

WEATHER LORE.

R. INWARDS.

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Henry W. Chivers.

Dec 1879.



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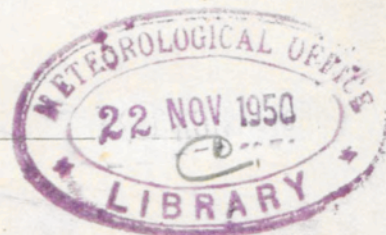
WEATHER LORE:

A COLLECTION OF
PROVERBS, SAYINGS, AND RULES
CONCERNING THE WEATHER.

COMPILED AND ARRANGED BY

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LONDON:
W. TWEEDIE, 337, STRAND, W.C.

1869.

To my old and tried Friend,

THOMAS B. FOX,

OF DEVIZES,

This Little Book is respectfully Dedicated.

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WEATHER WISDOM.

INTRODUCTION.

THE state of the weather is almost the first subject about which people talk when they meet, and it is not surprising that a matter of such importance to comfort, health, prosperity, and even life itself, should form the usual text and starting point to the conversation of daily life.

From the earliest times, hunters, shepherds, sailors, and tillers of the earth, have from sheer necessity been led to study the teachings of the winds, the waves, the clouds, and a hundred other objects from which the signs of coming changes in the state of the air might be foretold. The weather-wise amongst these primitive people would be naturally the most prosperous, and others would soon acquire the coveted foresight by a closer observance of the same objects from which their successful rivals guessed the proper time to provide against a storm, or reckoned on the prospects of the coming crops. The result has been the framing of a rough set of rules, and the laying down of many "wise saws," about the weather, and the freaks to which it is liable. Some of these observations have settled down into the form of proverbs; others have taken the shape of rhymes; while many are yet floating about, unclaimed and unregistered,

but passed from mouth to mouth, as mere records of facts, varying in verbal form according to local idioms, but owning a common origin and purport.

Many weather proverbs contain evidence of keen observation and just reasoning, but a great number are the offspring of the common tendency to form conclusions from a too limited observation of facts. Even those which have not been confirmed by later experience, will be interesting if only to show the errors into which men may be led by seeing nature with eyes half closed by prejudice or superstition. It has seemed to me desirable that all this "fossil wisdom" should be collected, and I have endeavoured in this book to present in a systematic form all the current weather-lore applicable to the climate of the British Isles.

This work is not intended to touch the philosophical aspect of the subject, but it is hoped that its perusal may lead some people to study the weather, not by mere "rule of thumb," as their fathers did, but by intelligent observation, aided by all the niceties of the scientific means now fortunately at the command of every one.

This collection comprises only those proverbs, sayings, or rules in some way descriptive or prophetic of the weather and its changes, and does not include those in which the winds, sun, and clouds are only brought in for purposes of comparison and illustration, such, for instance, as "Always provide against a *rainy* day," "Every *cloud* has a silver lining," and others in which the weather is only incidentally or poetically mentioned. Some rhymes have been rejected on account of their being manifestly absurd or superstitious, but the reader will see that much latitude has been allowed in this respect, and, as a rule, all those which may possibly be true will be found in these pages. Predictions as to the peace of the realm, the life and death of kings, &c., founded on the state of the weather for

particular days, have of course been left out, as unworthy of remembrance. A few of the rules here presented will be found to contradict each other, but the reader will judge between them, and assign each its proper value. With regard to those from foreign sources, I have only been able to give a few which seem in some measure applicable to our climate, and it will be seen that even these have lost a great deal of their point in the process of translation. It is a somewhat remarkable fact that while Scotland has produced a good crop of weather proverbs, Ireland is almost mute in that respect. I have registered the various extracts in the order which seemed most convenient for reference, giving precedence to the subjects on which they were the most numerous. Respecting the sources from which they have been derived, I have, of course, availed myself of the collections of general proverbs by Kelly, Howell, Henderson, and Ray. The collection by the latter author, which is usually considered the most complete, only contains, however, eighty-seven adages, which have been transcribed into this volume as weather proverbs proper. A much greater number have appeared in the estimable "Notes and Queries," under the head of Folk Lore, and a few have been gleaned from "Hone's Every Day Book" and other volumes of a similar class. The rest have, for the most part, come under my personal notice or have been communicated by esteemed correspondents, who are now heartily thanked. The Bible has furnished many proofs of the repute in which weather wisdom was held by the ancients, and it is clear that some of the sacred writers were keen observers of the signs of the sky. The writings of Job are rich in this respect and contain many allusions to the winds, clouds, and tempests. The New Testament also records some sound weather law, and in one instance Christ himself has not thought it unworthy of him to confirm a popular adage about a cloud rising in the west and foreshowing rain, for, after mentioning the saying, he has added,

"and so it is." The texts referring to the weather have therefore been inserted where appropriate. In their proper places, too, will be found quotations from learned authors, amongst whom Shakespeare holds a prominent place. The admirers of that poet "for all time" will not be surprised to find that he has said, in his own way, nearly all that was known on the subject of the "skyey influences" in the age in which he lived. His enumeration of the woes succeeding a lurid sunrise will be found to be a model of conciseness and elegance to all weather rhymsters. Virgil, Bacon, Thompson, and other less famous men will be shown to have contributed something to the common stock of information on this subject. Some sound Saxon weather lore comes also from the mouth of the Shepherd of Banbury, who, in the last century, wrote a short list of outdoor signs of coming changes in the state of the air. These rules have since been ascribed to another author, but their parentage is of little importance, so that the sayings themselves are good and trusty.

The collection of Scottish weather proverbs, by Mr. A. Mitchell has furnished me with a few of the shrewdest adages from that country, and the list published by M. A. Denham, for the Percy Society, has yielded some not met with in any other place.

As it has been impossible to collect all the local weather proverbs, current in different parts of the country, I shall feel obliged to any courteous reader who will communicate such as have been omitted, so that a future edition of this work may be rendered more complete in this respect. It would be strange if all the observations here brought for the first time to a common focus, did not cast a new ray or two of light on the point to which they have all been directed. Out of so many shots some must hit the mark, though the reader must be warned that even in this "multitude of counsel" there is not absolute safety. These predictions are after all but gropings in the dark, and

although the weather for a day may be pretty successfully forecast, yet beyond this, scarcely any advance has been made. The most learned Meteorologist, armed with the thousand delicate contrivances of modern science, is not more able to predict the weather for a week to come than were the ignorant shepherds, who, in ages past, watched the spreadings and driftings of the clouds from Chiltern or Cheviot top, while science was still in its cradle, and meteorology was a thing unknown.

R. INWARDS.

20, Bartholomew Villas, N.W.

WEATHER WISDOM.

TIMES AND SEASONS.

AMONGST the first attempts at weather guesses, those concerning the seasons and their probable fitness for agriculture, the breeding of animals, or the navigation of the seas, would take a prominent place. The weather during the winter and spring seems to have been narrowly watched, and the chances of a good harvest, a fat pasture, or a loaded orchard, inferred from the experience of previous years, combined with a fair reliance upon fortune. Some of these predictions, though not strengthened by modern observation, are not to be altogether despised or thrown aside. They at least show us what kind of weather our forefathers wished to take place and thought most useful at the times to which they refer. The sayings of French, Scotch, and English agree in many particulars, such, for instance, as those referring to Candlemas-day and the early part of February generally. It seems that, according to the notions of our ancestors, this part of the year could not be too cold, and no statistical evidence will ever make our farmers believe that a warm Christmas bodes well for an English harvest, or that a dry year ever did harm to the country. Some of these old sayings are also interesting as giving evidence of the slowly changing climate of this country, and it is not unlikely that at some distant date most of the predictions will be found inapplicable. Particular saints' days have also been selected as exerting special

influence over the weather, and here we are constantly treading on the fringes of the veil of superstition, spread by ignorance over all matters about which but little certain knowledge existed. There are, however, still believers in St. Swithin and St. Valentine as weather prophets, and if their favourites do sometimes fail to bring the expected changes, they have at least no worse guides than those furnished by the old Moore's and Zadkiel's of modern times.

It has been thought advisable to admit the proverbs concerning the proper seasons for sowing, &c., and a table of the times of the flowering of certain well known plants has been added, so that the progress of the seasons may be watched by observing the punctuality of the vegetable world in heralding their approach.

YEAR (*dry*) A dry year never beggars the master. *French.*

„ (*wet*) A bad year comes in swimming. *French.*

Hay A good hay year, a bad fog year.

