

Miscellaneous.

[From the Evansville (Ind.) Courier, March 29.]

TERRIBLE TORNADO IN JOHNSON CO., ILLINOIS.

We were yesterday visited by Mr. William Brill, an old and respected farmer of Johnson county, Illinois, who furnishes us with a succinct and detailed description of a tornado that passed over that neighborhood, March 20th.

Mr Brill's farm-house rests upon an eminence sufficiently high to give him a view of the section through which the destruction passed, and on the 20th, he and his family had a perfect view of the sublime scene which the angry elements were enacting in a valley only half a mile south of his house.

He describes the appearance of the storm as the most terrific ever witnessed, or that the mind can conceive. A dense blackness enveloped the valley below, while it was quite light on the hills around, and this added to the distinctiveness of the whole. The most terrific roar, rumbling and moaning filled the air, and the smell of sulphur was very strong. The unearthly noise seemed to drown the voice of speakers close to each other.

As it advanced apparently with the moderate speed of a locomotive, Mr. Brill observed high in the air the most extraordinary spectacle of trees, crushed houses, wood, rails and objects that seemed to him to be horses and cattle borne on by the storm in dense volumes of dirt and dust, all in the most inextricable confusion. The very heavens were filled with the contents of farms. Every object seemed torn from the earth and folded upward! Houses were taken up bodily and dashed overhead, and perfect desolation spread over the valley.

The portion of the valley where this tornado passed, was in the neighborhood of Tobacco Post Office, and within a few miles, if we understand him rightly, of Golconda. The tornado moved from west to east, and appeared to keep in a chosen path. The country is very broken, but those living in the small valleys seemed to suffer most.

As the tornado advanced, the indications of its course were very deceptive, appearing to point in all directions. This effect probably came from the revolution going on in the dust and sulphuric smoke that enveloped everything in the valley, and which, at times, seemed to roll and spread in all directions.

The whole country was inundated, and the soil in many places washed down to the sub-stratum of clay, as though the clouds had burst and flooded the earth with oceans of water at once.

The following is the list of lives lost, and total destruction as far as named:

Joseph Harper was mortally injured, three of his daughters were killed outright, and five others of his family of nine mortally wounded. His home and every object of his place was entirely carried away, and nothing has since been found of anything. A wagon load of flour and meal in sacks was taken up by the tornado, and no trace of it afterward found. Thirteen thousand dollars in money was also blown away with the house.

M. B. Mayne's house was also taken up and blown to atoms. His stock of boots, shoes and dry goods were carried for miles, and scattered over the country. Everything totally lost.

Esquire Worley had nine in family; one killed and eight supposed to be mortally injured. Houses and everything on the place swept away.

John Jones lost a child. Everything totally lost.

Jonathan Water's farm was literally torn up and carried off. There is not an object left.

Louis McGowan's farm was also totally destroyed. Houses, barns and everything gone.

Woodson West's farm was entirely destroyed, and everything on it swept off.

Orchards were pulled up by the roots and carried five miles.

Every one who escaped destruction in the line of the tornado, as well as those who were killed, were blackened as though by soot.

Mr. Brill was one of the fortunate few who lived off from the route of the tornado, and thus escaped with a slight loss.

He tells us that the scene, after the tornado passed over, was one of the most heart-rending it had been his misfortune to witness.

Every farmer who lived in the path of the angry elements is homeless, and totally broken up. Destruction is to be seen every where. He is of opinion that

the hurricane at Natchez many years ago, was no worse in its effects.

The three daughters of Mr. Joseph Harper, afterwards found dead, were locked in each other's arms.

Cows, hogs and farming implements, in some cases, were found at a great distance. Of course, nearly all the live stock in the line of the storm was destroyed.

This tornado, in less force, visited many parts of the country, being what is known as the "equinoctial storm;" but its violence in Johnson county is without a parallel. Were such a tornado to pass over a city built like Evansville, there would be cause of mourning indeed.

A disastrous tornado passed over a portion of Montgomery county, Indiana, on Tuesday night, March 20. The wife of Mr. Henry A. Foster, who resides near Parkersburg, two of his children (the third sleeping) and Miss James, daughter of Matthew James, visiting at Mr. Foster's, were instantly killed. The residence of Wm. Myers, one mile west of Ladoga, was unroofed, his barn badly injured, and about 160 acres of fine timber totally destroyed. The brick house of William Frame, north of Ladoga, was badly injured, and the barn totally destroyed.

DECAY OF THE ENGLISH RACE.

Dr. Morgan, a Manchester physician, has published a pamphlet on this formidable subject. He maintains that we are all going to decay from too much congregating in great cities. He has had long experience in the effects of town life upon the working man and his family, and has been led to study the abounding sanitary statistics of the day with unusual care. And here is his description of the Manchester operative, such as he now is in a vast number of instances, and such as he is universally tending to become.

