sideration. Beginning at the most northerly, that is the station nearest the storm center, these times were: Albany, N. Y., 6:15 a. m., August 3; Binghamton, N. Y., 9:30 a. m., 3d; New York, N. Y., 11:50 p. m., 2d; Philadelphia, Pa., 2 a. m., 3d; Harrisburg, Pa., 7 a. m., 3d; Baltimore, Md., 12:25 a. m., 3d; Washington, D. C., 1:30 a. m., 3d.

In looking for an explanation of the severity of the storms in New Jersey and Maryland are met with that bugbear of almost all scientific investigation, "insufficient data." The only suggestion we have to offer is that the atmosphere in the localities named was more humid (relative humidity 92 per cent at Washington, D. C., and 82 per cent at Baltimore, Md., on the morning of the 2d) and that the vertical circulation, as indicated by the formation of cloud early in the day, was more active than in adjacent districts. The eastward drift of the cyclonic system that covered the Lake region in the morning would bring it into districts whose atmospheric conditions, from the causes just mentioned, were already in a highly favorable state for the development of thunderstorms. This might also be offered as accounting, in a measure, for the severity of the storm.

OBSERVATIONS AT RIVAS, NICARAGUA.

Simultaneous observations at 1 p. m. Greenwich (or 7:17 a. m. local) time, August, 1899.

Date.	Temperature.		Wind.		Upper clouds.*			Lower Clouds.		
	Air.	Dew-point.	Direction.	Force.	Kind.	Amount.	Direction from.	Kind.	Amount.	Direction from.
	°	°								
1	79	73	se.	5				k.	Few*	*se.
2	79	73	se.	2	ck.	10	sw.	k.	Few	se.
3	79	75	ne.	3				ks.	3	ne.
4	77.5	74	ne.	3				k.	10	ne.
5	78.5	75	ne.	3	ck.	10		ks.	Few	ne.
6	79.5	73	ne.	5				ak.	10	ne.
7	79.5	72	ne.	6				fk.	5	ne.
8	80	73	ne.	6				fk.	1	ne.
9	79	73	ne.	5	c.	1	sw.	fk.	1	ne.
10	80	76	ne.	3	cs.	5	e.	fk.	Few	ne.
11	79.5	76	ne.	1				ak, k.	9	ne.
12	80.5	75	ne.	2	cs.	9	se.	k.	1	ne.
13	80	76	se.	3	ck.	9		k.	1	se
14	77.5	75	nw.	0				k.	10	se.
15	80	76	e.	3				fk.	9	e.
16	78.5	75	ne.	3				k.	10	ne.
17	80	73	ne.	4				fk.	8	ne.
18	80	73	se.	4				k, ks.	10	se.
19	78	74	ne.	5				fk.	1	ne.
20	78.5	75	ne.	3				ak.	9	ne.
21	79	73	ne.	6	ck.	2		k.	7	ne.
22	80	73	e.	5				ak, k.	5,2	se., e.
23	79	75	ne.	5				k.	10	ne.
24	78.5	75	se.	4				ak, k.	10	se.
25	76	73	ne.	2				k.	9	ne.
26	74	74	†	0				kn.	10	n.
27	75.5	72	ne.	0				ak.	10	ne.
28	75.5	72	ne.	5				ak.	7	ne.
29	77	73	ne.	3	ck.	10		k.	Few	ne.
30	75.5	72	ne.	0	cs.	2	se.	k.	1	ne.
31	76.5	74	se.	1	cs.	5		ak.	Few	se.
Means	78.4									
Departure	+1.50									

*On Ometepe. †n. by w.

Climatological observations for twenty-four hours ending at 7:17 a. m. local (or 1 p. m. Greenwich) time, August, 1899.

Date.	Temperature.		Wind.		Average cloudiness.	Total rainfall.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Prevailing direction.	Maximum force.		
	°	°				Inches.
1	82	77.5	ene.	5	9	0.00
2	88	77	e., se.	7	3	0.00
3	87.8	77.6	ne-e.	5	5	0.01
4	86	78	ne.	5	9	0.19
5	87.5	76	ne.	4	7	0.02
6	88	77	ne.	6	6	0.06
7	85.8	78	ne.	5	9	0.00
8	89	78	ne.	7	8	0.00
9	87	79	ne-e.	6	6	0.00
10	89	77.6	ne.	5	7	0.00
11	88	78	ne.	4	3	0.03
12	87	78	ne.	8	8	0.00
13	89.1	78	ne.	3	10	0.00
14	86	79	se.	5	10	0.17
15	87	77	ese.	4	7	0.58
16	88	78	ne-e.	5	9	0.03
17	86.5	77	ne.	4	7	0.04
18	87	76.8	ne.	5	8	0.01
19	81	76	e-ne.	6	10	1.20
20	85.5	76	ne., se.	5	6	0.20
21	84	77.4	ne-e.	5	7	0.46
22	82.5	77.5	ne-se.	7	7	0.06
23	83	78	*	7	4	T.
24	83	79	ne-se.	6	7	0.95
25	84.3	77.5	e-se.	7	10	0.34
26	80.2	74.5	ne-se.	3	9	2.22
27	78	74	n-se.	2	10	1.02
28	82	75	ne-e.	4	9	0.00
29	84.5	75	ne.	6	6	0.07
30	84	76	ne se.	5	8	1.40
31	85	73.5	ne-e.	3	7	0.22
Sums						†9.28
Means	85.0					
Departure						+1.31

*ne. by e.

†0.02 inch that fell on July 31 should be added to the above, and 0.05 that fell on the afternoon of August 31 should be transferred to the September rainfall, thus the corrected rainfall for August becomes 9.25.

The records contributed for many years by Dr. Earl Flint, at Rivas, Nicaragua, include barometric readings. His present station is at 11° 26′ N., 85° 47′ W. The observations at 7:17 a. m., local time, are simultaneous with Greenwich 1 p. m. The altitude of this barometer is now said to be 4 feet above ground; the thermometer 6 feet above ground; the rain gage 7 feet above ground. The ground is 210 feet above sea level. Until the barometer has been compared with a standard it seems hardly necessary to publish the daily readings. The wind force is recorded on the Beaufort scale, 0–12. When cloudiness is less than $\frac{1}{10}$, the letter "F," or "Few," is recorded

This station is situated on the western shore of Lake Nicaragua, not far from the eastern end of the western division of the Nicaragua Canal. The volcano Ometepe, on an island in Lake Nicaragua, is about 10 miles northeast of the station. Dr. Flint's records occasionally mention the presence of clouds on the summit of this mountain.

Dr. Flint's reports to the Weather Bureau now embrace two distinct features, namely, the simultaneous morning observations and the daily climatological summary, as given in the two prcceding tables for each month.

NOTES BY THE EDITOR.

A NEWSPAPER TORNADO FAKE.

In mining engineering a fake is a worthless, deceptive stratum among the valuable ones; in theatrical usage it means a worthless piece of stage property or rubbish; in popular American usage it means a story that is plausible, and at first readily believed, but on investigation turns out to be a fiction that was intended to deceive, i. e., a cheat and a lie.

We regret to have to use this word so often, but it is expressive and appropriate. The popular interest in meteorology is intense, and thousands whose business depends upon knowing the exact truth do not generally care to stop and investigate a dubious startling novelty—they come straight to the Weather Bureau and overwhelm our observers with questions; they seem to look to the Bureau to protect them