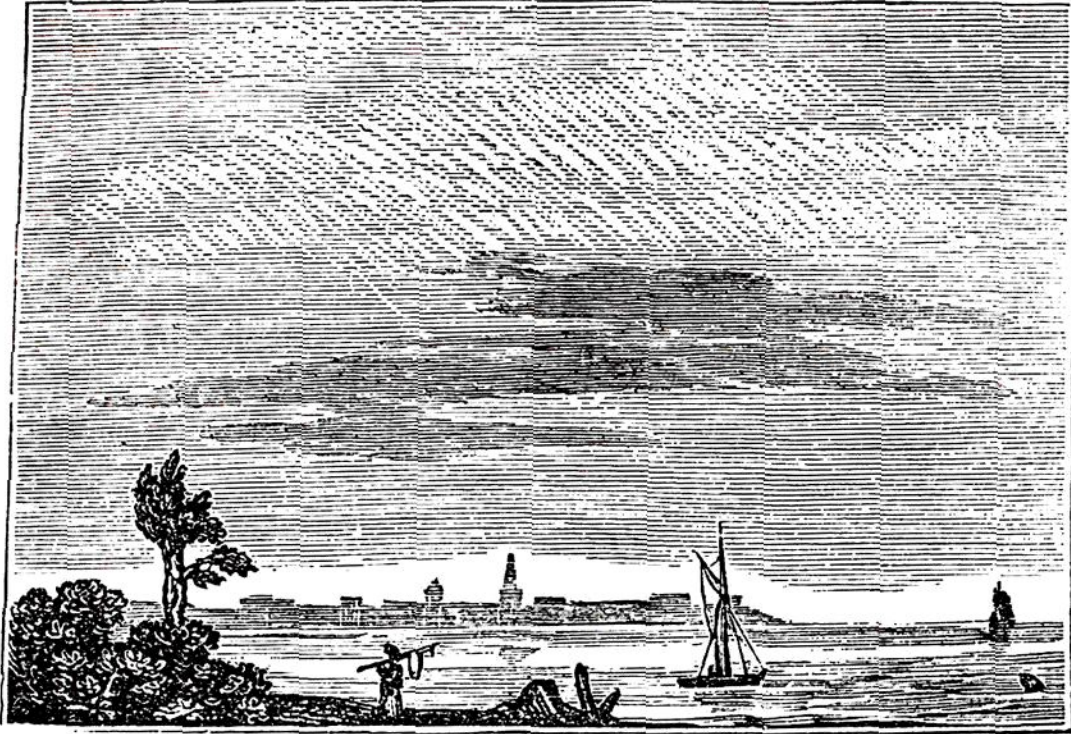


been called the mackerel-back sky. But at other times it presents a structure which warrants the designation, waved



cirro-stratus, and is then generally attended by high temperature and thunder-storms.

#### THE CUMULO-STRATUS.

The cumulo-stratus is a compound modification, and being a common gradation between those clouds which indicate fair and those which bring rough and rainy weather, it is frequently seen in all those countries subject to sudden and repeated atmospheric changes. It consists of cirro-stratus blended with cumulus, and frequently appears as vast banks of cloud with overhanging masses. The ever-varying forms of this cloud are such as the painter durst not imitate, lest he should be charged with a mimicry of nature. We have often found amusement in the days of childhood, and in riper years, in tracing the outlines of well-known forms in burning embers, but these do not furnish half so prolific a field for the exercise of imagination as the cumulo-stratus. Here are pictured, in bold and determined outline, the ruined tower, with its heroes and demigods, the majestic mountain, giants, fairies, and scenes of by-gone days: but who can attempt its description?