Nuts A good nut year, a good corn year.

Pears A pear year,
A dear year.

Cherries A cherry year,
and Plums A merry year.
A plum year,
A dumb year.

Kent.

Plums In the year when plums flourish, all else fails.
Devonshire.

Haws A haw year,
A snaw year. *Scotland.*

YEAR

Snow A year of snow, a year of plenty. *Spanish and French.*

„ Snow year, good year.

„ A snow year, a rich year.

SEASONS A serene autumn denotes a windy winter; a windy winter, a rainy spring; a rainy spring, a serene summer; a serene summer, a windy autumn, so that the air on a balance is seldom debtor to itself. *Lord Bacon.*

„ Spring. Slippery, drippy, nippy.
(*Satire on* Summer. Showery, flowery, bowery.
English) Autumn. Hoppy, croppy, poppy.
Winter. Wheezy, sneezy, breezy.

Attributed to Sydney Smith.

SPRING

(*Thunder*) Thunder in spring,
Cold will bring.

(*late*) A late spring,
Is a great blessing.

When the cuckoo comes to the bare thorn,
Sell your cow and buy your corn;
But when she comes to the full bit,
Sell your corn and buy your sheep.
i.e. A late spring is bad for cattle, and
An early spring is bad for corn.

(*wet*) A wet spring is a sign of dry weather for harvest.

Storms As the days grow longer,
The storms grow stronger.

Leaves When the oak comes out before the ash, there will
(*oak and* be fine weather in harvest; but when the ash
ash) comes out before the oak, the harvest will be wet.
Midland Counties.

SPRING

Leaves If the oak's before the ash,
(oak and Then you'll only get a splash;
ash) But if the ash precedes the oak,
 Then you may expect a soak.

Whitethorns If many whitethorn blossoms or dog roses are seen,
& Dog Roses expect a severe winter.

Sloe tree When the sloe tree is white as a sheet,
 Sow your barley whether it be dry or wet.

Almond tree Mark well the flowering almonds in the wood:
 If odorous blooms the bearing branches load,
 The glebe will answer to the sylvan reign,
 Great heats will follow and large crops of grain;
 But if a wood of leaves o'ershades the tree,
 Such and so barren will the harvest be.
Virgil—Georgics.

Elder You may shear your sheep
blossom When the elder blossoms peep.

SUMMER

(moist) Generally a moist and cool summer portends a hard
 winter. *Lord Bacon.*

(dry) A dry summer never made a dear peck.

„ Whoso hath but a mouth,
 Will ne'er in England suffer drought.

„ Drought never bred dearth in England.

(dry and When the sand doth feed the clay,*
wet) England woe and well a day;
 But when the clay doth feed the sand,†
 Then 'tis well for Angle-land.

„ After a famine in the stall, (bad hay crop)
 Comes a famine in the hall. (bad corn crop)

* As in a wet summer.

† As in a dry summer.

SUMMER

(dry and A famine in England begins in the horse manger.
wet) *Note.*—These two last proverbs are in their tenor
 contradictory to the other proverbs concerning
 a dry summer in England and to general
 experience.

Bramble When the bramble blossoms early in June, an early
 harvest is expected. *Scotland.*

Swallows One swallow does not make a summer.

Rain Midsummer rain,
 Spoils wine stock and grain. *From the Portuguese.*

(hot and A hot and dry summer and autumn, especially if the
dry, heat and drought extend far into September,
extending portend an open beginning of winter, and cold
into autumn) to succeed towards the latter part of the winter
 and beginning of spring. *Lord Bacon.*

AUTUMN

Oak If the oak bear much mast (acorns) it foreshows a
 long and hard winter. *Worledge.*

Mountain Many rains, many rowans.*
Ash Many rowans, many yawns.† *Scotland.*

Hedge fruit Many haws,
 Many snaws.
 Many sloes,
 Many cold toes. *Scotland.*

Many hips and haws,
 Many frosts and snaws. *Scotland.*

WINTER

(early) An early winter,
 A surly winter.

* Rowans are the fruit of the mountain ash.

† Yawns are light grains of wheat, oats, or barley.

WINTER

(early) If the ice will bear a goose before Christmas, it will not bear a duck after.

(green) A green winter makes a fat churchyard.

Onions When the onion's skin is thin and delicate, expect a mild winter; but when the bulb is covered by a thick coat it is held to foreshow a severe season.

Onion's skin very thin,
Mild winter coming in.
Onion's skin thick and tough,
Coming winter cold and rough.

Gardeners' Rhyme.

(clear) Neither give credit to a clear winter nor a cloudy spring.

(mild) Summer in winter, and summer's flood,
Never boded an Englishman good.

„ When there is a spring in the winter, or a winter in the spring, the year is never good.

„ Who doffs his coat on winter's day,
Will gladly put it on in May. *Scotch.*

„ A warm winter and a cool summer, never brought a good harvest. *French.*

„ A warm and open winter portends a hot and dry summer. *Lord Bacon.*

Thunder Winter thunder
A summer's wonder.

„ Winter thunder,
Bodes summer's hunger.

„ Winter thunder,
Rich man's good and poor man's hunger.
i.e., It is good for fruit and bad for corn.

„ Winter thunder and summer flood,
Never boded an Englishman good.

WINTER

Snow Under water, dearth,
Under snow, bread.

„ Dearth under water,
Bread under snow. *Italian.*

JANUARY

(Spring) A January spring is worth naething. *Scotch.*

Grass If you see grass in January,
Lock your grain in your granary.

„ If the grass grow in Janiveer,
It grows the worse for it all the year.

Blossoms January blossoms fill no man's cellar. *Portuguese.*

(wet) A wet January is not so good for corn, but not so bad for cattle. *Portuguese.*

(mild) If January calends be summerly gay,
It will be winterly weather till the calends of May.

(cold) Janiveer freeze the pot by the fire.

„ Froze Janiveer,
Leader of the year;
Minced pies in van,
Calf's head in rear. *Churchill.*

„ As the Day lengthens,
So the cold strengthens.

Sowing Who in January sows oats,
Gets gold and groats;
Who sows in May,
Gets little that way.

12th If on the twelfth of January the sun shine, it fore-shows much wind.

Shepherd's Almanack, 1676.

JANUARY

22nd (St. Vincent). If the sun shine brightly on St. Vincent's day, we shall have more wine than water.
French.

„ Remember on St. Vincent's day,
If that the sun his beams display,
Be sure to mark his transient beam,
Which through the casement sheds a gleam;
For 'tis a token bright and clear,
Of prosperous weather all the year.

„ On St. Vincent's day the vine-sap rises to the branch, but retires frightened if it find frost.
French.

25th (St. Paul's day.)
If Saint Paul's day be faire and cleare,
It doth betide a happy yeare,
But if by chance it then should rain,
It will make deare all kinds of graine;
And if ye clouds make dark ye skie,
Then neate and fowles this yeare shall die;
If blustering winds do blow aloft,
Then wars shall trouble ye realm full oft.
&c., &c.

|| „ If St. Paul's day be fine, the year will be the same.
French.

„ This festival was called an Egyptian day; because (says Ducange) the Egyptians discovered that there were two unlucky days in every month, and prognostications of the good or bad course of the year were formed from the state of the weather on these days.

|| „ If St. Paul's day be fair and clear, it indicates plenty; if cloudy or misty, much cattle will die; if rain or snow fall that day, it presages a dearth; if windy, it forebodes wars, as old wives do dream.
Nature's Secrets—Willsford.

JANUARY.

25th If the sun shine on St. Paul's day, it betokens a good year; if rain or snow, indifferent; if misty, it predicts great dearth; if thunder, great winds and death of People that year.

Shepherd's Almanack, 1676.

„ & Feb. January or February
Do fill or empty the granary.
French.

„ & Mar. March in Janiveer,
Janiveer in March I fear.

„ & May January commits the fault and May bears the blame.
Note.—This is intended to apply not only to the seasons but to human affairs.

FEBRUARY Februeer
(cold) Doth cut and shear.

„ February fill dyke, be it black or be it white,
But if it be white it's the better to like.

(fair) All the months in the year,
Curse a fair Februeer.

„ The Welshman had rather see his dam on the bier,
Than to see a fair Februeer.

„ When gnats dance in February the husbandmen
becomes a beggar.

(snow) If February give much snow,
A fine summer it doth foreshow.

From the French.

(dry) If February is dry there is neither good corn nor
good hay.

