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HE CYCLONE SEASON



Vagaries of the Monstrous Disturbances Are Unexplainable—Some of the Queer Things Cyclones Have Done.

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

liming in the central valleys of the and dropped in places where, if found country. The records of recent years at all, they excited little comment. In show that at about the first of May the several instances, however, the shoes cyclone season is at its height, although have been found close to the bodies of some of the frightful storms have not occurred until a month later.

Scientists have struggled with the cyclone problem for many years, but much of the mystery surrounding its origin is unexplained; also the reasons of the prodigious power it exerts upon objects in its path. They agree, however, on one thing, and that is the name, Cyclone, they say, is a misuomer, the

The months of April and May usually | as not to be recognizable as footwear cover the time when the cyclone has its or carried off to considerable distances the dead and in a condition that indicated very powerful electrical action.

Some years ago a shoe was taken from the ruins caused by a Kansas cyclone, and its condition caused no little wonder. It had been ripped from the foot of a man who was killed. The strings were gone and the upper portions, from ankle to sole, were cut into tolerably regular strips from a quarter correct designation being tornado, but of half an inch in width. The sole the people who have actually wrestled seemed at first glance intact, but a



A WESTERN CYCLONE AT WORK.

Scientifically the cyclone is the storm Ocean, with a diameter of from 100 to melted by the electricity.

ocean storm. The diameter of the torcountry road for more than a mile, wrecking everything in its path, but not injuring the fences on either side. The diameter of this tornado could not have been more than 80 or 90 feet, but its power was almost beyond belief.

But the curious freaks worked by the cyclone of the Kansas variety command more attention than its tremendous force. On one occasion the roof of an eight-room house was lifted bodily, carried 200 yards, half way into a grove where it seemed impossible that it could have passed between the trees, and left lying flat, but upside down, in a vacant spot just large enough to receive it. Occasionally the side of a house is carried away and converted into kindling wood, while the rest of the edifice is quite uninjured.

In one instance, in lowa, half a double house was shattered to bits, while the other half and the hall were quite untouched, even the carpet on the hall floor remaining unsoiled, and the paper on the wall showed neither spot nor scratch.

In another, the porch of a Kansas house was cut away as neatly as though with an ax, a queer contract being seen in a third case, where the house was destroyed and the porch left standing intact.

In Nebraska the second story of an eight-room house was taken off and the first was left, so little shock being given to the building by the violent removal of the upper half that the clocks on the mantelpieces were not disturbed, and continued to tick as usual.

A still more curious freak was played by the wind in a Kansas dwelling. A double house, with a hall in the middle, stood facing the direction from which the cyclone was approaching. When the storm was seen the residents took refuge in their cave and listened to hear the fall of their home. A terrible crash was heard, and they, of course, supposed that the house had gone. On emerging they were surprised to see the house standing as before, but were almost paralyzed with astonishment to find the northeast wall of the diningroom, which was on the opposite side of the house from the direction the storm came, had been blown out, the furniture, tables, dishes and all other contents had been carried off and crushed to atoms, and ne other damage had resulted to any part of the building.

The cyclone which devastated Sherman, Texas, stripped nearly all of the dead of clothing, and from the feet of every corpse the shoes had been wrenched This is a common trick of

with the monster and have seen it toss- | closer examination showed that this ing their residences about in midair call portion was pierced by a number of it a cycloue, and cyclone it will be. small round holes. They were the holes where the metal pails or tacks that sweeps over the South Atlantic had been; the latter had disappeared.

Sometimes these remarkable effects The tornado travels in much smaller are produced without visible injury to form, but in its reduced dimensions it the body or to the clothing that reas all the concentrated energy of the mains on it, a circumstance quite unexplainable with our present knowlnado is seldom more than 100 yards and edge. When the clothing is removed frequently much less than that. It has It is generally not found, being probbeen known to travel straight along a ably rent into indistinguishable rags. but when it or portions of it are left the wind treats it in the most whimsical manner. In Iowa, in 1885, all the clothing but the coat was torn from the body of a man, this garment remaining almost intact; in Kansas a body was stripped of all save a collar and cravat.

LOVE VAULTS FROM A CIRCUS MAN'S HOME.

Peter Sells is not the only circus man who has seen Cupid in his act of turning somersaults. Walter L. Main has sued his wife for divorce. He is one of Ohio's best-known showmen and lives in a magnificent home at Geneva. but Mrs. Main refuses to share it with him, and is in California. She was Florence Damon, a young school teach-



W. L. MAIN AND HIS WIFE.

er of Trumbull, Ohio, which was also Main's home. At the time of their marriage, in 1887, Main was a poor country lad, whose natural bent was the training of animals, ponies and dogs. The year before he had been on the road giving performances in a small, round-top tent, and had met with enough success to encourage him to launch out again in a similar entercharge of the wardrobes, and took tickets at the tent entrance. Main made half a million in the business in fifteen years. Up to 1800 Mrs. Main traveled with her busband, who can not understand her present actions.

Weather Wit. "What makes your hands so cold this morning, dear?"

cyclones, but scientists cannot fathom it. In many instances the shoes disappear, being either torn to fragments so with the cold."—Judge.

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