Clear air! There is no such thing in nature as absolutely clear air. Even after a storm there is plenty of dust in the air because rain brings down mostly only the soluble dust and has little effect on the insoluble dust, like soot. The falling drops of rain, instead of gathering up dust particles and bringing them down to earth, simply sweep them from their paths. The distance one sees depends greatly upon the amount of dust present. If there are 30,000 dust particles per cubic inch, a mountain 50 miles away is obscured; if there are half a million particles, then objects a mile away can not be seen.