

CUMULUS.—That form which is the most easily distinguished and is at the same time also the most beautiful, is known as the Cumulus. These are the dome-like clouds that appear on a showery afternoon of summer, which are commonly called "Thunder heads." They usually rise from a flat base, perhaps a mile above the earth to a height of several thousand feet higher, with bold rounded tops often resembling huge mountains. Where the sun shines upon them they present a fleecy appearance, where it does not, they are dark and frowning. When the opposite side from the observer is exposed to the sun they show most beautiful white margins being in poetic imagery the clouds with silver lining.

STRATUS.—*Stratus* includes all low-lying cloud sheets which have no definite form, from the fogs at the surface of the earth, to clouds of considerable height. It is not a cloud of beauty, but is a usual accompaniment of dull weather and cyclonic storms. It is sometimes the only cloud seen at a single point for several days.

CIRRUS.—*Cirrus* is the name applied to clouds composed of long slender fibres, which are sometimes delicately ; at others, finely banded. They are the highest clouds we see, probably ranging from five to eight or even ten miles in height. In our latitude they generally move eastward, often with a velocity of more than one hundred miles per hour, but owing to their great altitude, they appear to move much more slowly. They undoubtedly consist of icy particles similar to those which float in the lower atmosphere in our coldest weather.

CIRRO-STRATUS.—*Cirro-Stratus* clouds consist of wavy cirrus fibres mingled with bands of a more horizontal appearance. They often extend across the entire sky, when they converge at opposite points of the horizon and form the peculiar feature known as "Noah's Ark." This is probably due to the perspective effect of the parallel bands seen directly overhead being produced in opposite directions in parallel lines. They range next in height to the cirrus and like clouds of that class are in general an indication of a storm.