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AN ENGLISH TORNADO

Tornadoes are more common and, on an average, more violent in North America than in any other part of the world, but the statement often made that our continent monopolizes such storms is an error. The following account of one that occurred in Cornwall, England, on June 9, 1878, is from an English scientific journal (which describes the storm as a "whirlwind"):

"The storm, which lasted only about five minutes, came from the southwest and seems to have been confined to a small space, as some houses quite close to those damaged received no injury at all. It is a miracle no lives were lost, as a great many trees fell near dwelling houses. The storm appears to have been confined to the Fowey River and its neighborhood. At Lerryn the mischief done was considerable. The little village is surrounded with orchards and upwards of 300 apple trees were uprooted. Large oak, elm and other trees were also uprooted. The damage done to house property was also great, houses being entirely stripped of their roofs and chimneys being blown down, but happily no one was injured.

"In the little village of Couched Mill, about one mile from Lerryn, it also raged with great fury, doing considerable damage to the orchards and house property. Mr. Isabell, who owns a large mill at Couched Mill, was awake at the time and says that he heard something coming up the valley roaring like a heavy peal of thunder. He got up and looked out of the window and for three minutes, he says, the lightning was awful. He saw wood which he had stacked blowing about as if it was paper. Some pieces which had been cut for barrel staves were afterward found more than a mile away, at which distance they broke the windows of a farmhouse."

The description adds that the path of the storm was only about 20 yards wide. No funnel cloud is mentioned, probably because the storm occurred at night when the shape of the cloud would probably escape notice, but such clouds have often been seen in Old World tornadoes.

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