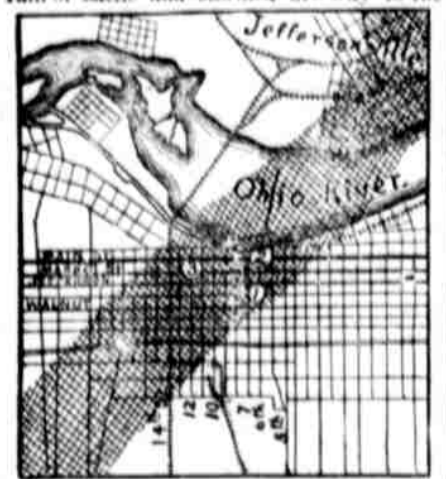


A MONSTER OF THE AIR.

THE HAVOC WROUGHT BY THE TORNADO'S DEADLY SWEEP.

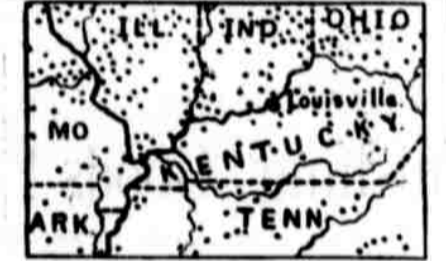
A Force of Nature That Cannot Be Eliminated or Controlled—How to Avoid Danger—The Recent Horror at Louisville.

Death wears no more hideous and appalling shape than when garbed with mystery and darkness. Before the lightning's fury the man will quail who has laughed at the leaden rain of battle and stormed his way to the



TRACK OF THE STORM THROUGH LOUISVILLE. The red Indian darts at the stake, defiant, eagle-eyed and undaunted to the last, but a to-ache, the reason for which he cannot understand, makes him cry. In the face of nature's awful and unexpected wrath the iron-nerved grow weak and the cool-headed frantic. So, when the other evening the mad might of the whirlwind was hurled down upon the fair city of Louisville it is no wonder that the first sensations were those of panic and dread unutterable. But as to the crash of falling buildings succeeded the cries of the wounded, brave hearts and willing hands were not found wanting to meet the unparalleled emergency, and through the dismal hours till dawn to urge the labor of rescue by the light of blazing structures wherein fire was completing the work begun by the wind.

The scene after the storm was heart-rending, heroic, sublime, American. Probably no tornado ever did such swift and deadly work on this continent as the one which chose Louisville for the central object of its wrath. It was of a peculiar nature and defied in many respects the laws laid down as governing these natural phenomena. It has generally been held that a city of respectable size would turn a wind no matter how fierce. This is no disproved. The maximum width of previous tornadoes was placed at fifty yards. The Louisville blast extended from side to side a full half mile. Former visitations of the "cyclone belt" have taken place almost exclusively in the afternoon. The latest horror had an extra terror added to it



THE STORM CENTER. The black dots indicate the location of previous tornadoes recorded in the south-central west. This diagram is taken from Lieut. Finley's book on storms.

Louisville was founded in 1778 and incorporated as a city in 1828. It has never before met with a serious disaster, that is, serious as compared with the recent horror. The calamity which has fallen upon the metropolis of Kentucky naturally brings up anew the question: What can be done to safeguard the future? A reply may be given in these words:

"The populous region of the United States is forever doomed to the devastation of the tornado. As certain as night follows day is the formation of the funnel-shaped cloud. This is the deliberate conclusion reached by Lieut. John P. Finley, U. S. A., after years of careful attention paid to the subject of atmospheric phenomena. But he declares if the danger cannot be averted it is among the possibilities at least to escape the extreme effects of its wrath. There are many premonitory signs which denote with almost absolute certainty the approach of a tornado, such as an oppressive, enervating air, the peculiar and unusual silence of birds, the uneasiness of domestic animals and the development of cowardly traits in breeds of dogs usually ferocious, like the mastiff or the bulldog. Human beings feel weighed down with an indefinable premonition of some impending evil. The sultriness of the day continues, but in the hitherto clear and coppery sky great banks of clouds appear, generally one in the southwest and another in the northwest or northeast, moving towards each other. They are entirely different in aspect from the ordinary heralds of a summer storm. They may resemble the thick smokes from a burning building, or a bank of fog or steam, or, if heavy and dark, take on a greenish hue, which presages the quick coming of a fierce and irresistible elemental foe. Sometimes nature marshals these forces of destruction in solid and heavy masses; again they roll up lightly, but black and frowning as the darkest midnight.

