

midst of-most of them, if not all; the force of their Fall argued them to fall from a great Height. These are the Circumstances have yet occur'd; next Week when I go to *Snowdon*, I may chance to find the beginning of this Hail, at least trace it as far as the Sea; and perhaps you may hear further of it out of *Torkshire*, beyond *Tork*, towards *Burroughbrigg*, and *Rippon*. What I take to be most extraordinary in this Phenomenon is, that such a sort of Vapours should continue undispers'd for so long a Tract, as above sixty Miles together, and in all the way of its Passage occasion so extraordinary a Coagulation and Congelation of the watry Clouds, as to encrease the Hail-stones to so vast a Bulk in so short a Space as that of their Fall.

Tours, &c.

V. Part of another Letter, Dated May 1. giving a larger Account of the same Hail-Storm.

BEcause you will shortly hear a Report of a prodigious Hail-Storm, that fell in our part of this Country on *Thursday* last, between Three and Four a Clock in the Afternoon, I will hastily hint something of the matter to you, lest your self and acquaintance should think it fabulous. We had only the extreme Skirt of the Shower here, and there fell not above a Hundred Hail-stones in our Court, but they were much larger and harder than the oldest of us had seen: A Gentlewoman sent for one into the House, and found it by Measure to be about

about five Inches about. I was busied a while in my Study, to preserve some Papers from an expected Wet, one of the Stones having shiver'd a part of my West-Window, but no Rain succeeded the Fall of the Hail. Then I went down and viewed the Garden and Court, and found the Stones had fallen at good distances one from another, and that they were melting very fast, the Weather being very hot, scarce any of them was so little as a Musquet Bullet, but most of them far bigger, and of that Figure. In a little time comes my Servant from *Bootle-Mill*, wherein he was during the Shower, and tells us a dreadful Story, what a Noise the Hail made upon the Siates there; and how the Sea seem'd to be risen to an unwonted Height, and to bear the Appearance of a Wood. So they concluded that either the Mill would be beaten down upon their Heads, or the Sea overflow the Land and drown them; nor durst they leave their Covert, for fear of being wounded by the Hail. When the Storm was over, he said, he view'd the Hail-stones, and found them as big as Poot-Eggs. He told us many Sea-Fowl and Land-Fowl were killed; that he saw the one lie dead at a distance, the other in his return home; and as an Instance of it, he took up a Sea-Swallow on *Bootle-Marsh*, whose Wing was broken with an Icy Pellet, and brought her home. Considering that the Storm came from the North-Weft, and that it was just spent when those Stones fell here, I thought there was some Ground for my Servants Story; upon which I mounted and rid towards the Grounds which had shared more in it. When I came to *Bootle*, I saw *Jane Mutche's* Windows ill batter'd; and a little further at the Spings, *Tho. Ascroft*, who with a Maid was drawing Thatch, told me, the young Woman was knock'd down with a Hail-stone; she confirm'd his Word, and added, as she was running to the next House
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for shelter, her Hat fell off, and a Hail-stone that hit her behind the Ear made her tumble. Thence I went to *William Halsal's* of *Linaker*, and found the Storm had been as violent there; *William* was in his Barn when it began, and told me, when he saw two or three of the first Stones fall, he thought some young Wantons had been throwing Eggs. I saw what Breaches of Thatch it had made upon his Barn, what Boughs it had broke off from his Apple Trees; and what Wounds the Hail-stones had made in the green Brow by his House; I measured several of the Holes, and found them generally an Inch deep, and some an Inch and Half. He told me, the great Stones fell so violently into the Marl-Pit besides his House, that Spout of Water rose a Yard and Half high. This unriddled my Man's Story, that the Sea appear'd like a Wood. I rested a full Hour at *William Halsal's*, where some Neighbours came in and told doleful Stories of the Effects of the Hail; how sundry Teams of Horses ran *Wood*, as they term it, upon the Strokes of the Hail; and had broke Carts and Ploughs. I remember the Instance of *James Williamson*, who married *Edw. Butler's* Daughter. A little before I remounted, a Man calls there from *Sephton*, and among his Histories gives this Instance, That a certain Person was knock'd off his Horse by the Hail, over against the Brick-house (*Darwin's*) which is next to *Brian Fleetwood's*, but that he presently got up again, and pursued his Horse. When I came home late in the Evening, I heard more News. *Dr. Tarleton* brought Tidings from *Ormskirk*, that Four Pounds Damage was done to the Inn (*Mr. Gleast* of *Liverpool* owner) where he set up; and that he took up Hail-stones as big as Duck-Eggs upon *Aughton* Common in his return hither. And *Mr. Shepherd* our School-master happen'd then to be at *Sephton* to shoot young Rooks, and was with another

