

LIGHTNING.

A curious paper has been addressed by Marshal Vaillant to the Academy of Sciences, on the subject of flashes of lightning unaccompanied by thunder. This phenomenon occurred very frequently, the sky being cloudy at the time. Not a drop of rain fell, nor was there a breath of wind, and, strange to say, though thunder had been heard while the clouds were piled up at the horizon, perfect stillness prevailed by the time they had reached the zenith, although lightning was flashing through the darkness in every direction. Marshal Vaillant, after remarking that discharges of atmospheric electricity may take place in three ways, either from a cloud to the earth, or from the earth to the former, or from one cloud to another, says that thunder can rarely be heard except in the two former cases, it being generally much too distant in the latter to catch the ear. On the night of the 9th ult. there might very well have been one or more strata of clouds above

those visible to us; but without going higher than eight or ten kilometres, such an altitude would be quite sufficient to prevent our hearing the thunder. Again, it has been ascertained that lightning at Havre may be seen at Paris, the distance being, as the crow flies, about forty-five leagues; but as sound is not propagated so far as light, we see the flashes though we do not hear the peal. Marshal Vaillant cannot understand what is vulgarly called summer lightning; its conception is contrary to all known phenomena. He considers it to be, not a mere consequence of heat, but the discharge of electricity from very small clouds, which their distance renders invisible to us, though we perceive the sheet of electricity they exchange between each other. Marshal Vaillant is further confirmed in this opinion by the fact, that very soon after "summer lightning" has been observed after a hot day, large clouds generally appear in the sky with great suddenness.

DIED.

On the 15th day of September last, in New Buffalo, Michigan, U. S., Mr. Richard Lamborn Phillips, aged 57 years, 10 months and 19 days

Mr. Phillips was born at Tetsworth, England, on the 26th of Oct. 1810; sailed from London, in the ship "Samuel Canard" July 21, 1832; arrived in Halifax Sept.

1, 1832 He died full of Christian hope, and leaves a wife and five children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and most affectionate father. We greatly sympathise with the afflicted family, whose kind hospitalities we have repeatedly shared. [London and English papers in general will please copy.