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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University.

THE SNOW FLURRY

"Oh, look at the snow, and such big flakes too. The ground is already getting white! Where is all this snow coming from?"

"Up in the air, from that dark cloud."

"Did the flakes we are having here now start falling when that cloud was overhead, and now when they reach the ground the cloud has gone by?"

"Not quite that way. See how the snowflakes drive by with the wind. How far do you suppose the wind can carry them while they were falling from the cloud?"

"Oh, as far as from the top of that hill."

"No farther than that? How fast do these flakes come down. See how many 'chimpanzees' you can count while one goes from the height of your eyes to the ground."

"I'll see. One chimpanzee. There, it struck. One chimpanzee. That went faster. One chimpanzee; two - that was slow. They come down about a yard a second."

"How high do you suppose the clouds are? Half a mile or more? Lets call it 1000 yards. It would take about 1000 seconds, or over 15 minutes for the snowflakes to come down. How far does the wind go in that time?"

"This wind is going much faster than I can run. It can travel 5 or 10 miles in 15 minutes. My, how far away that snow must have come from!"

"But what made the clouds and snow?"

"Those were from the cooling of some of this warmer, moister air when big puffs of colder, heavier air came down and forced it to rise."

(Tomorrow: Sun Dogs and Sun Pillars)

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