

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

AN UNFORGOTTEN BLIZZARD

"New York felt sure spring had come, especially since the circus was in town. On the evening of March 11 there was a gentle rain, and it too was hailed as a sure vernal indication. But by next morning winter was back. At midnight the rain turned to sleet and then to snow. In six hours the city was buried. In seven hours Brooklyn Bridge was closed to traffic. Two hours afterward all street car traffic had ceased. Cable cars were abandoned where they stopped; horse cars were left where they stuck. The drivers rode the horses back to the stables leaving passengers marooned inside. Elevated trains were all stalled before eight o'clock; owners of ladders made fortunes as rescuers, at fifty cents per rescue." Thus a recent writer on the Great March Blizzard of 1888, as experienced in New York City.

In the midst of the storm, on March 12, the politician Roscoe Conklin walked from his office in Wall Street to his club near Madison Square. He sank for a time, exhausted, at the southeast corner of the square, where his statue now stands. His death the following month was hastened by this experience.

Boston had its troubles in the same memorable storm, one of which was that the city was entirely cut off from telegraphic communication with other parts of the United States except via transatlantic cable!

Out on the Plains such a storm would have made no lasting impression. Happening where it did, the blizzard of March 11-14, 1888, remains to this day the most outstanding event in the weather history of southeastern New York and southern New England.

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