

THE DAY AFTER THE CYCLONE IN GRINNELL.

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THE GRINNELL CYCLONE OF JUNE 17, 1882.

BY S. H. HERRICK.

Viewed from a purely scientific or meteorological standpoint, the cyclone* which occasioned the greater part of the destruction of property and loss of life at Grinnell, Iowa, on the evening of June 17, 1882, was no very great affair. In its disastrous results it may be considered a calamity of the greatest magnitude. I use the words "greater part" advisedly, for I believe we have evidence that Grinnell was visited by two independent cyclones at the same time, both doing great damage, the shorter one striking the town first and on its western borders, the other coming from the northwest and entering the town on its northern border about midway between its east and west boundaries. The former had its origin less than a dozen miles southwest of Grinnell and caused no damage beyond this point. The latter had travelled fully ninety miles and continued on its course of devastation more than a hundred miles further. It was not the equal of the cyclone of 1860 which passed through the State for a distance of more than two hundred miles and crossed the Mississippi River near Camanche, in Clinton county, where forty-two persons, or one in twenty of the population, lost their lives.

From an examination of the signal service reports for June 17, 1882, we find that an area of low barometric pres-

*The writer uses the words "cyclone" and "tornado" to indicate the same phenomena, without any attempt to explain or keep separate the scientific differences of these terms. In fact, each is treated by many authorities as a synonym for the other.

sure included the entire upper Mississippi valley and a portion of the Dakotas, and that an immense storm wave moved through Iowa from the northwest toward the southeast corner of the State. This storm wave was the center of various and independent cyclonic formations and disturbances. The storm area was extensive, being not less than a hundred miles in width—possibly, at times, much wider—and passed through the State at a speed of from forty-five to sixty miles an hour. This area presented to view a boiling, surging mass of clouds, especially near its center, where all the separate cyclones had their origin. The inception of the most damaging of the Grinnell cyclones was at a point not far from the town of Kellogg, Jasper county, at about half past eight o'clock in the evening. Kellogg lies about ten miles from Grinnell in a direct line, a little south of west. Mr. T. R. Phipps, who witnessed the beginning of this cyclone, testifies as follows:

At the date of the cyclone I was living seven miles west of Grinnell, the exact direction being one mile north of west. My father lived a half mile south. My day's work was done and I was sitting in the house reading, when some one of the family called my attention to the strange clouds in the southwest. I went out of the house and saw two immense clouds of brilliant and peculiar hue rolling and tumbling and approaching each other at a rapid rate. It could not have been five minutes before they united, when the single mass seemed to be in the most violent agitation, out of which in less than a minute was formed a distinct funnel-shaped cloud, black and angry-looking. I thought at the time that this cloud must have formed just about over the town of Kellogg, some six miles to the southwest. From the fact that a single house was completely destroyed at that place, I have always thought that at the meeting of the clouds there must have been a dropping and a sudden rebounding of this cloud, which would account for the destruction of a single house. In fact, I could see such a dropping at the moment when the cyclonic cloud was forming. The cyclone, for I at once recognized it as such, seemed to be coming directly towards us, and as my position was on an elevation from which I could see the whole surrounding country, I had a full view of its course until it struck a belt of timber about two miles from my location. The roar and crash were plainly heard, and the family, with the exception of myself, sought safety in the cellar. The wind, which had been blowing a gale from the south, suddenly changed to the north, blowing with increasing fury so that small trees were bent nearly to the ground. Soon rain began to fall, hiding everything from view. From the formation of the cyclone cloud to the beginning of the rain not more than two minutes could

have passed. It rained and hailed about fifteen minutes, when the storm seemed to have passed away. It was evident that the main force of the storm had been deflected from a direct course when it struck the timber, passing from that point nearly east. Feeling that some great damage had been done, I mounted a horse and started south to my father's house. Before I started I thought I heard the cry of a woman, and doubtless I was not mistaken, for on reaching my father's home I found the family, consisting of father, mother, a brother and a sister, all lying on the ground northwest of the demolished house. They were all injured, my father so seriously that he died two days afterwards. I soon found that the storm had destroyed my brother's house southwest a half mile, and that one of his children had been killed. Several houses were also destroyed northeast of my father's house, and several persons killed.