Each day the spirit of the age seems not only to sanction, but also to demand with ever increasing insistence the union of the beautiful with the useful. This applies, among other things, to architectural and engineering designs. It involves no more expense—so experts say—to build a house or barn with an attractive exterior than one that only satisfies the requirements for room and comfort and in outline looks uncomplainingly ugly. The same proposition applies to more pretentious structures erected by municipalities or by private citizens for public use. Among these latter are to be numbered water towers. It has been the rule, until recently, to regard the necessary but unadorned iron cylinder as fulfilling all requirements. Of late, however, the residents of cities, including those who are compelled to gaze daily upon an unpleasing tower, have come to the conclusion that lofty structures of this class may be made ornaments to the landscape instead of blots. Not long ago the existence of a general but unformed popular opinion in this respect was recognized by Mr. Henry C. Meyer, editor of The New York Engineering and Building Record, and at his own expense he opened a competition for designs for a waterworks pumping station and a water tower. Over fifty architects responded, and the results attained far exceeded what had been expected. The first prize went to a Milwaukee competitor, the second to a resident of Brooklyn, and the third and fourth to Boston architects. Outside the technical excellence displayed, the chief point regarded as solved by the competition is that of wedding beauty to utility. It was shown that it costs little or nothing more to build a water tower architecturally handsome than one phenomenally hideous.

Monte Carlo outwardly is one of the most beautiful and attractive places in Europe, but more suicides occur there than at any of the capitals of Europe. The great gaming establishment is responsible for an untold amount of misery, and every gold piece of profit might almost be said to be wet with human blood.

The tradition that links the letter R and oysters together can be traced back at least as far as 1500, when Butler wrote in his "Dyer's Dry Diner": "It is unreasonable and unwholesome in all months that have not an R in their name to eat an oyster."

THE LATE GEN. SCHENCK.

Anecdotes Which Show His Real Character.

Like all men of strong convictions, aggressive personality and extreme capacity for making warm friends or bitter foes, Gen. Robert U. Schenck, who died recently at Washington, was the object during his life-time of much exaggerated praise and an equal amount of undue criticism. Perhaps the greatest storm of abuse that ever poured upon his head fell just after President Lincoln had commissioned him brigadier general of volunteers at the outbreak of the late civil war. Schenck was a civilian, a lawyer, a successful politician, an ex-diplomat, but of military affairs he knew nothing, and those opposed to him said so in plain terms. His appointment was denounced in one leading newspaper as an outrage on the soldiers, and it was suggested that he be turned over to some orderly sergeant of the regular army and "made to drill like sixty for a month."

It was only a little after his entering on active military service that Schenck's critics found a new occasion for reiterating their original views. The general was engaged in securing possession of the London and Hampshire railroad. At Vienna the train conveying his forces was fired upon, the engineer uncoupled the locomotive and ran away, and Schenck's handful of men had to face a band of very eager and active opponents. The truth of the matter, as afterward established, was that the combatants on both sides displayed creditable courage and came out of the contest with honor, but Schenck's enemies declared that he had been ignominiously routed, and sarcastically dubbed him the "hero of Vienna."

The probable reasons why President Lincoln gave Schenck his commission were two in number. For one he knew the man to be able, aggressive and brave. And again he considered himself under great personal obligation. It may not be generally known, but it is an actual fact that Mr. Lincoln gave Schenck the credit of first naming him for the presidency. In September, 1859, the former addressed a meeting at Dayton, O., on the political issues of that period. Allusion being made to the subject of the next presidency, Mr. Schenck suggested "that if an honest, sensible man was wanted, it would be well to nominate the distinguished gentleman from Illinois who had just addressed them."

However, if the beginning of Schenck's military career was not glorious, either through lack of experience or want of opportunity, he showed conspicuous gallantry and ability later on. At the second battle of Bull Run, while in the thickest of the fight and urging his men forward, a ball struck his right wrist and his sword dropped from his hand. Says one of the historians of the war: "Soldiers still enjoy telling of the general's rage and fearful imprecations at the loss of his sword." He refused to leave the field until he had recovered it. The wound permanently injured his right arm, and for the remainder of his life Gen. Schenck wrote with his left hand.

