

The Whirlwind and waterspout of Morong, on May 17, 1871 - For administrative purposes the various regions of the Philippines, under the Spanish rule, were divided into provinces and districts. Most of the actual province of Rizal belonged formerly to the district of Morong. The Capital or cabecera of the District was Morong, a town situated on the northern shore of Laguna de Bay and almost at the head of the bay, made by the peninsula of Jala-Jala on one side and the island of Talim on the other. Francisco Montero, the commanding officer of the District reported from Morong to the Central Government at Manila on May 22, 1871 the following facts. First, on May 17, 1871, at 6<sup>h</sup> 45<sup>m</sup> p.m., just at the moment when a thundershower from the SE was pouring rain over the town, there appeared a waterspout darkish in color, or a whirlwind charged with electric sparks. It entered the town with tremendous roar and horrible violence, destroying all the houses on its way or setting afire all those that by reason of their greater resistance could not be levelled to the ground. Second, the motion of the whirlwind through the town was most erratic, similar to the form of a capital S. Third, the translation of the whirlwind across the town of Morong was at the rate of 800 meters in 3 minutes or 116 kilometers per hour. Fourth, the damage done to the town by the storm was the destruction of 43 houses and the uprooting of many fruit trees and bamboo palms. Fifth, the storm was attended by a very heavy rain which aided much in extinguishing the fires. Sixth, the people were frightened by the presence of a phenomenon which they had never seen before, and were over-