Portuguese.

(rain) February rain is only good to fill ditches.

French.

FEBRUARY

2nd Candlemas Day.—Purification of the Virgin Mary—
The snowdrop, which was appropriately called
“The fair maid of February,” ought to blossom
about this time.

„ The hind had as lief see his wife on the bier,
As that Candlemas day should be pleasant and clear.

Candlemas brings great pains. *French.*

At the day of Candlemas,
Cold in air and snow on grass,
If the sun then entice the bear from his den,
He turns round thrice and gets back again.
From the French.

„ The badger peeps out of his hole on Candlemas
day, and when he finds snow walks abroad,
but if he sees the sun shining he draws back
into his hole. *German.*

„ As long as the bird sings before Candlemas it will
greet after it. *Scotch.*

„ On the eve of Candlemas day,
Winter gets stronger or passes away.
From the French.

„ At Candlemas day,
Another winter is on his way. *From the French.*

„ When Candlemas day is come and gone,
The snow lies on a hot stone.

„ The shepherd would rather see the wolf enter his
fold on Candlemas day than the sun.

„ If Candlemas day be dry and fair,
The half of the winter is gone and mair.
If Candlemas day be wet and foul,
The half of the winter is gone at Yule (Christmas).
Scotch.

FEBRUARY

2nd Should the sun shine out at the Purification (or
churching of the Virgin Mary) there will be
more ice after the festival than there was before
it. *From the Latin proverb—Sir T. Browne's*
“Vulgar Errors.”

„ When on the Purification the sun hath shined,
The greater part of winter comes behind.

„ If Candlemas day be fine and clear,
Corn and fruits will then be dear.

„ If Candlemas day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight.
But if Candlemas day bring clouds and rain,
Winter is gone and won't come again.

„ After Candlemas day the frost will be more keen,
If the sun then shines bright, than before it has been.

„ On Candlemas day, if the thorns hang a drop,*
Then you are sure of a good pea crop.

„ When the wind's in the east on Candlemas day,
There it will stick till the second of May.

„ On Candlemas day,
You must have half your straw and half your day.
(That is to say, winter is not more than half
passed.)

„ Sow or set beans in Candlemas waddle.†

12th (St. Eulalie's day.)
If the sun smile on St. Eulalie's day,
It is good for apples and cider they say.
From the French.

14th (St. Valentine.)
To St. Valentine the spring is a neighbour. *French.*

* With icicles.

† Wane of the moon.

FEBRUARY

14th The crocus was dedicated to St. Valentine, and ought to blossom about this time.

Circle of the Seasons.

„ St. Valentine,
Set thy hopper* by mine.

20th to 28th The nights of this part of February are called in Sweden "Steel nights," on account of their cutting severity.

24th (St. Matthew.)

St. Matthew breaks the ice, if he finds none he will make it.

St. Matthy
All the year goes by.

„ At St. Mattho,
Take thy hopper* and sow.

„ St. Matthe,
Sends sap into the tree.

X MARCH March many weathers.

Frosts So many frosts in March, so many in May.

Mists So many mists in March you see,
So many frosts in May will be.

(dry) A dry and cold March never begs its bread.

„ A peck of March dust is worth a king's ransom.

„ A bushel of March dust is a thing
Worth the ransom of a king.

„ A March without water
Dowers the hind's daughter. *From the French.*

(Sun) A March sun sticks like a lock of wool.

* Seed basket.

MARCH

(Sun) Worse than the sun in March,
This praise doth nourish agues.
Shakespeare, Henry IV., Part 1, Act 4, Scene 1.

(Rain) A wet March makes a sad harvest.

„ March rain spoils more than clothes.

„ March water is worse than a stain in cloth.

(fishing) A March wisher
Is never a good fisher.

Thunder When it thunders in March it brings sorrow.

„ When March thunders, tools and arms get rusty.
Portuguese.

„ When it thunders in March we may cry alas!
French.

(mild) March flowers
Make no summer bowers.

„ March grass never did good.

„ When gnats dance in March it brings death to sheep.
Dutch.

(winds) March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.

„ March, black ram,*
Comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.

„ March comes in with Adder's heads and goes out
with Peacock's tails. *Scotch.*

Pruning He who freely lops in March, will get his lap full of
fruit. *Portuguese.*

Humours As Mars hasteneth all the humours feel it.

* Aries.

MARCH

and April When March is like April, April will be like March.

French.

„ March winds and April showers,
Bring forth May flowers.

„ *April & May* A windy March and a rainy April, make a beautiful May.

„ *& May* Mists in March bring rain,
Or in May, frosts again.

„ March wind and May sun,
Make clothes white and maids dun.

„ A peck of March dust and a shower in May,
Make the corn green and the fields gay.

1st (St. David's.)

Upon St. David's day,
Put oats and barley in the clay.

1st & 2nd St. David and Chad,
Sow pease good or bad.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd First comes David, then comes Chad,
And then comes Winneral as though he was mad.
White or black,
Or old house thack.

Note.—Meaning snow, rain, or wind—the latter endangering the thack or thatch.

21st (St. Benedict.)

St. Benedick,
Sow thy pease or keep them in thy rick.

When there has been no particular storm about the time of the spring equinox, if a storm arise from the east on or before that day, or if a storm from any point of the compass arise near a week after the equinox, then, in either of these cases, the succeeding summer is generally dry, four times in five; but if a storm arise from the S.W. or W.S.W. on or just before the spring equinox, then the summer following is generally wet, five times in six.

Dr. Kirwan.

MARCH

25th (Lady day.)

The flower cardamine, or lady's smock, with its milk-white flowers, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and appears about Lady day.

3 last days March borrowit from April
Three days and they were ill,
The first was frost, the second was snaw,
The third was cauld as ever't could blaw. *Scotch.*

„ March borrows of April
Three days and they are ill;
April borrows of March again
Three days of wind and rain.

„ The warst blast comes in the borrowing days.

Note by Sir Walter Scott, "Heart of Mid Lothian."
"The three last days of March (old style) are called the borrowing days, for as they are remarked to be unusually stormy, it is feigned that March had borrowed them from April to extend the sphere of his rougher sway."

Easter If the sun shines on Easter day, it shines on Whitsunday likewise.

„ A rainy Easter betokens a good harvest. *French.*

APRIL
(*cold*) A cold April
The barn will fill.

„ Cold April gives bread and wine. *French.*

„ A Cold April brings wine and bread in plenty.
Portuguese.

„ A cold and moist April fills the cellar and fattens the cow.
Portuguese.

„ A cold April, much bread and little wine.
Spanish.

„ It is not April without a frosty crown. *French.*

APRIL

- (*cold*) April wears a white hat.*
- „ (*cloudy*) Cloudy April, dewy May. *French.*
- „ (*rain*) April rain is worth David's chariot. *French.*
- „ (*rain*) In April, Dove's† flood
Is worth a king's good.
- „ *Change* Changeable as an April day.
- „ *Buds* Vine that buds in April,
Will not the barrel fill. *From the French.*
- „ *Thunder* When April blows his horn,
It's good for hay and corn.
- „ If it thunders on all fool's day
It brings good crops of corn and hay.
- (*Early part of*) The early part of April is called the blackthorn winter, because the thorn is then white with blossom and the weather generally cold.
- || (*First 3 days*) If the first three days of April be foggy, there will be a flood in June. *Huntingdon.*
- „ 14th This day is called Cuckoo day, and the cuckoo's song is generally first heard about this time.
- „ 15th This day is called Swallow day, because swallows ought to appear at this date.
- „ & *May* Betwixt April and May if there be rain,
T's worth more than oxen and wain.
- „ April and May are the keys of the year.
- „ April rains for men, May for beasts.
i.e.—A rainy April is good for corn, and a wet May for grass crops.

* Frost.

† The river Dove in Derbyshire.

APRIL

- & *May* April showers bring forth May flowers.
- MAY*
(*merry*) The merry month of May.
- (*rainy*) Rainy May marries peasants. *French.*
- „ Water in May is bread all the year. *Spain and Italy.*
- „ A wet May
Will fill a byre full of hay.
- „ May showers bring milk and meal. *Scotch.*
- Flood* A May flood
Never did good.
- Cold* Till May be out
Leave not off a clout.
- „ May; come she early or come she late,
She'll make the cow to quake. *French.*
- „ Cold May enriches no one.
- „ Shear your sheep in May,
And shear them all away.
- „ A cold May and a windy,
Makes a barn full and a findy.
- (*windy*) A windy May makes a fair year. *Portuguese.*
- (*hot*) A hot May makes a fat churchyard.
- Mowing* He who mows in May,
Will have neither fruit nor hay. *Portuguese.*
- In May an east lying field is worth wain and oxen,
In June the oxen and the yoke.
- Beans* Be it weal or be it woe,
Beans blow before May doth go.

