The observations made, so far, give no special reasons for these migrations, unless it be the unusual abundance of the species and the consequent scarcity of food in its native regions. One or two favorable seasons cause the insect to increase to an immense extent, and when they find the supply of food failing them, they mount into the air in countless millions, and, favored by a westerly or north-westerly wind, sail off towards the settlements in search of "fresh fields and pastures new." Such is the principal reason given by Packard, though he says possibly the reproductive instinct may also be concerned. And he does not think that these movements can be the result of a real migratory instinct, because their migrations (as well as those of the locusts of the old world) are periodical, long intervals sometimes existing between them, so that the development of a migratory instinct would be impossible. If once partially implanted, the long succession of non-migratory years would effectually break up the germs of such an instinct.

Another curious fact in connection with these locusts is, that the generation born in the region to which the species has migrated the previous year, shows a tendency to return north and west towards the primal habitat. This has been proved by repeated observation. One reason for this is found to be the prevalence of favorable winds at that particular season in the regions where these locusts are produced; for locusts, and indeed, all migratory insects, are dependent to some extent upon the winds for assistance and direction in their migrations. This is true for locusts all over the world; they are brought by the wind and taken away by the wind. A striking instance of this fact is given in the account of the great Egyptian plague of locusts, in the Book of Exodus.

So with our American migratory locust. The general direction of the winds on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains and on the plains is, during July and August, west or northwest. These are the months during which the locusts come down from their mountain home to invade the cultivated plains of the border States. And when the generation of which these are the parents attain the winged state, in the following June, it has been found that the prevailing winds are from the south and south-east, and thus are favorable to the flight of the locusts in a northerly or westerly direction

As regards their powers of flight, it has been proved by experiment that the locust, when it has a favorable wind (and it rarely flies at any other time), does not fly faster than the wind, but merely uses its wings to