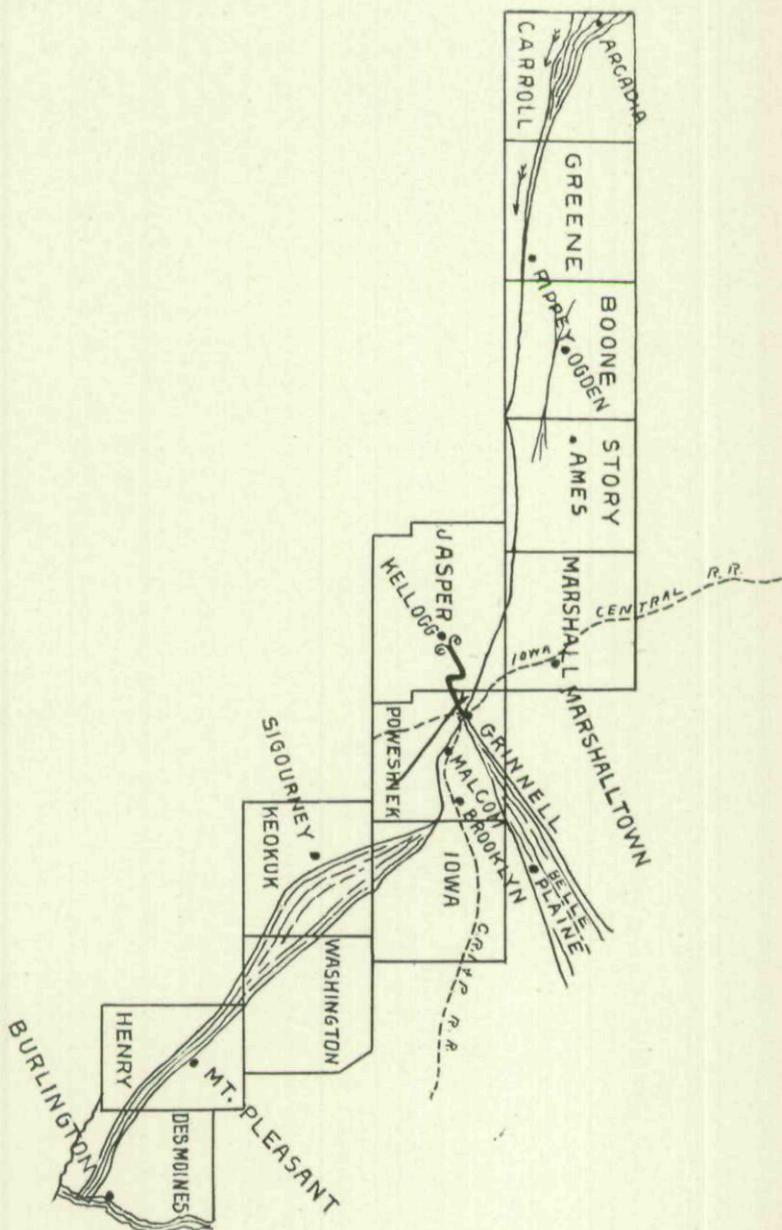
The above testimony concerning the beginning of the storm is doubtless as correct and comprehensive as can be obtained, owing to the advantageous position of the witness. Continuing on its course, the cyclone reached a point nearly or quite two miles north and four miles west of Grinnell, where it struck a deep valley or "draw," running north and south. Here a strong current from the north carried the cyclone fully three miles south, and the next tidings of damage came from a point one and a half miles west of the south boundary of Grinnell, where it had resumed its original northeast direction. At this point a house was demolished and the occupants seriously injured. Crossing an east and west road it passed in a direct northeast course for Grinnell, doing no further damage, however, until it struck with terrible force near the western edge of the city. The testimony of W. O. Willard, a most reliable and careful observer, then living a little more than a mile west of town, near the point where the storm crossed the road, is as follows:

I heard the roar and rush of the storm, which seemed just north of my house, and which followed a severe thunder storm. The cyclone seemed to be passing on toward Grinnell. At the same time, or a few seconds afterwards, another cyclone of less apparent force passed south of my house toward the southeast. The roar of the latter was not as loud as the other, although plainly heard. It passed on, doing some damage, but evidently spent its force in a few miles.

I have also the testimony of several persons who were caught in the smaller branches of the storm, all of whom witness to its rotary motion and its lifting power.