When minister to England Gen. Schenck became the target of a good deal of adverse comment because he was reported to have published a book on poker playing for the use of the English aristocracy. "Poker Bob," as he was afterwards called by his opponents, never took the trouble to deny the charge, but his friends claimed that he simply wrote out the rules of the game in compliance with the request of a lady. She had the manuscript put in type and issued a few copies of the pamphlet for private circulation.

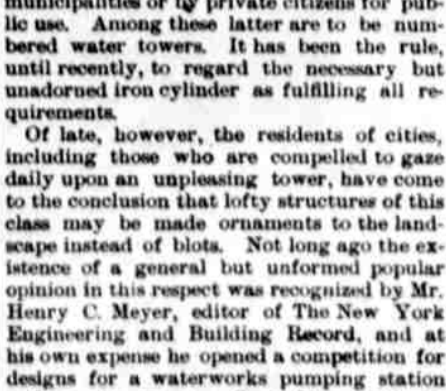
Gen. Schenck spent the last years of his life in absolute retirement. He gathered about him a few old friends, but cared to make no new ones. As one of his biographers says: "His enemies spoke of him as selfish; his friends called him whole-souled, generous, big-hearted, hospitable."

Dr. Roger Williams has made a careful examination of the hospital books, from which it appears that in ten years chloroform was administered at St. Bartholomew's 12,368 times with fatal results in ten cases, being about one in 1,236. The most important result of Dr. Williams' investigations, however, is the discovery that when ether instead of chloroform had been used during the same period there were only three deaths out of 13,381 instances. Dr. Williams tells us he has long been aware of the greater safety of ether, and he declares his belief that this is the conclusion towards which professional opinion is steadily moving.

It has recently been discovered that sulphate of quinine possesses the power of rendering light non-actinic, and that a plate of white ground glass, which has been covered with a strong solution and allowed to dry, may be used in the photographic lantern instead of that of the ordinary ruby color, says Popular Science News. We have recently seen a bromide print developed by the non-actinic white light produced in this manner, which was perfect in every way and did not show the slightest trace of fogging. If future trials show the method to be a practical one, the use of red light in photography will become a thing of the past.

At the Animals' institute in Wilton place, London, recently, a very interesting exhibition was made of horses' hooves old and new.

Some of those displayed were the handiwork of prehistoric man, while others showed the latest developments of Nineteenth century ingenuity. The first illustration depicts; 1, the earliest hooves known, from a Roman camp near Maxence; 2, earliest form of shoe used in northern Europe, split top, from a Scandinavian tunic; 3 and 4, two styles of Roman shoes of the time of the early Caesars. In the second picture are shown: 1 and 2, varieties of the modern saddle shoe; 3, shoe with a rubber frog pad; 4, a non-slipping shoe.



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THE PUZZLER.

No. 90.—Charade.

In the far Pacific isles, There the sleeping water smiles, Grows a tree which bears the wonderful complete. 'Tis a certain kind of last, Which, when in the over cast, Much resembles FRUIT—'tis good to eat.

No. 91.—An Hour Glass. The central letters, reading downward, will spell the name of a famous general. Cross Words: 1. Complaining. 2. Continuing for a long time. 3. One of the planets. 4. A short sleep. 5. In apple. 6. A vehicle. 7. A weapon. 8. A large shallow dish. 9. A walk for amusement.

No. 92.—In Many Places. Behind me men will take your peace, And also take your common sense. Before me prisoners must wait Until they hear pronounced their fate. Behind me prisoners must groan Until they shall for crime atone. Behind me men of shrewdness dwell, Who help you, but you pay them well. I am a narrow strip of sand, Where ships near shore will sometimes strand. I am in heraldry a sign, Some special honor to define. I am a rustic kind of gate, Where ladies and ladies often wait. And now, with using little wit, You know my name from what is writ.

No. 93.—A Train of Cars. 1. What car runs to Montreal in the winter season? 2. What car sometimes has many tracks? 3. What car is seen only in the southern hemisphere? 4. What car runs continually during a presidential campaign? 5. What two cars are of a bright color? 6. What car takes the place of another?

No. 94.—Hidden Trees. 1. "Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps arise." 2. To send such peevish tokens to a king." 3. "Visions of childhood, stay, oh stay. Ye were so sweet and wild."

No. 95.—A Standard Book. 1. "My 2 and 4 is an interjection. My 1, 5 and 6 is a boy's name. My 1, 8 and 9 is a cooking vessel. My 3, 4, 5 and 7 is an interrogative pronoun. My whole is the name of an Indian chief."

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