

in. Two miles per hour is usually reckoned "calm," five miles is considered "light air," ten miles "light breeze," and 41·4, which was the maximum wind-velocity during 1888, is called "moderate gale."

The khamseen wind is the only bad one in Egypt. It is so called, not because it lasts for fifty days, but because it is liable to occur during the fifty days which follow Easter Monday, and possibly has some connection with the equinoctial gales elsewhere. It blows from the south or south-south-east, the more easterly variety being the most disagreeable. It usually continues three days, but may in rare cases last as many as seven days. The number of khamseen days in any one year would seem to vary from four to twenty. We wake in the morning to find a great calm, clouded sky, grey atmosphere, and an invisibly fine sand suspended in the air, which seems to have been caught up from the desert and to be held there until the wind veers again to the north at sunset on the third day, and the air becomes once more clear, cool, and even cold. On a really bad day the sun's rays are wholly obscured, and the atmosphere becomes intensely dry, and approaches the colour of a London yellow fog. It finishes with a conflict of the winds overhead until the north gains the day, and with the fall sometimes of a few drops of rain; after this a refreshing north