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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 21, 1934

HEAVY ENGLISH SNOWS

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A surprising feature of English climate is the occasional occurrence of tremendous snowstorms in the southwestern counties. The well-known chapter of "Lorna Doone" beginning "It was a great winter" describes conditions such as have been observed in that region on several occasions. In some cases the high winds and smothering clouds of powdery snow attending these storms have earned for them the name of "blizzards," though they did not occur, as do the typical blizzards of North America, in bitterly cold weather.

One of the most memorable of these so-called blizzards was that of March 9-13, 1891, when several railway trains in Devon and Cornwall were stalled in the deep drifts. The "Zulu" express, which left Paddington Station, London, at 3 p.m. on Monday the ninth, managed to get as far as Brent on a southern spur of Dartmoor, between Exeter and Plymouth, but was there imprisoned for four whole days, eventually reaching Plymouth at 8:30 p.m. on Friday the thirteenth. On this train and others the passengers suffered severely for lack of food.

An account of this storm is given in the Rev. S. Baring-Gould's "Dartmoor Idyls," where a vivid picture is painted of the ferocious aspect of the moor at the onset of the blizzard.

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