

fore, for the air to become filled with flying particles, caught up from the ploughed fields, from the blackened prairies, from the public roads, and from all sandy plains. These particles formed dense clouds, and rendered it as impossible to withstand the blast as it is to resist the blizzard which carries snow in the winter over the same region. The soil to the depth of four or five inches in some places was torn up, and scattered in all directions. Drifts of sand were formed, in favourable places, several feet deep, packed precisely as snow-drifts are under a blizzard. It seemed as if there were great sheets of dust and dirt blown recklessly in mid-air; and when the wind died down for a few moments, the dirt, fine and white, almost seemed to lie in layers in the atmosphere, clouding the sun, and hiding it entirely from sight for an hour or more at a time. It was so fine, and penetrated the clothing so, that life was burdensome to those who must face the storm. Mr. C. W. Fink of Woolsey, near Huron, Dak., stated that it was almost impossible to live out of doors at some periods of the storm, and that he would "much rather take his chances in the big blizzard of two years ago." While on his way to St. Paul over the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railroad, Mr. Fink said the train passed through what was apparently a storm of fine dust which seemed to be almost white.

It looked much like a snow-storm, and the sun was hid. It was impossible to distinguish obstacles at a distance of more than a few feet away. These phenomena in their intensity did not appear at Minneapolis; but they were witnessed in the more open or originally prairie tracts, and are given on the authority of others. During a residence of seventeen years at Minneapolis, the writer has not before witnessed anything that would compare with this simoom-like storm.

The occurrence of this storm has a bearing on theories of the origin of the loess. Its area is that over which the loess is abundant. It would not take long for any beholder to be convinced that there was enough material being transported in the wind to constitute, when deposited in water, or even piled up as dunes and spread as surface sheets, after a few years, a stratum as thick as, and constituted like, that of the Missouri-Mississippi Valley. Given such a wind over the same region, periodically, under the same parched condition of the surface, it would only require an expanse of water in which this dust could settle, to form a loess clay, or loam. With the accompanying and following rains, other particles would be washed down from the lands, mingling with some strata of sand or of gravel, and a transition from loess to drift-sand would be built up such as has been described in several places.—*Science*.

MOUNT STEPHEN.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway passes up the valley of the Bow River, from Banff, ascending the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountain range and entering the province of British Columbia, which is part of the Dominion of Canada. Passing the Summit Station, just a mile above the level of the sea, with

three small green lakes in rocky recesses, it proceeds through the Kicking Horse Pass. Here the stream begins to flow westward to the Pacific Ocean. "Ten miles beyond the summit of the pass," says a descriptive writer, "we round the base of Mount Stephen, a stupendous mountain rising directly from the railway