MAY

☞ June Look at your corn in May
And you will come weeping away ;
Look at the same in June
And you'll come home in another tune.

„ Mist in May, heat in June,
Make the harvest come right soon.

„ A dry May and a dripping June,
Bring all things into tune. *Bedfordshire.*

„ Mist in May and heat in June,
Make a harvest come right soon.

„ A leaking May and a warm June
Bring on the harvest very soon. *Scotch.*

„ A leaky May and a dry June,
Keep the poor man's head abune.* *Greenock.*

JUNE (*calm*) Calm weather in June
Sets corn in tune.

„ 8th If on the eighth of June it rain,
It fortells a wet harvest men sain.

8th & 19th If it rain on June 8th (St. Medard) it will rain forty
days later, but if it rain on June 19th, (St.
Protais) it rains for forty days after. *French.*

15th If St. Vitus's Day be rainy weather,
It will rain for thirty days together.

JULY July God send thee calm and fayre,
That happy harvest we may see,
With quyet tyme and healthsome ayre,
And man to God may thankful bee.

„ *Calm* No tempest good July,
Lest corn come off blue by (mildew).

„ *Rain* A shower of rain in July, when the corn begins to fill,
Is worth a plough of oxen, and all belongs theretill.

* Above.

JULY

1st If the first of July it be rainy weather,
It will rain more or less for four weeks together.

„ 4th If Bullion's day be dry there will be a good harvest.
Scotch.

„ Bullion's day gif ye be fair,
For forty days there'll be nae mair.

Scotch.

„ 15th If St. Swithin greets, the proverb says,
The weather will be foul for forty days.

Scotch.

„ In this month is St. Swithin's day,
On which if that it rain they say,
Full forty days after it will,
Or more or less some rain distil.

Poor Robin's Almanack, 1697.

„ St. Swithin's day if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain ;
St. Swithin's day if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.

Scotch.

„ St. Swithin is christening the apples.
This saying is applied to rain on St. Swithin's day.

„ If it rain on the feast of St. Processus and St. Martin
it suffocates the corn. *Latin Proverb.*

„ 22nd Mary Magdalene's day. The roses are said to
begin to fade on this day.

„ 25th Till St. James' day be come and gone,
You may have hops and you may have none.

AUGUST Dry August and warm,
(dry) Doth harvest no harm.

(wet) A wet August never brings dearth. *Italian.*

„ August rain gives honey, wine, and saffron.
Portuguese.

AUGUST

- (wet) When it rains in August it rains honey and wine.
French and Spanish.
- 1st The first day of August, the first day of harvest.
Portuguese.
- „ Lammas day. After Lammas, corn ripens as much
by night as by day.
Note.—Alluding to the heavy night dews.
- 24th St. Bartholomew. If it rains this day it will rain the
forty days after. *Roman.*
- „ At St. Bartholomew,
There comes cold dew.
- „ All the tears that St. Swithin can cry,
St. Bartlemy's mantle wipes them dry.
- „ If the twenty-fourth of August be fair and clear,
Then hope for a prosperous autumn that year.
- „ & *Sept.* August ripens, September gathers in,
August bears the burden, September the fruit.
Portuguese.
- „ & *Dec.* None in August should over the land,
In December none over the sea.
- SEPTEMBER September dries up wells or breaks down bridges.
(dry or wet) *Portuguese.*
- „ Preserve your fodder in September and your cow
will fatten. *Portuguese.*
- 14th (Holy rood.) The passion flower blossomed about
this time; the flower is said to present a resem-
blance to the cross or rood, the nails, and the
crown of thorns used at the crucifixion.
Circle of the Seasons.
- „ If dry be the buck's horn
On Holyrood morn,
Tis worth a kist of gold,
But if wet it be seen,
E'er Holyrood e'en,
Bad harvest is foretold. *Yorkshire.*

SEPTEMBER

- 14th If the heart and the hind meet dry and part dry on
Rood-day fair,
For sax weeks of rain there'll be nae mair. *Scotch.*
- 21st Saint Matthee,
Shut up the bee.
- „ Saint Matthew
Brings on the cold dew.
- 29th (Michaelmas day.)
Michaelmas rot,
Comes ne'er in the pot.
- „ St. Michael's rain does not stay long in the sky.
French.
- & *Novem-ber* September blow soft till the fruits in the loft.
November take flail, let ships no more sail.
- OCTOBER If in the fall of the leaves in October many of them
wither on the boughs and hang there, it betokens
a frosty winter and much snow.
- „ A good October and a good blast,
To blow the hog acorn and mast.
- „ In October dung your field,
And your land its wealth shall yield.
- NOVEMBER
- „ 11th (St. Martin.)
At St. Martin's day
Winter is on his way. *French.*
- „ If the wind is in the south-west at Martinmas, it
keeps there till after Candlemas.
Midland Counties.
- „ Expect St. Martin's Summer.—*Shakespeare, Hen. VI.,*
pt. 1, Act 1, scene 2. i.e., fine weather at
Martinmas.
- DECEMBER
- Thunder Thunder in December presages fine weather.

DECEMBER

21st (St. Thomas.)

Look at the weathercock on St. Thomas's day at 12 o'clock, and see which way the wind is, for there it will stick for the next (*lunar*) quarter.

25th A green Christmas makes a fat churchyard.

„ If the sun shine through the apple tree on Christmas day, there will be an abundant crop in the following year.

„ Light Christmas,* light wheatsheaf;
Dark Christmas, heavy wheatsheaf.

„ If it rain much during the twelve days after Christmas day it will be a wet year.

„ If Christmas day on Thursday be,
A windy winter ye shall see;
Windy weather in each week,
And hard tempest strong and thick,
The summer shall be good and dry,
Corn and beasts shall multiply;
The year is good for lands to till,
Kings and princes shall die by skill, &c., &c.

There are eight more lines of the same superstitious character but not relating to the weather.

Christmas & Candlemas A windy Christmas and a calm Candlemas are signs of a good year.

Christmas A warm Christmas, a cold Easter.

& Easter A green Christmas, a white Easter. *German.*

MONTHS January fierce, cold and frosty,
character of February moist and aguish,
March dusty,
April rainy,
May pretty, gay and windy,
Bring an abundant harvest.

French.

* If full moon about Christmas day.

MONTHS

(*character of*) A frosty winter and a dusty March,
And a rain about Aperill,
And another about the lammas* time,
When the corn begins to fill,
Is worth a plough of gold
And all her pins theretill.

„ A cold January, a feverish February, a dusty March, a weeping April, and a windy May,
Presage a good year and gay. *French.*

„ A dusty March, a snowy February, a moist April, and a dry May, presage a good year. *French.*

Cycle of change Lord Bacon states that it is an old opinion that the weather changes after forty years repeat themselves.

Note.—The closest observation in modern times has failed to fix any period after which the weather may be said to repeat its changes.

Friday & Fine on Friday,

Sunday Fine on Sunday.

Wet on Friday,

Wet on Sunday.

France.

LIST OF COMMON PLANTS, and the dates at which they ought to be in full flower. The forwardness of the seasons may be judged by the punctuality of the appearance of the blossoms.

Jan. 2	Groundsel	Feb. 1	Bay
„ 4	Hazel	„ 2	Snowdrop
„ 5	Bearsfoot	„ 5	Primrose
„ 6	Common Dead Nettle	„ 6	Blue Hyacinth
„ 9	Laurel	„ 9	Narcissus, Roman
„ 10	Gorse	„ 13	Polyanthus
„ 11	Early Moss	„ 14	Yellow Crocus
„ 14	Barren Strawberry	„ 17	Scotch Crocus
„ 15	Ivy	„ 19	Speedwell
„ 17	Anemone (Garden)	„ 21	White Crocus
„ 19	White Dead Nettle	„ 22	Common Daisy
„ 27	Earth Moss	„ 23	Apricot
„ 28	Double Daisy	„ 25	Peach
„ 30	Maidenhair	„ 26	Periwinkle (lesser)
		„ 28	Purple Crocus

* August 1st.

TIMES AND SEASONS.

