

substance in the hail-stone are caused by their passage from snow clouds to vapor clouds while being whirled about and before falling to the earth. Many very interesting crystalline forms are assumed by the stones, and those who observed carefully were able to make out quite a number from those falling yesterday.

Many extraordinary stories were told of strange phenomena witnessed during the progress of the storm. Lightning and thunder followed the close of the down-pour of hail, and several persons say they saw unusual signs in the heavens. The only really authentic display of meteoric or other character was the appearance of a ball of fire over the river which burst just above the stream when the elemental excitement was greatest.

The storm came from the south-west, and the wind, which kept in that direction during the rain and hail, immediately changed to the north-west, and a short time afterwards was felt coming from the south-west again. It was the most violent and destructive visitation of hail that the city has known for a quarter of a century. The last great hail-storm, which hardly approached this in extent, occurred about ten years ago.

In Forest Park all the shubbery and the forest trees were badly damaged.

Gardeners in the outskirts of the city suffered considerable loss. Lettuce-beds were cut down as if with a sickle. Young tomato and cabbage plants were battered down, and the land will have to be replanted. It is safe to say there was not a hot-house in the south-western city limits that was not more or less demolished. Growing fields of oats and wheat went down, cut off, bruised and levelled as if a roller had passed over them. Wherever the hail passed through an orchard there will be no danger of the trees breaking down with fruit, for the reason that but very little of it remains on the branches. What was not beaten off is injured by the blows of the hail, which will be found in gnarled knots on the fruit after it has matured. Strawberries also sustained considerable damage. All sorts of garden truck, radishes, onions, potatoes, asparagus, in fact all kinds of vegetation was reduced less than half its original value.

BUSHELS OF HAILSTONES.

At the commodious grounds of Member Rodemann, of the School Board, near Tower Grove Park, the damage was particularly heavy, but he was unable to estimate the loss. In reply to questions he said: "We were completely drowned out. Every window-pane in the house, with the exception of those that happened to be protected by shutters, was broken. The hail gathered so quickly on the piazza that we could shovel it up by the basketful. Many of the stones were larger than hens' eggs, and one measured, some time after it had fallen, two and a half inches in length, with a diameter of one and three fourth inches. Cherry trees and other fruit trees were nearly stripped. The growing plants in the gardens were all beaten down and torn in pieces. It is difficult to tell the amount of damage done, but it can not fail to be large.

A BALL OF FIRE.

The storm as viewed from the observatory on the Insurance building was a spectacle the grandeur of which approached the sublime. The elemental forces were in full action, and, disturbed by the contending currents, the clouds and hail was borne hither and thither and whirled through the atmosphere in every fantastic shape that thought could scarcely compass, as the vague and misty figures became lost or merged into stronger combinations by the evolutions of the blast. The huge sphere of ice swam around in concentric circles with a velocity that baffled the gaze to

follow, and as the fury of the storm became more intense the scene presented was like a panoramic sketch passing uninteruptedly before the vision. The upper atmosphere was converted into a creamy expanse, populated by spector-like forms gyrating and descending. Between the mighty roar of the clashing currents could be heard the detonations of thunder that shook the building. The vivid play of the lightning in the distance illuminated the entire city, and opened up long avenues of light through the tempest that obscured the deserted streets from the spectators' gaze. The crowning glory of the display was witnessed by very few persons, and although in itself a sublime act, words can hardly depict the appalling beauty of the sight. About 4 30, when the storm had partially abated in fury, and belated pedestrians were congratulating themselves on the prospect of an early escape from their safe retreats, the gloom was lighted by the descent of a globe of fire from the zenith, that winged its flight towards the earth with frightful speed. Two forked projections were attached to either side of the flaming ball, which for a moment seemed to threaten the centre of the city with destruction. Pursuing an undeviating course, the electric missiles shot down towards the river, and at a point that appeared directly in the centre of the stream an explosion occurred which filled the air with a collection of illuminated shafts, that diverged in a thousand directions and spent their forces aimlessly in mid-air.

DAMAGE BY STORM.

ST. LOUIS, May 5.—The severest hail storm that has visited this section for years passed over the city this evening and did immense damage to window glass, trees and gardens. Hail fell nearly half an hour, and many of the stones were as large as full-sized marbles. Thousands of windows were shattered, and a large number of shade trees were stripped of their foliage. A very heavy rain accompanied the hail. The storm passed over the central part of the city, only, and went east, where it did considerable damage to crops.

