

The Blizzard.

The storm that broke upon northern Michigan on Saturday evening and raged for 24 hours was the severest experienced for many years. The wind blew with great violence, carrying immense masses of snow and thoroughly blocking up the railways and wagon roads. The latter were so heavily drifted that at the writing (Tuesday afternoon) the farmers have not yet broken through. The train due here at 8:50 Saturday evening and the one due at 1:46 a.m. Sunday were caught in the drift between Kalkaska and Mancelona and were not released until Monday afternoon. No. 5, which should have been here Saturday evening arrived at 5 p.m. Monday, 44 hours late. The passengers suffered somewhat from hunger and came near freezing for want of fuel.

The Harbor Springs train left Harbor Springs for Petoskey at six o'clock Saturday evening and stuck in a drift a little this side of Page, at the head of the bay remaining there all night. Men were sent to the relief of the train on Sunday morning both from Harbor Springs and Petoskey, and after a day's hard work the train was backed into Harbor Springs at five p.m., Sunday, having been in the snow bank for 23 hours. On Monday morning Conductor John Banks with engine No. 46 at the head of his train left Mackinaw City on time and ploughed his way to Petoskey arriving at 12:50, making the 35 miles in five hours and fifty minutes. He got out of here about four p.m. and met the up train at Boyne Falls, but came to grief near Fife Lake, where a snow plough was derailed, and was compelled to be there until late yesterday afternoon.

A snow plow driven by two engines arrived from the south yesterday and cleared the track to Harbor Springs so that Heath was able to get over with his lightning express on the afternoon run. By tonight however it is hoped that the whole line will be cleared, and the trains running on regular time. A large party of Petoskey people came near having serious time on the ice road across the bay. The Baptist people went over to Harbor Springs on Saturday afternoon to administer the rite of baptism by immersion in the baptistery there filling F.J. Smith's large covered stage and two open rigs from the same stable. The party consisting of 22 people mostly ladies, left the Harbor about 5 p.m. and were caught by the blizzard when part way across. The road was soon obliterated, and the flying snow became so thick that it was impossible to see a rod ahead. Fortunately Mr. Smith maintained a level head or they would have wandered off upon the ice and probably perished before morning. He would halt the procession until a lull in the fury of the storm enabled him to see the lights on the Petoskey hills when he would whip up and drive rapidly until the air became thick again. In this way slowly but surely they made their way across the bay reaching here about half past eight, having been 3 ½ hours coming the 5 miles distance. It was a fortunate escape.