That the cyclone which first struck Grinnell and caused so great a loss of life was, as I first suggested, a small affair considered by itself, must be evident from a further investigation of the great storm wave. While nearly the entire State was practically in a storm on that Saturday night, the first damage of which we have any knowledge was near Arcadia, in the northwest part of Carroll county. Here a storm of great fury seemed gathering, and a church was moved from its foundation. Following southwest we come to Rippey, in the southeast part of Greene county, where much damage was done, and where at least one life was lost. Then the cyclone, for at this time it had developed into a well-defined funnel-shaped cloud, passed on toward Kelley in the southwest corner of Story county, near which place more lives were lost. At the same time an independent cyclone had formed and was getting in its work near Ogden, Boone county, north of the line of the main storm. Here, also, lives were lost. There now seemed to be an immense cloud, or a number of large and lurid clouds, from which at intervals cyclones would swing down toward the earth, several of these cyclones being seen at the same time, often several miles apart. Some of them passed away without seeming to touch the earth, while others would be alternately rising and falling, sometimes high in air, then with a swing and a swoop striking the earth and leveling everything in their path. In Story county two of these clouds passed eastward twenty minutes apart, and at a distance of three miles from each other, the one south of Kelley touching the earth southeast of that place, destroying considerable timber and a house or two. The other did little damage till south of Ames, when it destroyed several farm houses. Moving on southeasterly, these two cyclones did much damage between Nevada and Cambridge in Story county. The northerly one soon spent itself. The southerly one, which was doubtless the original one beginning in Carroll or Greene county, seemed to be gaining in size and in fury. Still rising and falling, it passed over corners of Marshall and Jasper counties, in a direct line for Grinnell, doing serious damage

MAP SHOWING DIRECTION OF CYCLONES JUNE 17, 1882, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE TWO CYCLONES MEETING AT GRINNELL.



wherever it struck. We now have two independent cyclones each hastening with indescribable fury toward the doomed city of Grinnell.

At about 8:30 on that fateful evening heavy and scattering drops of rain began to fall. The entire western sky was illuminated by continuous flashes of lightning as frequent as the beating of the pulse, while the distant roar of thunder was so continuous that it was not broken for even a second of time. In less than two minutes a severe thunder-storm broke over the city. This storm was several miles in width and was accompanied by a gusty, "jerky" wind, breaking off the limbs of trees and in many cases splitting or entirely demolishing tender or top-heavy trees like the soft maple. Such evidences of a severe storm were scattered throughout the town, even before the cyclone. This storm lasted some eight or ten minutes, and in its severity and fury was perhaps the equal of any storm of the kind which the writer may have seen during a residence of forty years in Iowa. Timid ones were alarmed, and not a few began to think of a place of safety. The wind and the rain slackened, yet the dead calm which followed, and the unearthly appearance of the sky produced an undefined sense of approaching calamity, or, at least, gave token that the storm might be repeated.

A pause, a lull, a halt, as it were for a final charge, a rumbling as of a distant train of cars, only increased ten-fold in volume, and the direful moment arrived.

Sixteen minutes of nine, said the battered clock amid the ruins of the first houses struck. Sixteen minutes of nine, said the watch taken from the owner's hands and hurled with flying timbers a full half mile and buried in the mud by the roadside, where it was found the next November. In a second of time a force estimated at not less than two hundred pounds to the square inch was lifting and twisting and hurling trees, buildings and human beings to destruction. From the windows in the upper story of the opera house, the highest building by far in the city, gazed a score or more of people, dumb witnesses of the awful horror. Sky and earth were illumined by a weird and ghastly glow, as if from the

sulphurous fires of Tartarus. High in the air, at an angle of not less than 45° , were seen houses and barns being crushed and crumpled by the whirl and swirl of the tempest. Human bodies, dashed hither and thither by the imperious monster more cruel than the grave, were mingled with all manner of household goods and adornments. On and on sped the death-dealing cloud, for it had further work to do. Past street after street it hastened in its narrow but resistless course, leaving ruined homes, mangled bodies, and broken hearts. The central line of the town was reached. Here, at the same instant, or a second before, it is evident that the cyclone from the northwest struck. The path of destruction is widened from its narrow course of five hundred feet or so to a thousand feet, and swinging at a sharp angle is bent to the southeast, when it resumes its former narrow course. Just at this bend, near the north edge of the town, the two college buildings were located. They offered little resistance to the mighty force of the storm. The first one struck, a brick building costing \$30,000, was leveled to the ground. The other, called Central College, was built of stone and cost somewhat more than the other. In this building were the chemical laboratory, several society rooms with their libraries, and the office and library of the President of the College, Dr. George F. Magoun. Everything above the second story floor was blown away, and a portion of the floors, covered with debris, was driven into the chemical laboratory in the basement. From a broken bottle containing phosphorus a fire originated about four hours after the cyclone, which, soon becoming beyond control, completed the work of destruction. Hardly anything of value was saved from this building. There were students in both buildings. The number would have been largely increased had it not been for the fact that many were absent at a ball game in a neighboring town during the afternoon, and were then on their way home. In the east building were nine members of one of the college societies. They saw the cyclone from their hall, and said that as it came over the campus toward them it looked like a whirlwind on a gigantic scale, whirling and

