

miles, a brisk gale; at the rate of 30 miles, a high wind; and at the rate of 100 miles, a hurricane or tornado.

Hurricanes are generally whirlwinds, confined to a narrow path, with a progressive motion, sometimes of only 10 or 15 miles an hour.

Hurricanes are more frequent and destructive in the West Indies, and on the shores of China and Farther India, than in any other part of the world. In China they are called *typhoons*.

5. What are sea and land breezes?—the simoon and the sirocco?

The islands and shores within the tropics are refreshed by sea and land breezes; the sea breeze, or wind from the sea, always blowing during the day, and the land breeze, or wind from the land, during the night.

In Africa and Arabia a hot, pestilential wind, called the *simoon*, or *samiel*, and the *kamsin*, blows at certain seasons from the parched deserts. In Italy it is modified by passing over the Mediterranean, and is called the *sirocco*.

### RAIN.

6. Where is rain most abundant?

Rain is very unequally distributed to the different parts of the globe. It is generally more abundant the nearer you approach the equator.

Under the equator the depth of rain which falls annually is about 96 inches; and as you go toward the poles it diminishes, till at the latitude of  $60^{\circ}$  it is only 17 inches; but the number of rainy days increases with the latitude.

7. In what part of the world are the rains regular?

In the torrid zone the rains, like the winds, occur regularly at certain seasons of the year. The rainy