March 1	Leek	June 1	Yellow Rose
" 4	Chickweed	" 2	Pimpernel
" 5	Hellebore	" 4	Pink (Indian)
" 6	Lent Lily	" 6	Pink (common)
" 7	Early Daffodil	" 8	Moneyswort
" 8	Great Jonquil	" 9	Barberry
" 13	Heartsease	" 10	Fleur de lis (Yellow)
" 15	Coltsfoot	" 12	White Dog Rose
" 17	Shamrock	" 13	Ranunculus (garden)
" 17	Violet	" 15	Sensitive Plant
" 24	Saxifrage	" 16	Moss Rose
" 25	Marigold	" 18	Poppy (horned)
" 29	Oxlip	" 22	Canterbury Bell
" 30	Cardamine	" 23	Lady's Slipper
" 30	Lesser Daffodil	" 24	St. John's Wort
		" 25	Sweet William
		" 26	Sowthistle (Blue)
		" 28	Cornflower
April 2	White Violet	July 1	Agrimony
" 4	Crown Imperial	" 2	White Lily
" 7	Anemone, Wood	" 7	Nasturtium
" 8	Ground Ivy	" 11	Yellow Lupin
" 9	Polyanthus (Red)	" 12	Snap Dragon
" 11	Dandelion	" 13	Blue Lupin
" 12	Saxifrage (Great)	" 14	Red Lupin
" 13	Narcissus (Green)	" 16	Convolvulus Major
" 16	Yellow Tulip	" 17	Sweet Pea
" 19	Garlic	" 23	Musk Flower
" 23	Harebell	" 25	Herb Christopher
" 24	Black Thorn	" 26	Camomile (field)
" 27	Great Daffodil		
" 30	Cowslip		
May 2	Charlock	Aug. 2	Tiger Lily
" 2	Rhododendron	" 3	Hollyhock
" 3	Narcissus (Poetic)	" 4	Blue Bell
" 5	Apple Tree	" 6	Meadow Saffron
" 8	Lily of the Valley	" 7	Amaranth (common)
" 9	Solomon's Seal	" 8	Love lies Bleeding
" 11	Asphodel (Yellow)	" 10	Balsam (common)
" 14	Common Peony	" 11	China Aster
" 16	Star of Bethlehem	" 12	Sow Thistle (great)
" 17	Poppy (Early Red)	" 18	African Marygold
" 18	Mouse Ear	" 21	Sunflower
" 19	Monkshood	" 28	Golden Rod
" 20	Horse Chesnut	" 29	Yellow Hollyhock
" 23	Lilac	" 31	Pheasant's Eye
" 26	Azelia (Yellow)		
" 27	Buttercup		

TIMES AND SEASONS.

Sept. 5	Mushroom	Nov. 1	Laurastinum
" 10	Autumnal Crocus	" 6	Yew
" 14	Passion Flower	" 25	Butterbur (sweet)
Oct. 2	Common Soapwort	Dec. 4	Gooseberry (Barbadoes)
" 4	Southernwood	" 7	Achania (hairy)
" 5	Camomile (Starlike)	" 8	Arbor Vitæ
" 6	Fever Few (late flowering)	" 23	Cedar of Lebanon
" 7	Chrysanthemum (Indian)	" 26	Purple Heath
" 11	Holly		
" 16	Yarrow		
" 17	Sunflower (ten leaved)		

HONE'S *Everyday Book*.

LIST OF COMMON FLOWERS, and the times at which, in ordinary fine weather, they open and close their petals. Their opening later or closing earlier than the usual time is a sign of rain, and *vice versa*.

					OPENS.		CLOSES.		
					A.M.		P.M.		
Goatsbeard	...	...	...	...	3	to	5	...	9 to 10
Succory	...	...	...	...	4	"	5	...	8 " 9
Ox Tongue	...	...	...	...	4	"	5	...	12
Naked Poppy	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	7
Day Lily	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	7 " 8
Sow Thistle	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	11 " 12
Blue Thistle	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	12
Dandelion	...	...	...	...	5	"	6	...	8 " 9
Convolvulus	...	...	...	...	5	"	6	...	4 " 5
Spotted Hawkweed	...	...	...	...	6	"	7	...	4 " 5
Lettuce	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	10
White Water Lily	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	5
African Marigold	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	3 " 4
Pimpernel	...	...	...	...	7	"	8	...	2 " 3
Prolifers, Pink	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	6
Mouse Ear	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	2
Field Marigold	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	3
Chickweed	...	...	...	...	9	"	10	...	9 " 10
Caroline Mallow	...	...	...	...	9	"	10	...	12 " 1

SUN AND MOON.

The indications of coming weather presented by the sun, moon, &c., come next in order, and they refer for the most part to the weather of the day or very soon after. The sun has ever been the first authority, and has his various aspects, colours, and moods, each fitted with a real or imaginary sequence of weather. His redness on rising or setting has furnished the material for a dozen proverbs of various times and nations. The moon too has always had her votaries, as a weather-witch, and even now is not without a numerous staff of prophets ready to assert her influence over the rain and clouds. One frequently hears of the weather altering at the "change of the moon," but careful observers have been unable to detect any real differences in the state of the air at such times. A more extended observation however will do the subject no harm, and may lead to the discovery of a law, or the establishment of some rule on which reliance can be placed. The appearance of a halo round the moon is regarded as an indication of wet weather, and from its relative position gives some warning as to the time when the coming change may be expected.

SUNRISE Above the rest, the sun who never lies,
Foretells the change of weather in the skies,
For if he rise unwilling to his race,
Clouds on his brow and spots upon his face;
Or if through mists he shoot his sullen beams,
Frugal of light in loose and straggling streams,
Suspect a drizzling day and southern rain,
Fatal to fruits, and flocks, and promised grain.
Virgil Georgic, 1, 438.

SUN AND MOON.

SUNRISE

(grey) A grey sky in the morning presages fine weather.
Fitzroy.

clear, &c. A high dawn indicates wind.
A low dawn indicates fair weather.

Note.—A high dawn is when the first indications of daylight are seen over a bank of clouds; a low dawn is when the day breaks on or near the horizon, the first streaks of light being very low down.
Fitzroy.

„ If at sunrise the clouds are driven away and retire as it were to the west, this denotes fair weather.
Pliny.

„ (cloudy) If the sky at sunrise is cloudy and the clouds soon disperse, certain fine weather will follow.
Shepherd of Banbury.

„ (gloomy) If aurora with half open eyes,
And a pale sickly cheek salutes the skies,
How shall the vine with tender leaves defend
Her teeming clusters when the storms descend?
Virgil.

„ (misty) A general mist before the sun rises near the full moon, presages fair weather.
Shepherd of Banbury.

„ (halo) If the rising sun be encompassed with an iris or circle of white clouds and they equally fly away, this is a sign of fair weather.
Pliny.

„ (red) A red morn, that ever yet betokened
Wreck to the seaman, tempest to the field,
Sorrow to shepherds, woe unto the birds,
Gust and foul flaws to herdmen and to herds.
Shakespeare.

„ „ If red the sun begin his race,
Be sure the rain will fall apace.

NOON The weather usually clears at noon when a southerly wind is blowing.
Nautical.

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Nautical.

NOON

change If a change of weather occur when the sun or moon is crossing the meridian, it is for twelve hours at least.
Nautical.

SUNSET But more than all the setting sun survey,
When down the steep of heaven he drives the day;
For oft we find him finishing his race,
With various colours erring on his face.
If fiery red his glowing globe descends,
High winds and furious tempests he portends;
But if his cheeks are swoln with livid blue,
He bodes wet weather by his watery hue;
If dusky spots are varied on his brow,
And streaked with red a troubled colour show,
That sullen mixture shall at once declare
Winds, rain, and storms, and elemental war.
* * * * *
But if with purple rays he brings the light,
And a pure heaven resigns to quiet night,
No rising winds or falling storms are nigh.
Virgil.

„ *breeze* A breeze usually springs up before sunset, or, if a gale is blowing, it generally subsides about that time.

„ *bright* When the sun sets bright and clear,
An easterly wind you need not fear.

„ *golden* The weary sun hath made a golden set,
And by the bright track of his fiery car,
Gives token of a goodly day to-morrow.
Shakespeare, Richard III.

„ *yellow* A bright yellow sky at sunset presages wind.
A pale yellow, wet.
Fitzroy.

„ *hazy* When the air is hazy, so that the solar light fades gradually, and looks white, rain will most certainly follow.

