

holders. It traveled with terrific speed, with a gyrating motion, and, in striking a farm house or other structure, would lift it bodily from its foundation, and, while holding it in mid air, tear it to fragments, as a man might a piece of paper, and scatter the bits of wood for miles. In other instances the building would be lifted up to a great height, to be dashed to earth, a mass of sticks and splinters. Domestic animals, as horses, cattle and swine, would be picked up, carried some distance, sometimes over the tops of trees, and let down to the ground without injury, or alight a mass of quivering flesh and bones, according to the freak of the storm fiend. In one instance a herd of swine were picked up bodily, wafted over the tops of some adjacent trees, and let down without injury. In another, a span of horses with the wagon to which they were attached, and the driver, were lifted up, carried a distance of some hundreds of feet over some trees, and let down without injury. These were extraordinarily fortunate instances, for in many others, men and animals were killed instantly, or badly injured by similarly fantastic tricks of the terrible cyclone. In all, according to reports in the papers, if I remember them rightly, about 50 persons were killed and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of property destroyed.

The second cyclone occurred in the southwestern part of the State. It did much less damage than the first one, but was quite as fearfully fantastic in some of its freaks. In one instance it swept over the premises of a thrifty farmer, dashed his house to small fragments, which were scattered along the country for miles, but not a piece of the house as large as a lead pencil was left on the spot where it had stood! Barn, corn cribs, and out-buildings shared a similar fate. On the same farm a number of chickens had their feathers blown off as cleanly as they could have been plucked by hand, while the skin of one was blown off and afterwards picked up almost intact! Were not reports of such freaks as the above well authenticated it would be almost impossible to credit them.

On arriving in Illinois, on the 20th ult., and mingling among the people, the country folk began to tell me of certain new and strange phenomena, as the letter W, plainly seen on the wings of an insect called the seventeen-year locust. One gentleman caught an insect and showed it to me. There, plainly to be seen on either wings, was a capital letter W, formed by the veins in the transparent tissue of the wing. Some maintain that the letter should be viewed "the other end up," when it would become an M. Others maintain that it is a W and stands for "War," and that the same insect appeared with the same letter on its wings seventeen years ago, just before the breaking out of the late civil war.

Several farmers told me that there was, on the leaves of the oats, a capital letter B, plainly visible. Having a curiosity to see for myself if this was so, I, in company with two gentlemen, repaired to a field of oats, containing from 15 to 20 acres. The grain was just heading out, and looked very thrifty, and, sure enough, in nearly every leaf, appeared the capital letter B. I examined as many as 50 leaves, picked in different parts of the field, and in all but four or five was stamped the letter, generally very distinctly. On the four or five exceptional leaves there was an indistinct mark of no definite shape resembling a letter. The letter extended the entire width of the leaf, and was smaller or larger, according to the width of the leaves. It appeared to have been made by pressing a type or die on the under side of the leaf, thus raising the letter on the upper side in a manner similar to that in which letters are printed on tin, or other sheet metal, and the depression on the under side of the leaf corresponded exactly to the raised letter on the other. Both could be distinctly felt by slipping the leaf through to the fingers. This phenomenal letter is interpreted to signify "Blood." There is no doubt about its being plainly visible on the oat leaves in that field, at least whatever significance, if any, it may have, for I critically examined many of the leaves aforsaid.

I was also told that, on the white oak leaves in the woods, early in the morning, before the dew disappeared from them, there could be plainly seen the capital letters W

and F, formed in some mysterious manner by the moisture, but disappearing with the dew. I had no opportunity of verifying this statement or of proving it fallacious. These letters are conjectured to mean "War" and "Famine" by the more superstitious of those with whom I conversed on the subject.

I give the above facts as I witnessed them or heard them, but will not venture to assign any significance to the mysterious letters. The storms, however, I regard as potent testimonies to the truth of the great latter-day work, for he Lord has said that after the testimonies of His servants would come the testimonies of storms, thunderings, lightnings, earthquakes, and other judgments and phenomena.

One incident in connection with the storms is, I think, worth relating. There is a man living near Council Bluffs who, for many years, has professed a degree of faith in the gospel, but he has a good farm and valuable property, to which he clings with great pertinacity and, notwithstanding the admonitions of the elders to gather, has always been unwilling to make the sacrifice. Recently, during a terrific rain storm, when the thunder and lightning rolled and flashed in an appalling manner, at about 10 o'clock p.m. he gathered his family into a potatoe cellar, fearing that his house might be demolished, and there he remained till nearly daylight, when the storm abated. Next morning he remarked that if anyone would give him half of what his property was worth he would sell out and go to Utah.

I have been traveling in this State during the past fortnight, working up genealogies. I expect to go to Philadelphia, thence to New York and Boston. My address till further notice will be 132 Greenwich Street, Philadelphia.

Your brother in the gospel,  
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J. O. Bosworth & Co., Denver, Col.: Gentlemen.—Prompted by a fellow-feeling for those afflicted with Catarrh I wish to add my testimony in behalf of SANFORD'S RADICAL CURE FOR CATARRH. I have been sorely afflicted with this fearful disease for four years, and have tried every known remedy without avail, until I bought a bottle of the above CURE from you, which gave me almost instant relief. It being a constitutional as well as a local remedy, I believe it to be all that is claimed for it, a Radical Cure for Catarrh.

**GREATLY AFFLICTED.**  
Messrs. J. O. Bosworth & Co., Denver: Gentlemen.—I take pleasure in recommending SANFORD'S RADICAL CURE FOR CATARRH to all who are afflicted with this disease. I was greatly afflicted with it for a long time, and cured it with two bottles of the above CURE. About a year afterwards I was again taken with Catarrh quite severely, and immediately sent for another bottle, which fixed me all right, giving me relief from the first dose. I am confident that this remedy will do all that is claimed for it, and more too. Wishing you success in its introduction, I am very truly yours,  
W. S. SMITH,  
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