

LOCAL NEWS.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1879.

BRIEF LOCALS.

The Meteor.—Trouble over Its Proprietaryship.

The meteor or aerolite that fell in our neighboring town of Emmet, Iowa, the other day and of which we gave full particulars in our last week's paper, has continued to be discussed and speculated upon, and we would state that all the facts are as stated and gradually other facts have been obtained and fuller details have come to light, and the mystery still provokes inquiry and speculation. With Prof. E. J. Thompson, of the State University, we this week paid a visit to the spot where the huge monster fell and learned many facts connected with its descent and terminus and some not so pleasant when we take into account the advancement of science. The main facts are exactly as we stated and it is useless to repeat them. That mammoth metallic missile sent from some unknown locality through space was actually shot in installments into the quiet shades of Emmet, and we have seen the lodging places of these wonderful aerolitic specimens, and conversed with parties who saw them fall and who exlumed them from their temporary lodging places.

The two large specimens—one weighing 431 pounds and the other 150 pounds—are supposed to be in the hands of the parties who dug them from the earth, and who now are engaged in the incipient stages of litigation with the owners of the lands for their possession. It is extremely unfortunate that any trouble should arise in this direction, for all the value they possess are of a scientific nature and pecuniary or avaricious motives should not intervene to divert these specimens from such purpose. Prof. Heinrich, of Iowa University, visited the spot, and it was even with difficulty that he gained sight of the monsters. Prof. Thompson saw the 150-pound specimen, but the larger one was hid away or sunk, merely to gratify avaricious parties who were afraid the owner of the land where the aerolite fell might serve replevin papers for its possession. Little pieces are hawked about for one dollar, five dollars, and even ten dollars asked for the precious little blocks, while the prices set upon the large pieces are way up beyond the reach of ordinary pockets. "Avarice, ignorance and stupidity," is the way our friend Jarvis expresses it, and we guess those are the words. It strikes us the parties should receive twice or three times their value, but no exorbitant figure should be expected for what is really valuable only for scientific purposes. A few days and the excitement will be over, then they can undoubtedly be procured at reasonable prices. We are promised an analysis for publication promptly as soon as it is made. There is nothing particularly uncommon in the apertures made by these pieces of aerolite, they simply forced themselves into the earth because the force and momentum with which they came could not have ceased suddenly, but must have sent them whirling in some spiral shape until they had plowed to the depth they were found.

Prof. E. J. Thompson, State University, was in town this week and went to see the meteor and take observations.

The rush westward continues—no action in the onward march of tented camps, herds of cattle and droves of sheep.

Frank A. Day, of the Fairmont *tribune*, came up Monday evening to see my Marble in Rip Van Winkle, and Tuesday he and W. W. Williams, of Albert Lea *Standard* came up to see Jackson by lamp light, gas light and daylight, and to visit the meteor, Spirit Lake and other suburban sights. Happy boys, they represent two lively, able family members.

We this week happened to bring up a few minutes in our quiet neighboring town of Estherville, Iowa, and after a good dinner with Ridley, of the Emmet house, a brief call at the *Vindicator* office, impressed Frank Davey into service and viewed the ground where meteors briefly lie around loose. We are under obligations to him and James Maher for piloting us around that now staked ground. We rather suspect, Frank, that meteor was aimed at that hot-headed man Brown out near Tenhassen, but stopped a little short—don't you think so?