„ *pale* If the sun goes pale to bed,
'Twill rain to-morrow, it is said.

SUNSET

pale When the sun appears of a light pale colour, or goes down into a bank of clouds, it indicates the approach or continuance of bad weather.

„ *cloudy* When the sun sets in a bank,
A westerly wind we shall not lack.

„ *wet* The sun sets weeping in the lowly west,
Witnessing storms to come, woe and unrest.
Shakespeare, Richard II.

Sunrise and Sunset When it is evening, ye say it will be fair weather, for the sky is red; and in the morning, it will be foul weather to-day, for the sky is red and lowring.
Matthew XVI., ver. 2 & 3.

„ Evening grey and morning red,
Make the shepherd hang his head.

„ Evening red and morning grey,
Two sure signs of one fine day.

„ Sky red in the morning
Is a sailor's sure warning,
Sky red at night
Is the sailor's delight.

„ A red evening and a grey morning set the pilgrim a-walking.
Italy.

„ An evening red and morning grey make the pilgrim sing.
France.

„ Evening red and morning grey,
Help the traveller on his way;
Evening grey and morning red,
Bring down rain upon his head.

„ The evening red and the morning grey,
Is the sign of a bright and cheery day;
The evening grey and the morning red,
Put on your hat or you'll wet your head.

Scotland.

SUN AND MOON.

SUNSET

Sunrise and Sunset If the sun on rising or setting cast a lurid red light on the sky as far as the zenith, it is a sure sign of storms and gales of wind.

NIGHT If the weather change at night, it will not last when the day breaks. *France.*

SUN, *red* A red sun has water in his eye.

„ *beams* When solar rays are visible in the air, they indicate vapour and rain to follow.

„ *mock* Mock suns predict a more or less certain change of weather. *Scotland.*

MOON, *new* In winter when the moon's horns are sharp and well defined, frost is expected. *Scotland.*

„ A new moon with sharp horns threatens windy weather.

„ People speak of the new moon lying on her back or being ill-made, as a prognostic of wet weather.

„ When first the moon appears, if then she shrouds
Her silver crescent tipped with sable clouds,
Conclude she bodes a tempest on the main,
And brews for fields impetuous floods of rain;
Or if her face with fiery flushings glow,
Expect the rattling winds aloft to blow;
But four nights old (for that's the surest sign)
With sharpened horns, if glorious then she shine,
Next day nor only that but all the moon,
Till her revolving race be wholly run,
Are void of tempests both by land and sea.

Virgil.

(*misty*) If mists in the new moon rain in the old.
If mists in the old moon rain in the new.

Shepherd of Banbury.

Moon in mist An old moon in a mist,
Is worth gold in a kist. (chest)
But a new moon's mist
Will never lack thirst.

SUN AND MOON.

MOON

(*change of*) From the first, second, and third days of the new moon nothing is to be predicted, on the fourth there is some indication, but from the character of the fifth and sixth days the weather of the whole month may be predicted.

Marshall Burgand's motto.

„ As is the fourth and fifth day's weather,
So's that Lunation altogether. *From the Latin.*

„ If the moon change on a Sunday there will be a flood
before the month is out. *Worcestershire.*

„ A Saturday moon,
If it comes once in seven years comes once too soon.

„ Saturday's moon and Sunday's prime
Ane is aneugh in seven years time. *Scotland.*

„ Saturday's change and Sunday's full
Never brought good and never wull. *Norfolk.*

„ A Saturday's change and a Sunday's full moon,
Once in seven years is once too soon.

„ A few days after full or new moon, changes of weather
are thought more probable than at any other
time. *Scotland.*

waning In the decay of the moon
A cloudy morning bodes a fair afternoon.

halo Far burr, near rain. *Nautical.*
Note.—The further the "burr" or halo appears
from the moon, the nearer at hand is the coming
rain.

„ Circle* near, water far.
Circle far, water near. *Italy.*

„ The moon with a circle brings water in her beak.

* Halo round moon.

SUN AND MOON.

MOON

- Moon halo* When round the moon there is a brugh,*
The weather will be cold and rough. *Scotland.*
- „ The circle of the moon never filled a pond.
The circle of the sun wets a shepherd.
- „ For I fear a hurricane,
Last night the moon had a golden rim,
And to-night no moon I see.
Longfellow, Wreck of the Hesperus.
- „ Haloes predict a storm (rain and wind or snow and
wind) at no great distance, and the open side of
the halo tells the quarter from which it may
be expected. *Scotland.*
- (dark part visible)* Late, late yestreen I saw the new moon
With the old moon in her arms,
And I fear, I fear, my master dear,
We shall have a deadly storm.
Ballad of Sir Patrick Spenser.
- „ To see the old moon in the arms of the new one is a
sign of bad weather to come.
- (ruddy)* If on her cheeks you see the maiden's blush,
The ruddy moon foreshows that winds will rush.
Virgil.
- (watery)* The moon, methinks, looks with a watery eye.
Shakespeare, Midsummer Night's Dream.
- „ Therefore the moon, the governess of floods,
Pale in her anger, washes all the air,
That rheumatic diseases do abound.
Shakespeare, Midsummer Night's Dream.

* Halo.

SUN AND MOON.

MOON

- (full)* The full moon eats Clouds. *Nautical.*
- „ The full moon grows fat on clouds.
Kichua, Indian Proverb.
- Note.*—The two last proverbs have arisen from a
supposed clearance of clouds which is said to
take place when the full moon rises. Close
observation has, however, proved this to be an
illusion.
- MOON, full* Two full moons in a calendar month bring on a flood.
Bedfordshire.
- (clear)* If the moon show a silver shield,
Be not afraid to reap your field;
But if she rises haloed round,
Soon we'll tread on deluged ground.
- „ Clear moon,
Frost soon. *Scotland.*
- (dim)* When the moon has a white look, or when her out-
line is not very clear, rain or snow is looked for.
Scotland.

WIND.

A mass of weather wisdom has accumulated respecting the wind. It is generally more of a descriptive than of a prophetic character, but will serve to indicate to the acute observer of nature, the kind of weather to expect when ever so small a change takes place in the direction or force of the wind.

WIND—

governing Every wind has its weather.
weather

Lord Bacon.

„ No weather is ill,
If the wind be still.

(*strong*) Strong winds are more uniform and regular than
light breezes. *Fitzroy.*

(*day and* The winds of the day time wrestle and fight
night) Longer and stronger than those of the night.

(*ripple of*) There is a peculiar rippling of the wind, or broken
way of blowing, which is said always to prognosticate heavy rain within a few hours.
Scotland.

and rain For raging winds blow up incessant showers,
And when the rage allays, the rain begins.
Shakespeare, Henry VI.

„ When rain comes before wind,
Halyards sheets and braces mind.
But—
When wind comes before rain,
Soon you may make sail again.

Fitzroy.

WIND.

WIND

& *rain* When the rain comes before the winds,
You may reef when it begins;
But when the wind comes before the rain,
You may hoist your topsails up again.

„ If the rain comes before the wind,
Lower your topsails and take them in;
If the wind comes before the rain,
Lower your topsails and hoist them again.

„ Much wind brings rain. *French.*

„ Therefore the winds have sucked up from the sea
Contagious fogs, which, falling in the land,
Have every pelting river made so proud,
That they have overborne their continents.
Shakespeare, Midsummer Night's Dream.

(*direction of*) When the wind is in the north,
Hail comes forth.
When the wind is in the west,
Look for a wet blast.
When the wind is in the south,
The weather will be gude.
When the wind is in the east,
Cold and snaw comes neist.

Scotch.

„ North winds send hail, south winds bring rain,
East winds we bewail, west winds blow amain;
North-east is too cold, south-east not too warm;
North-west is too bold, south-west doth no harm.
Tusser.

„ Wind east or west
Is a sign of a blast,
Wind north or south
Is a sign of a drought.

„ North wind cold,
East wind dry,
South wind warm and often wet.
West wind generally rainy.

Lord Bacon.

WIND.

WIND

(direction of) The south wind always brings wet weather,
 The north wind wet and cold together;
 The west wind always brings us rain,
 The east wind blows it back again;
 If the sun in red should set,
 The next day surely will be wet;
 If the sun should set in gray,
 The next will be a rainy day.

Satire on the humid climate of the British Isles.

(NORTH, bad When the wind is in the north
 for fishers) The skilful fisher goes not forth.

