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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 23, 1931

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WHAT IS IT?

None of the many strange luminous phenomena that haunt the air is more mysterious than the one that has been famous for more than a century under the name of the "fire ship of Bay Chaleur." Twenty-five years ago Prof. W. F. Ganong, the well-known botanist, published all the information he was able to glean about this strange phenomenon through interviews with people dwelling along the bay in question, many of whom had repeatedly seen it. He left the mystery unsolved, and so it remains to this day.

The so-called ship is seen mostly over the waters of Bay Chaleur, Canada, but the same object or something similar has sometimes been reported in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in Northumberland Straits. It occurs not only in summer but also over the ice in winter. People have gone out in boats to examine it, but it disappeared as they approached and reappeared in its original position after they passed some distance beyond it. Its usual outline is roughly hemispherical, with the flat side to the water, and at times it simply glows without much change of shape, but at other times it rises into slender moving columns, giving an appearance not unlike that of the flaming rigging of a ship. Its visibility is generally regarded by the residents of the Bay Chaleur country as a sign of stormy weather.

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