

On May the 22nd, Commander Francisco Montero, Morong District, reported a most appalling occurrence, to the Central Government at Manila which reads as follows (Superioridad)

On the 17th inst. at 6:45 p.m., there appeared in the sky a hose-shaped black cloud, or rather a whirlwind visibly changed with electric sparks, or better still, a gaseous exhalation at the moment a mighty squall broke out accompanied with a south-eastern storm.

With an almost ear-rending noise and horrible violence it swept down the streets of the Province Capital, destroying all the houses it encountered on the way, and setting afire all those which by reason of their greater resistance to the shock, could not be levelled to the ground.

In the first street, it began at the left side nearer the shores of Laguna, leaving a wooden house and a sentry-box on fire only to go over the row of houses on the right. In the second and third street, especially in the latter, burned another wooden house, which stood almost at the center of the street, and which located in the northeast, was a very good land-mark, as it were, to point out its rotation, which could be represented by the letter S. All this happened in the village at the speed of 800 meters in 3 minutes.

Presently I went to the nearest fire, where I found Captain Francisco de Dios, Chief of the Civil Guard (Guardia Civil), already on the spot. I told him to continue the work of fighting the fire out. Then making for the first street at hand, I succeeded in preventing the conflagration from