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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 2, 1930.

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OLD NOTIONS ABOUT WIND

It was a common belief of the ancient philosophers that some winds, though not all, issued from the depths of the earth; sometimes bursting forth with violence, while at other times they were breathed out gently through the pores in the earth's surface. Subterranean winds were also supposed to be the cause of earthquakes. This idea was still in full vigor in the days of Francis Bacon, who gravely discusses the issuing of winds from both land and sea. In the latter case this process, he says, causes waves and swells.

"Questionless," he declares in his "Natural and Experimental History," published in 1622, "in subterranean places there is great store of air, which it is very likely, sometimes breathes out by little and little, and sometimes, again, upon urgent causes, must needs come rushing forth together.***There are some places in the sea, and some lakes also, which swell extremely when there is no wind stirring, which apparently proceeds from some subterranean wind. There is great quantity of subterranean spirit required to shake or cleave the earth; less will serve turn for the raising of water. Wherefore earthquakes come but seldom, risings and swellings of waters are more frequent."

This old idea doubtless arose, at least in part, from the now well-known phenomenon of "blowing caverns." Bacon himself describes some of these caverns in the British Isles.

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