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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SHOWERS OF FISHES

Reports of fish falling from the sky are not necessarily "fish stories." In all the authentic cases the fish were probably carried aloft by a waterspout or tornado and deposited within a few miles of the place they came from. Various other objects, animate and inanimate, may be similarly transported. It is a hobby of Dr. E. W. Gudger, of the American Museum of Natural History, to collect and publish records of these fishy showers, and he has just added two to a list of more than seventy previously reported.

One case occurred May 15, 1900, on the outskirts of Providence, R.I., and was described by Richard Hoadley Tingley. A severe thunderstorm with a high wind brought a heavy downpour of rain and with it living, squirming perch and bullpouts from two to four and a half inches long, which fell on yards and streets over an area of about a quarter of an acre. Mr. Tingley said he was out in the storm and was pelted with fish as well as raindrops. Boys collected the fish by the pailful and sold them.

The other case is more interesting because the air was almost calm at the place and time of its occurrence; which does not, of course, imply that there was not a strong wind at high levels above where the fish fell. This shower occurred on a farm about twelve miles east of Tarboro, Edgecombe County, N. C. There was a heavy fall of rain, which flooded a field planted a few days before with cotton. The fish were from an inch and a half to two inches long, and though they were not seen to fall, hundreds were found after the shower in the water lying over the field. The spot is some three quarters of a mile from the nearest watercourse, which is not known to contain any considerable number of fish.

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