(fair) A northern air
 Brings weather fair.

„ Fair weather cometh out of the north.
Job xxxvii., v. 22.

„ The gold (of the sky) cometh out of the north.
The same, Sharpe's translation.

(cold) And cold out of the north. *Job xxxvii., v. 39.*

„ To run upon the sharp wind of the north
 To do me business in the veins o' the earth
 When it is backed with frost. *Shakespeare, Tempest.*

(rainy) The north wind bringeth forth rain.
Proverbs xxv., v. 23, Sharpe's translation.

(whirl-wind) A whirlwind came out of the north.
Ezekiel, chap. i., v. 4.

(north west) Do business with men when the wind is in the north-west.
Yorkshire.

Note.—This bringing the finest weather, is said to improve men's tempers.

„ An honest man and a north-west wind generally go to sleep together.

Note.—The north-west wind usually abates about sunset.

WIND.

WIND

North-west If two currents of wind, as shown by the motions of
and south-east the clouds, blow north-west and south-east respectively, and the south-east current be highest, foul weather will follow; but if the north-west current be uppermost, then fair clear weather may be expected.

East When the wind is in the east
 It is neither good for man nor beast.

(dry) The east wind dried up her fruit.
Ezekiel, chap. xix., v. 12.

„ Their faces shall sup up as the east wind.
Habakkuk, chap. i., v. 9.

„ An east wind shall come, the wind of the Lord shall come up from the wilderness, and his springs shall become dry, and his fountain shall be dried up.
Hosea, chap. xiii., v. 15.

„ When the east wind toucheth it, it shall wither.
Ezekiel, chap. xvii. v. 10.

„ And behold seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind came up.
Genesis xli., v. 6.

„ The east wind brought the locusts.
Exodus x., v. 13.

„ Easterly gales without rain during the spring equinox, foretel a dry summer.
Scotland.

„ (clear) Every thing looks large in the east wind.
Scotland.

Note.—There are many local sayings in Scotland referring to the unusually clear appearance of certain mountains during an east wind. It is said to indicate approaching rain.

„ (cold) When the hoar frost is first accompanied by east wind, it indicates that the cold will continue a long time.

WIND.

WIND

- (with rain) When the rain is from the east,
It is for four-and-twenty hours, at least.
- „ The heaviest rains begin with an easterly wind, which
gradually veers round to south and west, or a
little north-west, when the rain usually ceases.
- (stormy) God prepared a vehement east wind.
Jonah, chap. iv., v. 8.
- „ The east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the
seas. *Ezekiel, chap. xxxvii., v. 26.*
- „ Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east
wind. *Psalms xlvi., v. 7.*
- (East-north-east) There arose against it a tempestuous wind called
Euroclydon. *Acts xviii., v. 14.*
- „ A tempestuous wind called Euroclydon (or east-
north-east). *The same, Sharpe's translation.*
- (and west) When the wind is in the east,
The fisher likes it least.
When the wind is in the west,
The fisher likes it best.
- „ When the smoke goes west,
Good weather is past.
When the smoke goes east,
Good weather comes neist. *Scotch.*
- (South, warm) How thy garments are warm when He quieteth the
earth by the south wind. *Job xxxvii., v. 17.*
- (tempestuous) As whirlwinds in the south.
Isaiah xxi., v. 1.
- „ And shall go with whirlwinds of the south.
Zachariah ix., v. 14.
- „ Out of the south cometh the whirlwind.
Job xxxvii., v. 9.

WIND.

WIND

- (hot) When ye see the south wind blow, ye say there will
be heat, and it cometh to pass.
Luke xii., v. 55.
- (foggy) Like foggy south, puffing with wind and rain.
Shakespeare, As You Like It, Act 4.
- (wet) When tempests of commotion like the south,
Born with black vapour doth begin to melt
And drop upon our bare unarmed heads.
Shakespeare, Henry IV.
- „ And with the southern clouds contend in tears.
Shakespeare, Henry VI.
- „ When the wind is in the south,
It is in the rain's mouth.
- „ A southerly wind with showers of rain,
Will bring the wind from west again.
- Good for fishers When the wind is in the south.
It blows the bait in the fishes mouth.
- (fair) Fair weather for a week with a southern wind is
likely to produce a great drought if there has
been much rain out of the south before.
Fitzroy.
- Whistling in leaves The southern wind
Doth play the trumpet to his purposes,
And by his hollow whistling in the leaves
Fortells a tempest and a blustering day.
Shakespeare, Henry IV.
- South-east Rain with a south-east wind is expected to last for
some time. *Scotland.*
- (South-west, unwholesome) A south-west blow on ye
And blister ye all over. *Shakespeare, Tempest.*
- South-west gale If after a stiff breeze there ensue a dead calm and
drizzling rain, with a fall in the barometer, ex-
pect a gale from south-west.

WIND.

WIND

- (west) When the wind is in the west,
The weather is always best.
- „ The west wind is a gentleman, and goes to bed.
(i.e., drops in the evening.)
- Wet Wind west,
Rains nest. *Devonshire.*
- „ A western wind carrieth water in his hand.
- Sudden And more inconstant than the wind, who woos
changes Even now the frozen bosom of the north;
And being angered, puffs away from thence,
Turning his face to the dew-dropping south.
Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet.
- „ A frequent change of wind, with agitation in the
clouds, denotes a storm.
- (veering) When the wind veers against the sun,
Trust it not for back 'twill run.
- „ Permanent winds turn the vane only in a direct sense
or with the sun. *Dove.*
- „ If wind follow sun's course expect fair weather.
- „ The veering of the wind with the sun, or, as sailors
say, right handed, prognosticates drier or better
weather, the backing of the wind against the sun,
or left handed shifting, indicates rain, or more
wind, or both together. *Fitzroy.*
- „ In northern hemisphere the wind changes from east
to west by way of south, and the reverse (from
east to west by way of north) in the southern
hemisphere. *Dove.*

WIND.

WIND

- Veering Cyclones in northern hemisphere veer generally
Cyclones from east to west by way of north, or against
the sun's course. In the southern hemisphere
the reverse.
- (at sunset) If in unsettled weather the wind veers from south-
west to west or north-west at sunset, expect
finer weather for a day or two. *Fitzroy.*
- (north to If the wind veers from north to north-east in winter
north-east) intense cold follows. *Dove.*
- (north to The wind usually turns from north to south, with a
east) quiet wind without rain, but returns to the north
with a strong wind and rain. The strongest
winds are when it turns from south to north by
west. *Fitzroy.*
- (north-east When the wind turns from north-east to east and
to east) continues two days without rain, and does not
turn south the third day, nor rain the third day,
it is likely to continue north-east for eight or
nine days, all fair, and then to come to the south
again. *Fitzroy.*
- „ If the wind is north-east three days without rain,
Eight days will pass before south wind again.
Fitzroy.
- (south to If the wind shifts from south to north through west,
north) there will be, in winter, snow, in spring, sleet, in
summer, thunder storms, after which the air
becomes colder. *Dove.*
- (changing) The wind goeth towards the south and turneth about
to the north, it whirleth about continually, and
the wind returneth again according to his
circuits. *Ecclesiastes, chap. i., v. 6.*

CLOUDS.

Clouds next come under notice, and it will be seen that much is to be gleaned by observing their forms and appearances. By Fitzroy, Howard, and others, these masses of vapour have been marshalled in the order of their formation, so that the most casual observer may soon judge of the age of a cloud, whether seen in its first early stage of light feathery cirrus or in the form of a dark threatening nimbus, ripe for rain, and spreading like a vampire's wing over the landscape.

Although the names given by Howard to the different clouds have been here adopted, and the same somewhat unnatural order maintained, yet the familiar names given to these masses of vapour by sailors and others, such as Mackerel sky, Mare's Tails, Wool Bags, Packet Boys, &c., have not been omitted. Clouds should of course be observed with a proper allowance for the force and direction of the wind at the time. With a swift upper current of air a clear sky sometimes becomes obscured in a few minutes, whilst in calmer weather changes in the appearance of the sky are slow to occur, and can be reckoned on with more safety.

