

Just over the Line in Iowa.

Jackson, Minn. Republic 5-17-1879

Last Saturday afternoon things in the air were lively and exciting. Thunder, lightning, hail and rain, are common and necessary in any well regulated and healthy community; whirlwinds, water-spouts, and even diminutive cyclones are quite common and comparatively innocent-aerial diversions; but when it comes to shooting

500-POUND RED HOT BALLS OF IRON

or like metallic kind promiscuously through the air, then it partakes the nature of grandeur and sublimity, and if one happens to be in range it approaches mighty near what might be termed danger. Such was actually the missile that went ricochetting through space that afternoon and whose track was plainly visible throughout this section of country, and the explosion of which made windows rattle and people tremble.

A few of the unsuspecting undertook to palm the long, red, smoky skyward substance off as a peculiar cloud, and the explosion as peculiar thunder, but most conceded that it was a meteor. On Monday all doubt in this direction ceased, when Mr. Ridley, of Estherville, brought to THE REPUBLIC office a piece of the meteor itself, and which he saw taken from the identical spot where it fell. It had opened the earth for a space of ten feet across just over the line in the town of Emmet, Iowa. One piece weighing 2½ pounds had been dug out when he left. It threw sods about for fifteen rods, and other evidences went to show that a little perseverance would exhume the strange aerial visitor that had so suddenly sought sepulture in the beautiful valley of the Des Moines. On Wednesday, Mr. S. B. Weir came to our office, and who first discovered the terra firma destination of the new comer, and informed us that after digging fifteen feet they reached the

FIVE HUNDRED POUND WONDER,

which had been driven that distance into the ground, and ten feet of which was in solid blue clay. The parties succeeded in raising it by means of levers and chains

and it weighed 431 pounds, another piece 32 pounds, and with other pieces that were found, made the whole meteor safely 500 pounds. Its exterior is rather ragged and its exact composition is a matter of speculation. In size it is two feet in length, and 14 by 21 inches, hence the sublimity in contemplating the body, its course, its momentum, as well as its destination. Its starting point is a matter not easily figured, its exact orbit not positively known, but its destination is not a matter of speculation, for within 12 rods of the School House near John Barber's, about a mile east of the residence of our good friend Charles Jarvis, that burning, bursting, cannon-resounding, lightning-speed missile came in contact with the earth.

Mr. W. R. Pingrey was in our office yesterday and informed us that another piece that

WEIGHED ABOUT 150 POUNDS

was afterwards found on A. A. Pingrey's farm, about two miles from the other and which was buried five feet in the solid clay.

The track of this meteor was observed for miles around and the explosion heard in many places. We give the following telegrams sent to the Chicago *Inter Ocean*:

WORTHINGTON, Minn., May 11.—A meteor, apparently about the size of an ordinary foot-ball, passed over this place about 5 o'clock this afternoon, and descending east of town, exploded with a report equal to the discharge of a 300-pounder. The concussion shook the town, and the first impression among the people generally was that there had been a mill explosion. The shock and report were very great. The meteor was plainly visible in its passage through the air, looking like a ball of fire with a long train of vapor behind it. It exploded just before it struck the earth.

LEXINGTON, Iowa, May 11.—A remarkable meteor appeared in the sky yesterday at 4:45 p. m., the sun shining brightly at the time. It appeared with a long stream of blue and yellow flame, descending rapidly, exploding before reaching the horizon. The trail of smoke was seen for several minutes afterward, and seen at Storm Lake, and a double explosion was heard, and houses in the town

shaken.

In the future some scientific person may give us more light upon this particular meteor, and if so we will promptly make any new facts known. It is still in the possession of the parties who raised it from its destination in the clay and many have already visited the spot and