another at the Ale-house on the side of the Church-yard; who professes to me, upon the Fall of the Hail, the Church-yard seem'd to them as strew'd with Duck-Eggs. He says, *Darwin's Wife* weigh'd a Hail-stone brought in by Mr. *Letham*, which amounted to full half a Pound: And that Mr. *Peter Morton* (Brother to the Bishop of *Kildare*) being a little way from the Hall of *Sephton*, where he and his Sisters dwell, pull'd down his Hat hard upon his Head to save his Face, and down comes a Stone and tears the Brim from the Crown, so far, that Mr. *Shepherd* could have put his whole Hand through the Hole. This Morning comes our constant Butcher, from *Ormskirk*, and tells Mr. *Richmond* and me, he would not undertake to repair the Glass broke by the Storm in that Town for Sixty Pounds; and that he was with Dr. *Tarleton* when *Gleash's* Windows were all to the West beaten in, and the Tiles off the House. He adds, that Mr. *Barton* the Apothecary there, and Mr. *Ja. Farrer*, weigh'd two Hail-stones, which came to Three Quarters of a Pound a piece. This Morning *Rich. Taylour* of *Ince* came to Mr. *Richmond* for his Taxes, and affirms, That *William Fleetwood* and *Rich. Rose*, had either of them a Horse knock'd down in the Plow, and *Fleetwood's* Man fell at the same time; the Hail being there part as big as Duck, and part as Goose-Eggs. In *Crosby*, some Beasts were knock'd down. One *Jo. Holland* was found dead in *Skirmsdale* after the Shower, but whether by the Hail or Lightning (for it came with Thunder and Lightning I have not yet heard). I now step back to a Domestick Concern forgot before, remembering my Servant had told me of the Slaughter of Sea-Fowl, I had a mind to send some People to the Sea-side for trial of the matter; but they told me it had been full Water at Six a Clock, and that the
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little Towns next the Sea would surely have pick'd them up ; as we hear they did by Bulhels ; but they would be the first at the next Mornings Tide. They rid out early, and brought in seven sort of Fowls, as Curlew, Sea-Pye, Sea-Swallow, Gorre, and other we want Names for. And to give a rare Treat to some Friend, we have this Day put them up in Pots, and set them in the Oven. Mrs. *Mary Clayton*, coming this way with her *Preston-Sister* and Mrs. *Langton*, were a little while in the Shower before they got covert, and were so beaten by it, that they could hardly turn them in their Beds next Morning ; they are now at *Leverpool* with their Bruises plasted. They could hardly pass the Lanes for Baskets, Panniers, Sacks, and People, which the Horses had thrown down in their return from *Ormskirk Market*. No Hail fell at *Everton*, *Lowhill*, or *Leverpool*, the Storm ending near *Walton*. But there was so thick a Darkness before the Storm, that in *Leverpool* many People ran out of their Houses into the Street to look at the Face of the Sky, and it was marvellous dark here : *Sim. Smith* saith, the Stones that fell in *Ormskirk* rebounded many of them two Yards high, such Force they fell with, and were so compact. Many a broken Head and bruised Body there were ; I have seen many of them, haſt forbids more.

Tours, &c.