

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A SHOWER OF BERRIES

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Authority on Meteorology.

Long is the catalogue of strange things reported to have fallen from the sky!

On the night of May 9, 1867, aromatic berries of a species not identified, are said to have fallen in large quantities: in the city of Dublin. A correspondent of one of the Dublin newspapers wrote of this event:

"Both on the north and south sides of the river these berries fell in great quantities and with great force, some being larger than the ordinary Spanish nut. Most of these strange visitors were picked up in Capel Street, in Dame Street and Bishop Street and I am informed that so violent was the force with which they descended that even the police, protected by unusually strong head covering, were obliged to seek shelter from the aerial fusillade."

Another writer reported to Symons's Meteorological Magazine that he had been given two of the berries, which were in the form of a very small orange, about one-half inch in diameter, black in color and, when cut across, seemed as if made of some hard dark brown wood. They had a slight aromatic odor.

The explanation that fits most stories of this character is that quantities of the objects or material in question were swept up by the wind and subsequently deposited at some place more or less distant from the source. The air currents involved must, in such cases, blow in such a way that the lifted material tends to be concentrated in a certain area, or, at any rate, not to be much scattered during the period of transportation.

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