FROM CENTRE BRIDGE, P.A., May 5th, 1882.—Resolved, "That man is progressing toward perfection."

Mr. Vennor predicted severe frosts during the first week in May, in Canada and the United States, extending to some very southern points. This has been fully realized. On Tuesday morning, a dry clear up, with a high wind, followed by a calm, but freezing night. Mercury on Wednesday morning, 30; ice on water pails and ground slightly frozen. Milder weather followed, a warm wave came on and at this time we think the fruit crop yet safe. This morning, May 5th, light rain, with the thermometer at 56. A warm period for most sections about the 10th and 11th of the month is predicted, by Mr. V., and frosts may be expected in northern United States and Canada, about the 15th and 16th of May; and upon, or close to the same dates in August. Well, we will hope for the best, and if the summer is rather cold and wet, we will look for fine crops of cabbages and potatoes. Corn should always be planted early, as if the summer is cold and wet, the chance of maturing is far better than if planted late, and if very dry weather sets in, in July and August, as was the case last year, the earlier the better; some who planted very early and cultivated deeply, last season, had fair crops of corn notwithstanding the severe drought. Indolence is the poorest remedy for unfavorable seasons, we know of—the sluggard never reaps heavy crops.

STORM IN ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO, May 6th.—Additional reports from the storm in Southern Illinois say that strong wind, hail, thunder and lightning accompanied the heavy rainfall, and made the night one of

terror. Farm work is stopped in some sections, and grave fears are entertained at Vandalia that Okaw and other streams may overflow and flood the farm bottoms. At Marshall the creeks have overflowed their banks and flooded the farms for the fifth time this season.

A LIVELY TORNADO.

RALEIGH, N. C., May 6.—A tornado swept across Cape Fear River on Wednesday, doing considerable damage. A negro woman left five children asleep on the floor of her house. The tornado carried the body of the house away without injuring or awaking the children.

A TORNADO.

ROBINSON, Ill., May 9.—A tornado unroofed the finest business block in town to-day.

A LIVELY TORNADO.

ST. PAUL, May 9.—Yesterday a tornado passed over Lakefield, blowing down several buildings and a school house containing children and a teacher. Some reports say four children were killed, but it is reliably stated they were only prostrated.

Another Storm Period.

A furious hurricane occurred on the Upper and Lower Lake region, between the 10th and 15th of May, doing very great damage to craft and wharves. And during the same period hurricanes and cyclones visited many parts of the United States. It has been a more than unusually stormy May.

CAUGHT IN A SNOWSTORM.

DENVER, May 10.—Two prospectors on Mt. Massive yesterday, blinded by the snowstorm, fell into a gulch and were frozen to death.

McALLISTER, Indian Territory, May 10.—The hurricane on Monday night demolished all the buildings of the Coal Mining Company, killed eight people and wounded forty others. Serious damage is done to other places. The wires are down in all directions. Many washouts on the railway.

HEAVY HAIL IN MICHIGAN—LOSS OF LIFE AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY IN THE WEST.

DETROIT, May 10.—A terrific hail-storm visited Ionia on Monday night for half an hour. About midnight hailstones, some of them half as large as a hen's egg, thumped against the sides of buildings, denting the woodwork and breaking windows. In the direct line of the storm, which moved south-east, scarcely an exposed window escaped. In the village of Belding three houses were left almost without a pane of window glass upon the north or west. The same was true as to farm houses in the same line. A terrible hail storm also passed over Lyons and Muir about midnight on Monday, causing immense damage to fruit, buildings and young lambs. In places on the streets hail is heaped up to the depth of six or eight inches.

MOUND CITY, Mo., May 10.—There was a cyclone here on Monday evening. Trees were uprooted, fences prostrated, and crops damaged. The steeple of the Christian church was blown down, and several buildings wrecked.

NEW YORK, May 11.—The extraordinary cold and inclement weather is having a very bad effect upon trade. In most lines of business they are a month behindhand, and there can be no doubt that the crops, at least in this part of the country, are in the same predicament. In the vicinity of New York ice was seen a few days ago, and the destruction of blossoms in the orchards and gardens has been very great.

SNOW.

WASHINGTON, Iowa, May 12.—This morning four to six inches of snow fell, greatly damaging fruit and crops.