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### Views of Buildings Destroyed at Kansas City, Mo.

Just what this country is coming to it is hard to tell. In the early part of the century, tornadoes were almost unknown. Even thirty years ago they were of the rarest occurrence. One which passed through Central and Southern Ohio about twenty-eight years ago has become historic. But now no part of the country seems safe from earthquakes and tornadoes. If we are to be whipped about in this sort of way all over the land every year or two, what are we coming to, indeed?

At Xenia, O., twenty-six persons lost their lives in the tornado and flood of May 12. Ten others are yet missing. They were mostly colored and lived near the creek. It is nearly always the poor and the lowly who suffer.

Archer creek is an insignificant stream that runs through Xenia in a way so unpretentious that it is not thought to be any sort of a "run" at all. Culverts bridge it. But at 9 o'clock at night there came a terrific thunderclap. A waterspout seemed to strike that part of the town along Archer creek. A man residing close to the stream says that in two minutes after the thunderclap he was waist deep in water. Just so suddenly did the flood come. In Illinois and Indiana there were terrific floods and tornadoes the same day. Kansas and Missouri had their turn the day before. It looks to be the same storm passing eastward.

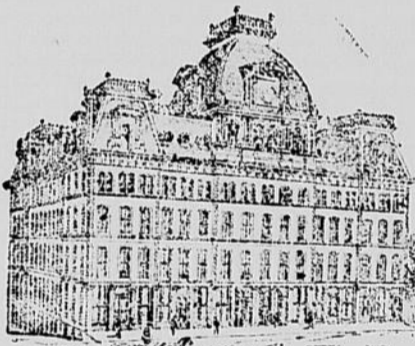


SCHOOLHOUSE, KANSAS CITY.

Minnesota and the northwestern states have had their experience, and even New England and Virginia and Pennsylvania have not escaped. April, May and June are the tornado months. In the west recently, Kansas City, Mo., suffered most. This is a town of wonderful enterprise, pluck, industry and money.

One of the houses wrecked was the Lathrop public school building. It had lately had a wing put to it for an art school. If art is a failure in this country it will not be because the west is not cultivating it. Almost every village has its art school.

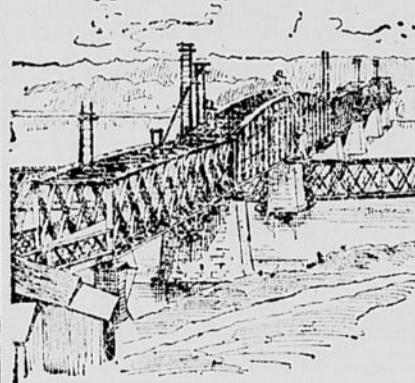
The Lathrop school house was topped with a great ungainly tower of masonry. Twice it had been pronounced unsafe and twice condemned, the last time only a few weeks ago, but no attention was paid to the warning. If it had been heeded the score or more of little children now lying crushed and cold in death might have been yep alive. The tornado struck the northwest corner of the house. The huge tower swayed a moment, uncertain, then toppled and fell inward through the centre of the structure. The house was full of pupils. Before the storm cloud burst the air had been fearfully still, and the heavens had turned dark as twilight.



THE COURT HOUSE.

The children were frightened, but covered quiet at their teachers' command till the storm fell. It was the smallest pupils in the basement, poor little things, that were hurt most. The storm raged so terrifically that all was one wild noise and spin and whirl for three quarters of an hour. It was wind and water together. It ceased suddenly, and in a moment the schoolyard was full of horror-stricken people. They began the work of digging out the dead and crushed babes. The scenes were heartrending as one after another was recognized by its parents. It was a time of agony and fear. When the rescuers were lifting out one girl she begged them to leave her and help the boy who was pinned down beside her because he was so little, only 5 years old. There were heroes among the tiny creatures who were carried out wounded and dying on that sad day.

The county court house was a handsome structure. It was built on a hill, commanding a view of the city. Consequently, it was exposed to the full fury of the storm. It had been built originally for a hotel, but the county bought it for \$200,000 and changed it into the court house you see in the picture, at least that is what it was a few days ago. Now it has no roof at all and most of the walls of the third and fourth stories are gone. It is a melancholy ruin. A deputy sheriff was killed by a falling wall. There were a number of prisoners in the basement and for the first time in their lives they had reason to congratulate themselves that they were in jail. They were held safe and uninjured in the basement during the storm.



BRIDGE ACROSS THE MISSOURI.

The first bridge built across the Missouri river was at Kansas City, and appears in the illustration.

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