



Dinton

A storm of terrific grandeur visited this city and neighbourhood on Monday evening from the South West, commencing about nine o'clock, increasing in intensity until midnight, and scarcely terminating before two or three o'clock in the following morning. The lightning was unusually vivid, descending occasionally in a broad columnar line, spreading out into broad sheets which cast a yellow glare upon every object visible, and was reflected from the edges of the clouds, and issuing in angular streaks simultaneously from various points of the heavens. As the flashes became more frequent and the thunder boomed more loudly through the air, the rain began to descend in torrents – perhaps it would be no exaggeration to say in cataracts. At Tisbury, Dinton, Barford, Fovant and other villages where the valleys are narrow and the descent from the downs rapid, great damage was done to the young crops, as also to the hay, which remained uncarted, by the descent of the water from the uplands. Fields of hay were washed away, and where this was not the case, a great portion was found to be spoiled by grit and sand which had become mixed with it. In some places the turnips were washed out of the ground, and in many instances the surface soil of the valleys injured by the deposit of the detritus, borne down by the channels which came suddenly rushing from the higher grounds in the vicinity. It has been mentioned to us that before the commencement of the storm, a beautiful mirage was visible in the neighbourhood of Woodford. A sheet of mist covered the valley, and on its broad smooth surface, as seen from the hills, the objects above the level of the fog-line were mirrored as in a looking-glass.

A recurrence of the storm was experienced on Tuesday afternoon, though more partially; but we regret to record the occurrence of a serious casualty at Dinton. A ground barn and stavel barn were struck by the electric fluid, or, according to the popular belief, by a “fire-ball,” and the buildings were speedily wrapped in flames. Some men were engaged with a thrashing machine at the time, but providentially escaped unhurt, as also did the horses which were employed in the work. The barns, cowhouse, and adjoining premises, the machine itself, and about five and twenty loads of wheat were, however, totally consumed, and the consternation of those who witnessed this sudden and fearful disaster, was of course very great indeed.

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