dashing timbers, trees, and everything in its path. Three of the number started to get out of the building. They managed to reach the lower floor, when they were separated, one, Mr. Burritt E. Chase, of Storm Lake, to be hurled to the east and fearfully and fatally mangled; the others, with those remaining in the building, escaping as by a miracle.

As the west building fell, seven students, all there were in it, came down with the ruins. One, Mr. B. H. Burgett, of Deep River, Iowa, severely injured and paralyzed, though conscious, died before morning. The others, although falling from the third story, escaped with slight bruises.

Just east of the college campus stood a freight train on the Iowa Central R. R. The engine was lifted from the track, coming down, however, in its proper position. The cars were overturned and demolished, those at the south end of the train being thrown to the east, and the others to the west.

Further on in town, toward the southeast, a few houses were destroyed, and one person was killed, but no other great damage was done until a freight train was struck on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific R. R. about two miles east of Grinnell. The train was overturned, two men were killed and others injured. The rotary motion of the storm, opposite to the movement of the hands of a watch, was also manifest here by the overturning of the cars at the west end of the train to the south, while the cars at the east end of the train were taken north of the track. Numerous so-called freaks of the storm are due to the same cause. In one instance a picture nail was driven fully an inch into the north-east side of an elm tree which was left standing. At another point, a board was driven through a tree, remaining firmly imbedded, and at such an angle as to show that it came from the northeast. Such cases might be multiplied, but these are sufficient.

The destructive whirlwind continued on its course, veering somewhat to the east, and doing considerable harm in the country. An eye-witness to the storm six miles south-east of Grinnell states that two funnel-shaped clouds were

visible, not far apart, alternately rising and falling, and sweeping everything away as they struck the ground. One of these clouds soon disappeared, while the other, still keeping more to the east, struck the town of Malcom, destroying several buildings in town and doing great havoc a short distance south of town, where buildings were demolished and a dozen or more lives were lost. South of Brooklyn a more nearly southeast course was taken, going through Lincoln township on the extreme eastern border of Poweshiek county. Thence it passed over Sigourney and struck the southeast corner of Keokuk county near Richland. Thence in a direct line it crossed the corners of Washington and Jefferson counties, and hitting Henry county passed through diagonally, doing much damage at Mount Pleasant, but at this time and later, having lost its cyclonic power, it manifested itself as a straight gusty wind-storm of a breadth of two miles or more. Passing into Des Moines county it crossed the Mississippi River about two miles south of Burlington.

Thus we are enabled to trace the main cyclonic storm in a nearly direct southeast course for a distance of two hundred miles. It will be seen that a great proportion of the damage, and nearly all the loss of life at Grinnell, was from the shorter cyclone which started only ten miles or so from that place, and which of itself was limited in its destructive course by contact or collision at Grinnell with the main storm. Mention has been made of the fact that the path of actual damage was suddenly widened at the point where we may suppose these clouds collided.

We present the following facts in this connection with the conclusions which they naturally suggest:

A few days after the cyclone a letter was received at the Grinnell postoffice directed to the postmaster. A lady employe of the office opened the letter, and was surprised to find a photograph of herself enclosed, with the statement that the photograph was found in a field near Belle Plaine, twenty-five or thirty miles northeast of Grinnell. As it bore the imprint of a Grinnell photographer the finder sent it to Grinnell, thinking it might have been carried by the cyclone.



COLLEGE BUILDING, LOOKING NORTHEAST.

The house in which this young lady had lived was demolished by the storm and many things, including this photograph, blown away. The house was in the center of the storm, and at the meeting place of the two clouds.

