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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A HURRICANE HYMN

Meteorological phenomena in great variety have formed the subjects of poems, and a good many of songs. Even so unfamiliar an atmospheric manifestation as the mock sun furnished the German poet Wilhelm Müller with the theme of a poem -- "Die Nebensonnen" -- which Schubert set to music.

And now we learn from an English scientific journal that the West Indian hurricane of September 12-20, 1928, which wrought so much devastation in Puerto Rico and Florida, inspired a new negro "spiritual." Rescuers in the flooded parts of Florida found negro refugees clinging to floating pieces of wood and the like, singing the while:

"On the sixteenth of September  
In the year nineteen twenty-eight,  
God started riding very early  
And He rode till very late.  
He rode out in the ocean,  
Chained the lightning to His wheel,  
Stepped on the land at West Palm Beach,  
And the wicked hearts did yield."

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