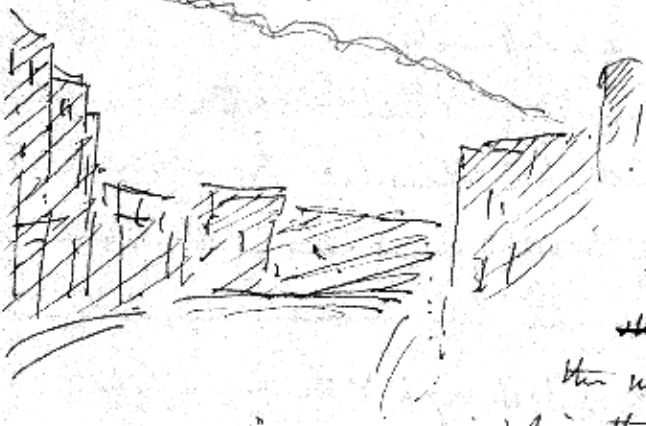


I saw the contrary just after peaking from fog - I had not entered the door, & was looking along the street W. When I saw a long flash - evidently no reflection, but the real stream, descending at an acute angle with the horizon till it was lost behind roofs - but probably struck something -



In such a case what becomes of the theory? There here - a little way from the house, a small oak ~~the~~ tree was struck in

the midst of a line of oaks, not in the least higher than the rest of them, & lower than many other

objects within 3 or 400 yards - the top & upper half were quite uninjured as far as I can see, tho' the current must there have passed thro' a mass of small branches & foliage - & a long splinter was taken out below - & its fragments scattered in the most capricious way. - There was a scar on each side of the stem where it entered the earth, the centre being uninjured. But a stronger case was the killing of a Hen in an open meadow, a hundred yards or two, from a house & barn & trees, all much higher - the spot, too, the foot of a hill. This I have often noticed - & well recollect some 20 years ago the striking of a school in a valley between 2 high hills on which in all probability the prime conductor of cloud was resting at the time. - I cannot make any AD I have seen, I think in the Brit. Assoc. Reports, accounts of much damage done by lightning