Soon after this, a gentleman whose house was destroyed and two members of his family killed, received from Belle Plaine a certificate of membership in a beneficiary society, which certificate was in his house when it was destroyed. This was also found near Belle Plaine. Another photograph was found soon after and was not returned to Grinnell until the present year, when it was recognized as the likeness of a lady whose house was crushed and scattered far to the northeast.

Relics of the storm were picked up even as far to the northeast as Wisconsin. It is plainly evident that at the collision of the two clouds the one from the southwest was lifted up, and from that point went on its way high in air, spending its strength and dropping its burdens along its northeast course; but its destructive power was not felt beyond Grinnell. Hail began to fall soon after the clouds had passed. One person, who was severely injured, testifies that his return to consciousness was when the hail was beating on his face, and he began to wonder what had happened.

Soon the extent of the disaster was realized and willing hands were at work. The city hall was turned into a morgue and the high school building into a hospital. Most of the bodies of the dead were taken as found to the city hall, where, by the early Sabbath morning light, might have been seen more than a score of sheeted forms ready for burial. Seventy-three houses were completely demolished at Grinnell, and several others were badly damaged. The dead at Grinnell and vicinity numbered thirty-nine. It is a wonder that more were not killed. Fully three hundred persons were in the buildings destroyed, and the escape of nearly the entire number was largely due to the protection which cellars afforded. I can learn of but a single instance where a person was fatally injured who had fled to the cellar. The property loss at Grinnell was not far from a quarter of million dollars,

about one-third of which was the college loss. Just about a minute passed from the time the first houses in town were struck until the college buildings were reached—three-fourths of a mile distant—thus showing the velocity of the storm to be about forty-five miles an hour at Grinnell.

The Grinnell Herald, in a special, issued the day after the cyclone, gave a graphic account of the disaster, with a list of the dead and wounded. A relief committee of seven was appointed by the mayor to receive contributions and applications for aid. The next day, June 19, the following proclamation was issued by Gov. Sherman:

TO THE PEOPLE OF IOWA:

The tornado which passed through the central portion of the State on the night of the 17th, instant, has proved one of the most frightful calamities in the history of the commonwealth. Along the line of the storm, and especially at Grinnell and Malcom, there was not only a great destruction of property, but an appalling loss of human life; and many who escaped death in their ruined homes are left in a condition of suffering and need which appeals urgently to the generosity of our people. Ready hands and generous hearts have already done much to care for the wounded and shelter the homeless; but the results of so frightful a disaster must be long-lasting, and others farther removed from the scene only await an opportunity to aid their stricken fellow-citizens. I do, therefore, most heartily recommend that all contributions for their relief be sent to Hon. J. B. GRINNELL, who is fully authorized to receive them, and to whom such a trust of generosity may be most confidently committed.

Done at Des Moines this 19th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two, of the independence of the United States the one hundredth and sixth, and of the State of Iowa the thirty-sixth.

BUREN R. SHERMAN.

By the Governor:
J. A. T. HULL,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Grinnell left immediately for Chicago, Milwaukee, and other cities, to lay the matter before Boards of Trade and other organizations as well as to appeal to the general public for immediate aid. He also sent telegrams to all the county auditors of the State, asking that contributions be taken at the polls on June 27th, at a special election to be held for voting on the question of a prohibitory amendment to the constitution. He suggested that such sums as might

be contributed in this way be sent to Gov. Sherman, Ex.-Gov. Kirkwood, or Gen. A. C. Dodge, who would distribute it wisely.

J. S. Clarkson, of *The Des Moines Register*, after spending two days on the ground, sent a most urgent and eloquent appeal to the Associated Press with a request for its publication in all the papers of the country.

Relief began to pour in at once. Other necessary committees were appointed by the city council, and the work of substantial aid and restoration went on apace. The officers of the railway, express and telegraph companies offered the free use of their lines for all purposes connected with the work of relief or restoration. This service not only exhibited the sympathy and large-heartedness of those who were at the head of some of the greatest corporations of the land, but also represented a money value which has been realized and fully understood by but few outside of the stricken towns of Grinnell and Malcom.