The present typical factory hand wants physical stamina, and his muscular system is rarely well strung. His pulse tells of a want of power in the heart, and its variations are rapid under the least excitement and exertion. His feet are cold, his veins prominent, and he is given to vertigo. His lips are blanched and his cheeks colourless. Neuralgia is his frequent ailment; and the teeth, the eyes, the hair, the skin, and the glands, all denote "the absence of that well-balanced tension of the nervous system on which the easy and harmonious working of the frame so largely depends." In men who were born in country places, and only migrate to Manchester or other large towns in their youth or advanced boyhood, these symptoms of degeneration are less usual than those who were born and bred in the midst of the destroying influences; but even upon them these influences tell to an extent which is nothing less than a national calamity.

In the four largest cities in England—London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham—the average number of marriages to every thousand of living persons was about twelve and a half in the year 1861; and the number of births was about thirty-six; so that the average number of children born in each family is somewhat less than three. But in London, where the proportion of the wealthy and comfortable classes is so great, the average number of children was nearly four, while in Manchester, where the poor are an enormous portion of the whole population, the average number born to each family was little more than two. Now, examine the proportion of marriages and births in the twenty-seven agricultural counties.

In the year 1861 the number of births indicated an average of four and a half children born to every married pair during their lifetime. Here, indeed, is a physiological proof of the permanent decay of the constitution of vital moment. There are more than twice as many children born to each country-dwelling pair as are born to each married couple in Manchester. Take next the death rate in the four great cities and in the agricultural counties.

In 1861 forty-five out of every thousand persons died under the age of fifteen in the cities, taking them altogether. In London by itself the death-rate was only thirty-four per thousand; while in Manchester it was forty-seven, and in Liverpool fifty-six. In the same year in the agricultural districts the death-rate of persons under fifteen was only twenty-two per thousand; showing that in Liverpool the mortality of children is two-and-a-half times as great as in villages and country towns. The physical causes of this frightful state of things are, in Dr. Morgan's opinion, chiefly three, each of them destructive

by itself, and in combination with the others still more fatal. The first is the vitiated air of the houses, the factories, and the streets of cities, and preeminently of Manchester. The phenomena ascertained by meteorological observations at Manchester are surprising. In the middle of the city, the average winter temperature is eight degrees higher than in the outskirts; and the average summer temperature is five degrees lower.

The explanation is easy. A murky mass of noxious, gaseous vapour hangs over the city night and day, through which the sun's warmest summer rays never thoroughly penetrate, while in the winter the earth's heat never thoroughly radiates upwards. That mysterious element of life, ozone, is never detected in the centre of Manchester; in the suburbs it is obtained in considerable quantities. But what the air loses in ozone it gains in sulphur. No alkaline rain falls in Manchester proper, and the rain is so acid that one drop colours the litmus paper that is used as the ordinary test; while just in those parts of the city where the air is found most largely charged with organic impurities, there the death-rate is highest. In the midst of this poisonous atmosphere lives a population that suffers to a frightful extent from that contagious and hereditary disease which is ruining the health of our soldiers and sailors, which a few overflowing Lock Hospitals vainly attempt to stem.

In two years, says Dr. Morgan, 6,000 of the Manchester poor were known to suffer from this pest, as detected in the working of public institutions alone, and exclusive of the innumerable cases treated in private practice. To these two causes add the results of excessive spirit drinking, and we are no longer at a loss to account for the innumerable early deaths and childless marriages of the artisan class. Drinking, too, in the country is more exclusively the vice of the men than it is in the cities. There are drunken women enough, indeed, in our villages and smaller towns; but they bear no proportion to the gin-drinking women and girls of London, Liverpool, and every city in Great Britain. Drinking, too, tells more fatally on the woman than on the man. Her more susceptible temperament is more easily excited, and the depression that follows and calls for renewed excitement is proportionately more complete. A very small acquaintance with police offices, or any place where drunken women are to be found, is amply sufficient to show that the gin that turns a man into a beast, turns a woman into something almost devilish.

[From the New York Evening Post.]

AN EXPLORATION IN CHINA.

Mr. Alexander Williamson, an Englishman, has just made a journey from Pekin to Chefoo by way of the Grand Canal and the Yellow River, through the heart of ancient China—a route rarely explored by Europeans, and peculiarly interesting on account of the small degree of knowledge heretofore possessed in relation to the course of these great "water-roads," as the Chinese call them. The result of his exploration appears in a communication to the London Times, in which he dwells upon the commercial advantages of the route he followed.

