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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A TYPICAL TORNADO

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Authority on Meteorology.

Now that tornadoes are in season here is a typical description of one that occurred in Mississippi last February, as reported to the Weather Bureau by an eye-witness, C.L. Pace:

"Mr. Pace stated that about 15 minutes before the funnel-shaped cloud passed, he noticed the clouds to the south, southwest, and west were very black and greatly disturbed. It appeared as though two of the cloud masses were being drawn together, as though by suction. About 5 to 7 minutes before the storm passed, the sound of distant roaring similar to the noise produced by the approach of a long freight train on a still night was first noticed and about the same time the pendent cloud was observed to the southwest moving toward the observer; the pendent seeming to extend downward into a mist-like roll or ball-shaped cloud on the ground. Realizing that a tornado was approaching, Mr. Pace and those with him were about to seek refuge in a gully near the house when they noticed that the storm would pass some distance to the eastward.

"He said he watched the storm as long as it was visible and that it moved rather slowly, the lower portion 'bouncing along the ground.' This rising and falling of the pendent cloud is indicated by the damage to trees. At some places in the path, destruction is complete; at other places just the tree-tops are splintered and broken; at still other places there seems to be no effect of the storm at all except scattered débris, which was apparently dropped from the funnel cloud as it passed overhead. As the storm passed, it produced a deafening roar. In describing the action of the storm as it passed over a barn, Mr. Pace said the barn seemed to be enveloped in a cloud of dust and mist and immediately the air over the place where it had stood was full of débris flying in all directions 'as though a great flock of large birds, suddenly frightened, had flown into the air.' When the cloud had passed, the barn was no longer there, but débris could be seen falling as the storm swept on."

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