

## Only Small Pieces

### Main Body of the Meteor Not Found

#### *Its Large Fragments Passed on toward Death Valley-Searchers Return*

Special dispatch to the Chronicle

*Keeler, February 5.* - Only small fragments have been found of the great meteor which floated across the sky last Thursday night. Parties have searched the country between Belleville and Candelaria thoroughly but the only evidences of the great blazing stone are broken branches of trees and small pieces of burnt rocks. These latter were found buried in the ground to a depth of several inches, showing the great force of explosion each gave them impetus.

It is certain the main body of the meteor did not fall between Belleville and Candelaria, as was supposed. A wild report that a hole 100 feet in diameter, caused by the meteor, had been found, proved without foundation.

Reports from various surrounding points at which the phenomenon was observed, has led to select two theories. Many think the force of explosion was so great that no large fragments of the aerolite remained. The finding of so many small pieces of meteoric rock lends color to this theory.

Others think that when the meteor exploded the main body divided into two or three parts and each of these took a different course. They argued that the small fragments were thrown off below the point of explosion, and that the large portions must be looked for miles and miles away.

This theory seems to be best supported by facts. Indians and laborers at the borax works in Saline Valley, about 100 miles in a northerly direction from here, report that they saw two balls of fire, but heard no explosion or noises. It seemed to them that one piece landed on the range of mountains east of Saline Valley. The other disappeared in a southeasterly direction, towards Death Valley. Parties in this valley saw the piece which traveled to toward Death Valley, but did not see the other, observed in Saline Valley.

At Darwin, a mining camp 30 miles southeast of here, what is supposed to have been a part of the meteor was seen. News from Mojave says that three balls of fire were seen there.

It was reported that an Indian had been found with his skull crushed, the deadly work being that of a fragment of the meteor. This was not confirmed.

It will be at least ten days before authentic news can reach here from Death Valley. It is learned that the searching parties from Belleville which were in the mountains endeavoring to locate the spot where the meteor struck have returned, being compelled to abandon the hunt on account of the stormy weather.

It has been very cold all day and snow has fallen very heavily in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and also in the White Mountains and in the Inyo range. From present indications the storm is severe enough to blockade any further attempts to search for the meteor, and C.T. Hill and party of Belleville, Nevada will not attempt to do any more searching until the weather moderates. A gentle rain is now coming down.

Two old miners and prospectors intend starting from Keeler tomorrow morning. Their destination is Panamint City, which is on the edge of the famous Death Valley and overlooks that section. They will skirt the edge of the Valley and will try to return by way of Saline Valley, where the meteor, or at least a part of it, was seen to pass and is supposed to have fallen.

A strange incident occurred while the telegraph operator at Keeler was sending this report. The wire was suddenly opened and a slight and distinct shock of earthquake was felt. It lasted for about 10 seconds and was apparently from East to West. The telegraph instruments refused to click and the San Francisco end of the wire was lost.