Mr. Williamson set out in company with only two persons—a China scholar and a native servant. The party followed the Grand Canal at the rate of thirty English miles a day, and found it in excellent repair as far as Lin-tsing-chow, with the exception of a place near Pan-tow, where the water became shallower, and the banks out of order, though it was still navigable. Its depth was generally from six to eight feet, and ten feet of water, and its width was from eighty to one hundred feet. The chief cities on this part of the route are Tschau Chow, Tuh Chow and Chihung-Kia-Kow. The last named (not laid down on the maps) is an important place, having a large trade in cotton-wool, cotton cloth, felt and silks, and it was inferred from the caravans of camels found at the inns that it has an extensive traffic with the Northwest. Mr. Williamson says:

"The town is not on the maps, but is about one hundred and fifty miles from Tuh-Chow. The people all along the banks appear much poorer and less refined than south of the Yang-tse-Kiang. The country people had much more of the boorish clodhopper aspect than their southern countrymen, and the inhabitants of the towns and cities partook of the same appearance—only that remove above their country cousins which their town life and business habits imparted. The shops were perfectly uniform—the same shape of coun-

ters, same kind of furniture, and the same things in stock, and let me add, the same multitude of salesmen—brothers and cousins—loitering behind the counter, with their hands in their sleeves, or playing at dice.

"But the sameness did not end here. The people every where had the same appearance, and were at the same employments. There was no diversity, no tall chimneys to break the monotony; no cotton mills; no print work or bleach works; nor even flour mills to interest the mind, but painful uniformity. There was only one source of amusement for us, and that was rich enough. We refer to the motley group of beasts bound in the yoke together. Sometimes we saw a horse, donkey and cow in one plough, and sometimes yet more ridiculous mixtures, just as if the whole household, man and beast, even including dogs, had turned out to drag the plough. Yoked in their large, heavy carts it is quite common to see a poor bullock in the shafts, and a herd of small donkeys with a cow or an old worn out horse among them in front helping to drag the vehicle along. The houses were all alike, all built of brick, chiefly of mud brick unburnt."

In this sequestered place, also, Mr. Williamson found a colony of Mohammedans, of whom he says:

"They often salute us from the banks and often in the streets of the cities with the cry 'Mussulman,' and claimed kindred with us. They sometimes called upon us and said that they believed in the same God, and were not like those stupid idolaters among whom they lived. They appear much less bigoted than their brethren in India; and, on inquiry, we found that they had little or no connection now with the West. In former times pilgrims used to go to Mecca, and in this way keep alive the spark of intolerance, but for many years I could hear of no one having undertaken the journey. We found numerous mosques; sometimes three and four in one city."

At Leri-Tsing, the canal branches off in two directions. One called the Wei-ho proceeds to Honan; the other, and formerly the principal one, proceeding south to Loochow and Hang-chow. Here the famous locks commenced, but they are now all to disorder and the canal all but dry. Great fields of cotton were growing in the neighborhood.

The Yellow River is thus described:

"As I crossed I tried to estimate the force of the current. It is not nearly so great or so strong as the tide at Shanghai. A gig could scarcely pull against it; and so I suppose it may be set down at about three knots per hour. Of course it varies in its rapidity, and is slower in a level country; but throughout its whole course it has the character of being a rapid river. When crossing we had a good illustration of the manner in which this wilful river forces its way. As it flowed against the banks it just ate them away, and the mud fell into its devouring jaws just like some huge monster browsing grass; and as the banks fell in on one side they were raised on the other. Thus it literally ate its way, and 'followed the bent of its own sweet will.' Your readers are aware that it has repeatedly changed its course, and it is one of the greatest anxieties of the government to keep it in a fixed channel.

"Looking at the river and walking up the banks, we asked ourselves, could a steamer stem that current? and we made as many inquiries as we could relative to this from natives, and found their reports favorable. Moreover, this fact has been recently confirmed by actual investigation.

"This river opens a way far into the interior, and to a part of China quite new to us, and rich and populous. We are somewhat dubious as to the truth of the statement that navigation is impossible beyond Tai-ming-foo, but suppose it to be correct; a glance at the map will convince any one of the great importance of this river. The city of Tef-nan-foo is the capital of Shan-tung, while Tong-shang-foo, Tsan-Chow-foo and Tai-ming-foo are little less important than the first in a commercial point of view."

A REMEDY FOR THE CHOLERA.—Cayenne pepper, one teaspoonful; table salt, one tablespoonful—in a half a pint of water, as hot as can conveniently be received by the patient, the entire quantity to be taken at once when decided symptoms of cholera make their appearance.

Should relief not be obtained in a few minutes by vomiting, (which is usually the effect produced,) a similar quantity of salt and water, without pepper, must be given. This, causes a thick viscid substance, resembling glue, to be ejected, perspiration is created, and, in the case of cramps, relaxation and relief obtained.