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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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"RAINING CATS AND DOGS"

No, it doesn't really "rain cats and dogs" but sometimes it does rain fishes and frogs. Occasionally one sees an account of remarkable rains; those bringing down colored dust or soot carried from a great distance are not so very extraordinary, but tales of its raining fishes or frogs are likely to be smiled at by the skeptical. Yet such cases, though rare, apparently do occur from time to time. We have reliable accounts of earthworms, tiny fish and frogs, coming down with showers; rains of insects, shell fish, grain, hay, and pollen have also been observed.

Straight blowing winds exert a considerable lifting power, but whirling winds, as tornadoes show, have a far greater capacity for carrying. Winds probably do not influence greatly the distribution of animal life, save microscopic forms, as the larger ones are killed in falling or dropped in places where they cannot survive. Spores, however, and minute seeds travel far and are widely spread by the wind. In 1883, all life was destroyed on the volcanic island of Krakatoa. Three years later the island was recolonized by small, wind-distributed forms, such as bacteria, pond slimes, mosses and ferns.

(Tomorrow: Visibility of Mountains)

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