men from engine No. 36, stationed at the Cliff, rushed to the scene, cut the hissing wires and prevented the fire that momentarily threatened the building.

Meanwhile the Cliff House force of some twenty employes was busy within, blocking up openings and trying to prevent further damage from wind and rain. Dining tables were braced against and nailed across dismantled windows. In some instances, it was all that seven men could do to hold the table against the force of the wind, while others drove home the nails. Windows were burst in along the south porch and in the banquet-room. One large window in the northwest corner private dining-room was smashed in so suddenly and in such small fragments that a man and woman who were quietly dining in the middle of the room were showered with glass and nearly panic-stricken when they rushed from the room and downstairs. It is thought that \$500 will repair the damage.