

fixture; they kept growing, but they grew symmetrically by accretions of sand from base to summit; but now, with nothing to hold the sand over fully half the area, a veritable simoon occurs with our March and November winds, and the banks have receded in some places thirty or forty rods from the water's edge. For about two miles from the western end of the banks their recession has been slight, partly owing to a partial second growth of cedars, and wherever over this distance any retrogression has occurred, the sand has simply moved into West Lake, encroaching upon its waters and doing no harm to any one. Not so harmless, however, has been the wanderings of those mountains of sand towards their eastern limit; there, where the greatest masses exist, they have covered up in their onward march forest, farms and houses. A pic-nic party which I accompanied to the Banks, about the middle of July, engaged in sports on a plain of clean, compact sand forty feet above a farm-house and orchard buried beneath; indeed, some of the old folks in the neighborhood say that they had often visited at this house when young. The public highway has been removed three times to avoid these shifting, desert-like stretches, and this last spring the township council bought another right of way eighty rods east of the track in use last summer. Tall oaks, once the pride of the forest, girt round with a crushing, smothering weight of sand fifty feet deep, still hold out their dried, mutilated topmost limbs as memorials of the living death they suffered.

The annual progress of the sand over this fertile area is in some places four or five feet, and in others as many rods. Two fields of spring grain have each lost a large fraction of their crop since May last by sand drifts.

The March winds, when sweeping over these banks, beat the sand so mercilessly upon the young pines and cedars as to snap them off like pipe-stems.

The advancing boundary of these banks varies in appearance. In the woods it presents a steep, precipitous face, from twenty to sixty feet high, at an angle of thirty degrees and less from