A noble and helpful spirit was manifest from the first. No immediate appeal was made in behalf of the college. All effort was directed toward relieving the needs of the suffering people. At the same time many unsolicited contributions came from friends of the college, to be used in the restoration of college buildings. The members of the senior class in college, numbering twenty-nine, and who were to graduate on June 26th, raised a sufficient amount, including their own personal pledges, to enclose a building on the foundations of East College, destroyed by fire in 1870, to be known as Alumni Hall. After all urgent demands had been met, Mr. Grinnell and others raised about \$40,000 for the college and the work of restoring the college loss was prosecuted with such vigor that considerable room was available for the next term's work. The class work of the college was suspended for only a single day. On Tuesday, June 20th, chapel exercises were held at the M. E. church, and recitations and examinations were conducted in churches, halls and private houses for the remaining week of the term. On the 26th the usual commencement exercises were held, when

the class of twenty-nine young men and women received graduating degrees from the hands of President Magoun. On the same day the corner stone of Alumni Hall was laid.

The aim of the committee having in charge the distribution of relief funds, was, from the first, to aid in replacing dwellings destroyed, giving help only where most needed, and distributing little or no money outright. Some received no aid, being able or willing to stand their losses.

Notwithstanding the appeals made, the entire sum contributed for the aid of those who had lost their homes was far short of the actual loss. Mr. Grinnell, in his book entitled "Men and Events of Forty Years," suggests that nearly \$150,000 must have gone through the hands of Mayor Perry and the Committee. This estimate must have included donations of food and clothing as well as many private benefactions of a substantial nature which passed through the hands of the committee, but which could not be estimated in dollars and cents. The entire amount received in money and building material as reported by the mayor was \$60,-591.74. The contributions of Iowa towns and cities amounting to \$300 or over are as follows:

Grinnell, \$6,265; Des Moines, \$4,226; Davenport, \$2,507; Cedar Rapids, \$2,133; Dubuque, \$1,733; Marshalltown, \$1,645; Iowa City, \$1,000; Red Oak, \$900; Waterloo, \$854; Vinton, \$791; Muscatine, \$595; Keokuk, \$558; Council Bluffs, \$508; Hampton, \$500; Newton, \$400; Charles City, \$400; Lisbon, \$397; Pella, \$371; Belle Plaine, \$370; Ackley, \$355; Dallas Center, \$327; Eldora, \$302; Stuart, \$300.

It will thus be seen how numerous the smaller sums must have been to make up the amount. A few large amounts, however, were received from points outside the State. The final report of the mayor, published January 23, 1893, gave in detail all the sums received and their source, occupying an entire page in *The Grinnell Herald*, an eight column paper. The report closes as follows:

The gratitude of our citizens to the donors of this great charity in the time of their distress is deep and heartfelt. When we recall the events of that awful night and the scene of desolation presented to view that Sab-



THE RESIDENCE OF REV. J. M. CHAMBERLAIN, LOOKING NORTH.

bath morning, and now look back upon our rebuilt homes, we can but thank you in our hearts and say, "God bless you all."

A word to the sufferers of Grinnell and vicinity closes the report.

To many of you the memories of the Grinnell cyclone, the terrible storm that wrought you such woe, will be sad, bitter, and hard to bear. This cloud has also its silver lining. The warm-hearted sympathies of a generous public have led them to bear a part of your burdens. As the almoners of that bounty, guiding their action by presumably reliable information, the common council of Grinnell and various committees have served you faithfully, without pay, and without motive to do other than what they believed right.

C. N. PERRY, *Mayor.*

The college catalogue for 1882-3, issued in the spring of 1883, has the following statement:

Since the last catalogue was issued the sorest calamity in material losses has come upon the college which ever befell an institution of higher education in this or any other land. On the evening of June 17, 1882, a terrible tornado destroyed both the existing buildings with their contents, the only considerable article capable of further use which was spared being the bell which hung in the cupola of West College. In a few moments the gathered results of thirty-five years of toil, benevolence and sacrifice were annihilated. Immediate steps were taken to repair this unparalleled disaster. On Commencement Day, June 26th, the corner-stone of a new edifice on the site of East College (burnt in 1870) was laid, the class of 1882 having raised the funds for erecting the walls and roof. Since that time a second new hall on the site of West College has gone up, and the foundations of a third on the site of Central College have been begun. *

* * * The trustees have given instructions to complete these buildings within the year, * * * but the object cannot be accomplished without large generosity on the part of the friends of the college everywhere.

The catalogue of 1883-4 speaks of the restoration as having gone steadily on.

The catalogue of 1884-5 says:

The whole amount received for rebuilding is a little more than \$70,000. This is less than is commonly supposed, much less than reports have made it. It is less than the college lost by the tornado. The generous gifts that have come to us in our unexampled calamity, need to be repeated to-day.

