

there are a very large number of specimens of meteoric stones, and the National Museum at Washington is not deficient in such specimens. In the Royal Academy at Stockholm are exhibited several, the largest weighing 25 tons, which were brought from Greenland by a Swedish Expedition of 1870, these being part of the "iron stones," of the existence of which the Esquimaux of Baffin's Bay had informed Captain Ross, the Arctic navigator.

To come down to recent years, in April, 1875, and May, 1879, two meteors of great size and brilliancy were observed in the Western States, illuminating the whole of Iowa, and parts of Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. Singularly enough both exploded over Iowa, scattering fragments of their mass over areas embracing six counties, accompanied with a noise like thunder. A full account is given in the Iowa State records, where it is stated that their chemical constitution differed from all meteorites analyzed elsewhere, these containing 7 per cent. of iron, a tenth of 1 per cent. of nickel, 17 per cent. of calcium, 47 per cent. of silica and 27 per cent. of ferrous oxide. The fragments of the meteor of 1879 fell chiefly in Emmett County, one of which, weighing 470 lbs., was sent to the British Museum, and another of 170 lbs. was sent to the State Museum of Minneapolis. At the time of its fall, some boys were herding cattle near a small lake five or six miles south-west of where the large masses fell, and they reported that just after the fireball passed over they saw and heard what seemed like a shower of hail-stones falling on the water. Two large fragments of this meteor fell by the roadside, and a lawsuit was undertaken to decide whether they were the property of the finder, as wild game, or of the owner of the land, as being real estate; and it was decided in favor of the latter.

In 1878, near Covington, Indiana, a Mr. Grover, of Newton Fountain County, was killed in his bed by what was supposed to be lightning, but which further examination showed was a meteoric stone of pyramidal shape, weighing 20 lbs. This was unearthed in the cellar, some feet under the ground, traced there by the rent torn through floors and everything in its passage. The corpse was mangled as if by a cannon shot.

In 1879 near Bucyrus, Ohio, a similar death occurred, the victim being a Mr. Meisenthaler, of Whitestone Township, a well-known cattle raiser of that district. As he was driving his cattle at