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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A SNOWSTORM

EDITORS:

(A Telegraphic transmission from Worcester to Washington of copy for this note mailed yesterday (Jan. 11) caused two errors to creep in. They are corrected in this copy.)

Last week people were beginning to talk about the extraordinarily open winter. Mid-January was approaching with the ground bare where it usually is snow covered at this time. Then it snowed.

The slow moving low that ~~jetted~~ brought the early January thaw had two features apparently connected with the snow that immediately followed. The first storm was a southwestern tail of low pressure forming the western boundary of the ^{warm} ~~arm~~ wind of the thaw and the other was the broad blast of cold westerly and northwesterly wind that cut off the southern end of the tail. This end over the Gulf of Mexico seems to have become the now low that made the rapidly moving snowstorm stop soon after the invasion of cold air.

It was too cold to rain, except in the Gulf states, so it snowed from two inches to about a foot over a large region from North Carolina and Tennessee northward and northeastward. The storm had come and gone in about twelve hours, too quickly for warm air to arrive from a distance and top off the snow with even a crust of glaze.

Its speed and the cold northeasterly winds made this low simply a snowstorm rather than a glaze, rain and thaw, the sequence of the preceding one.

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