I make these various quotations to show that while a generous and sympathizing public nobly responded to the needs of both people and college, the amount of contributions was much less than supposed, and far less than the

loss at the time. Malcom received a portion of the contributed funds, but no more in proportion to its needs than Grinnell. Both communities were stricken and both were remembered in the gifts of the public.

The places laid waste by the disaster were, for the most part, soon occupied by new buildings. In many cases modern and even elegant buildings took the place of plain and unpretentious structures, but all such improvements were made possible through the private means of those who had lost, and who met their losses unaided by public benefactions. The mayor, the city council, and the various committees did noble service, and only words of praise have ever been heard for the labor so freely and unselfishly performed.

Iowa College is today richer in buildings and equipments than before the disaster, not on account of her losses, but in spite of them. With her zealous and active Board of Trustees, her faithful and efficient faculty, and her five hundred loyal students, this institution, standing for higher education in its noblest and most comprehensive sense, has made and is making for herself friends who will not forget her in the future as she was not forgotten in her extremity.

In an article of this nature, though extended beyond the limits originally proposed, only an outline of the storm and its ravages can be given. Individual cases of extreme suffering, of noble sacrifices, wonderful escapes, bordering on the marvelous and even miraculous, curious effects of the storm as shown in special manifestations, must all be passed by without mention. Cyclones seem to be a part of our inheritance, and details of such disasters are now too well known to require special mention.

For much of the information concerning the course of the main storm wave I am indebted to the articles of Prof. J. K. Macomber, then at Ames, which were published at the time in *The State Register*. I have endeavored to verify all statements made, so that this article, as far as it goes, might be as nearly correct as possible.

There was little connected with this calamity which could be written in else than the sternest prose. The subject seemed unsuited to poetic measures. Two bits of verse, however, appeared at the time, in such well-chosen words that we reproduce them as a fitting close to this article. The first has reference to the fact that as soon as the disaster was known, the church and school bells of Grinnell were rung to notify the people that something of importance had happened.

THE BELLS OF GRINNELL.

BY EDWARD BARSTOW.

Hanging heavy in their towers,
 Saw they not the monster whirling
 Over prairie, over village,
 (Fiend of air, and bent on pillage!)
 Heard they not the hideous hurling
 Of the storm's mysterious powers?

Oh, the misery and moaning;
 Ah, the dreadful dawn tomorrow.
 Here a babe—and dead the mother—
 There a father or a brother
 Paralyzed with shock of sorrow,
 And the black night full of groaning.

Who will tell the strange disaster?
 Who has heart to breathe the story?
 Hasten now, to every steeple,
 Ring the bells and rouse the people;
 Start the young, and stir the hoary!
 And the bells went clanging faster.

East and west the news went crying;
 North and south the lightning fed it;
 Filled the hearts of men with pity
 For the tempest-stricken city;
 And wherever rumor sped it
 Help sprang up for maimed and dying.

Every human heart an angel
 Holds, 'tis said; and true we know it,—
 Times like these forever show it.
 And humanity's evangel,
 Sympathy, with arms upraised,
 Cries "Humanity be praised."

NOTHING LEFT.

BY HELEN CAMPBELL.

"Nothing left!" the message read,
 O'er the wires that swiftly sped.
 "Nothing left." The empty walls
 Tottering stand. A shadow falls
 On the home that yesterday
 Seemed a sure unchanging stay;
 But today can nevermore
 Welcome give from hall or door.

"Nothing left." Long years of toil,
 Lingering days of care and moil,
 Bravely met, each one a token
 Of a hope now crushed and broken.
 For the days to come can never
 Give back youth and youth's endeavor;
 And the soul, of all bereft,
 Sits in darkness, "Nothing left."

Nothing left? O heart of mine!
 Out of darkness, stars still shine.
 Walls may fall, but strong and sure
 The foundations still endure.
 Build again, with truer skill,
 Fairer walls and roof and sill;
 From the ruins let there rise
 Temples nearer to the skies.
 And each soul, howe'er bereft
 Knows that always *something's* left.

IMPORTANT CAPTURE.—Three days ago George Bell of this place, captured a beaver a mile and a half below town on the Des Moines river. The animal was four feet long, and weighed 75 pounds. He looked as though he might have been the original grandfather of all the beaver tribe west of the Mississippi river. He was an industrious fellow during his pilgrimage through life, and in death he was much lamented.—*Iowa State Register*, October 5, 1864.

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