CLOUDS, indications of After fine clear weather the first signs in the sky of a coming change, are usually light streaks, curls, wisps, or mottled patches of white distant clouds, which increase and are followed by an overcasting of murky vapour that grows into cloudiness. The appearance more or less oily or watery as wind or rain may prevail, is an infallible sign. Usually the higher and more distant such clouds seem to be, the more gradual but general the coming change of weather will prove. *Fitzroy.*

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS

- Balancing* Can any understand the spreadings of the clouds?
Job, chap. xxxvi., v. 29.
- „ Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds?
Job, chap. xxxvii., v. 16.
- Morning* Cloudy mornings turn to clear evenings.
- Accumulating* If the sky from being clear becomes fretted or spotted all over with bunches of clouds, rain will soon fall. *Shepherd of Banbury.*
- Increasing* If clouds increase visibly and the clear sky become less, it is a sign of rain.
- „ A small increasing white cloud about the size of a hand to windward, is a sure precursor of a storm.
- Motions of* High upper clouds crossing the sun, moon, or stars, in a direction different from that of the lower clouds, or the wind then felt below, foretell a change of wind toward their direction.
Fitzroy.
- „ If two strata of clouds appear in hot weather to move in different directions, they indicate thunder.
- „ If, during dry weather, two layers of clouds appear moving in opposite directions, rain will follow.
- (*red*) Red clouds in the east, rain the next day.
- (*rain*) He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth, He maketh lightnings for the rain, He bringeth the wind out of His treasures.
Psalms cxxxv., v. 7.
- „ Clouds above—water below.
- (*storm*) Generally squalls are preceded, or accompanied, or followed by clouds, but the dangerous white squall of the West Indies is indicated only by a rushing sound and by white wave crests to windward. *Fitzroy.*

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS

Storm A squall cloud that one can see through or under, is not likely to bring or be accompanied by so much wind as a dark continued cloud extending beyond the horizon. *Fitzroy.*

„ Behold there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea like a man's hand * * *
Prepare thy chariot and get thee down that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.

1 *Kings, chap. xviii., v. 44—45.*

„ A small fast-growing black cloud in violent motion seen in the tropics, is called the Bull's Eye, and precedes the most terrible hurricanes.

Description of Sometimes we see a cloud that's dragonish,
A vapour sometimes like a bear or lion,
A towered citadel, a pendant rock,
A forked mountain, a blue promontory
With trees upon't that nod unto the world
And mock our eyes with air.
That which is now a horse, even with a thought,
The rack dislimns and makes it indistinct
As water is in water. *Shakespeare.*

From west When ye see a cloud rise out of the west straitway
ye say there cometh a shower, and so it is.
Luke xii., 54.

„ A bench (or bank) of clouds in the west indicates rain. *Surrey.*

Against wind If you see a cloud rise against the wind or side wind, when that cloud comes up to you, the wind will blow the same way that the cloud came, and the same rule holds good of a clear place when all the sky is equally thick, except one clear edge. *Shepherd of Banbury.*

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS

Colours of Light delicate quiet tints or colours with soft undefined forms of clouds, indicate and accompany fine weather; but unusual or gaudy hues with hard definitely outlined clouds, foretell rain and probably strong wind. *Fitzroy.*

„ Dusky or tarnish silver-coloured clouds indicate hail. *Howard.*

Scud Small inky-looking clouds foretell rain, light scud clouds driving across heavy masses, show wind and rain, but if alone may indicate wind only. *Fitzroy.*

Form While any of the clouds, except the nimbus, retain their primitive forms, no rain can take place, and it is by observing the changes and transitions of cloud-form, that weather may be predicted. *Howard.*

Small Small scattering clouds flying high in the south-west foreshow whirlwinds. *Howard.*

(Cirrus definition) Parallel flexuous or diverging fibres, extensible in any or all directions. *Howard.*

Common Names—Curl Cloud, Mare's Tails, Goat's Hair, &c. *Foster.*

(indicating wind) Long parallel bands of clouds in the direction of the wind indicate steady high winds to come.

(fine weather) If cirrus clouds dissolve and appear to vanish, it is an indication of fine weather.

(rain) If the cirrus clouds appear to windward, and change to cirro stratus, it is a sign of rain.

Streaky clouds across the wind foreshow rain. *Scotland.*

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS (CIRRUS)

- (rain and wind) These clouds announce the east wind. If their under surface is level and their streaks pointing upwards, they indicate rain; if downwards, wind and dry weather. *Howard.*
- (rain) If cirrus clouds form in fine weather with a falling barometer, it is almost sure to rain. *Howard.*
- (bad weather) If the cirrus clouds get lower and denser to leeward, it presages bad weather from the opposite quarter.
- (storms) When the cirrus clouds appear at lower elevations than usual, and with a denser character, expect a storm from the opposite quarter to the clouds.
- (thaw) When, after a clear frost, long streaks of cirrus are seen with their ends bending towards each other as they recede from the zenith, and when they point to the north-east, a thaw and a south-west wind may be expected.
- (wet) Continued wet weather is attended by horizontal sheets of cirrus clouds which subside quickly, passing into the cirro stratus.
- (Cirro Stratus definition) Horizontal or slightly inclined masses attenuated towards a part or the whole of their circumference, bent downwards, or undulated, separate, or in groups, or consisting of small clouds having these characters. *Howard.*
- (wind) If clouds look as if scratched by a hen, Get ready to reef your topsails then. *Nautical.*
- Continuous cirro-strati gathering into unbroken gloom, and also the cloud called goat's hair, or the grey mare's tail, presage wind. *Scotland.*
- (indicating wind) When after a shower the cirro strata open up at the zenith, leaving broken or ragged edges pointing upwards, and settle down gloomily and compactly on the horizon, wind will follow and will last for some time. *Scotland.*

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS (CIRRO STRATUS)

- (wind and rain) The cirro stratus precedes winds and rains, and the approach of foul weather may sometimes be inferred from its greater or less abundance and the permanent character it puts on.
- " If clouds appear high in air in their *white trains*, wind and probably rain will follow.
- (Fish-Shaped) The cirro stratus is doubtless the one alluded to by Polonius, in Hamlet, as "Very like a whale."
- " The fish (hake) shaped cloud, if pointing east and west, indicates rain; if north and south, more fine weather. *Bedfordshire.*
- " A long stripe of cloud, sometimes called a salmon, sometimes a Noah's ark, when it stretches east and west, is a sign of a storm, but when north and south, of fine weather.
- (with cirrus) Light fleecy clouds in rapid motion, below compact dark cirro strati, foretell rain near at hand. *Scotland.*
- (indicating thunder) The waved cirro stratus indicates heat and thunder.
- (Cirro Cumulus definition) Small well-defined roundish masses increasing from below. *Howard.*
- Commonly called mackerel sky.
- (Packet-boys) These clouds are called in Buckinghamshire packet boys, and are said to be packets of rain soon to be opened.
- (indicating wind) Mackerel sky and mare's tails, Make lofty ships carry low sails.
- (rain) A mackerel sky denotes fair weather for that day, but rain a day or two after.
- (change) Mackerel sky— Neither long wet nor long dry.

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS (STRATUS, &c.)

- (fine) If woolly fleeces spread the heavenly way,
Be sure no rain disturbs the summer day.
- (Cirro Cumulus, indicating thunder) Before thunder, cirro cumulus clouds often appear in very dense and compact masses, in close contact.
- ((storm) The cirro cumulus, when accompanied by the cumulo-stratus, is a sure indication of a coming storm.
- (Stratus, definition) A widely extended continuous horizontal sheet, increasing from below. *Howard.*
- (fine) These clouds have always been regarded as the harbingers of fine weather, and there are few finer days in the year than when the morning breaks out through a disappearing stratus cloud.
- (Nimbus, definition) A rain cloud—a cloud or system of clouds from which rain is falling. It is a horizontal sheet over which the cirrus spreads, while the cumulus enters it laterally and from beneath.
- (rain) By watering he wearieth the thick cloud.
Job xxxvii., v. 11.
- (Prophet clouds) When scattered patches, or streaks of nimbus come driving up from the south-west, they are called by the sailors "Prophet Clouds," and indicate wind.
- (Cumulus, definition) Convex or conical heaps increasing upwards from a horizontal base—wool bag clouds.
- (wind) Cumulus clouds high up are said to show that south and south-west winds are near at hand, and stratified clouds low down, that east or north winds will prevail. *Scotland.*

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS (CUMULUS)

- (rain) Before rain these clouds augment in volume with great rapidity, sink to a lower elevation, and become fleecy and irregular in appearance, with their surfaces full of protuberances. They usually also remain stationary, or else sail against the wind previous to wet weather.
- (wet calm) The formation of cumulus clouds to leeward during a strong wind indicates the approach of a calm with rain.
- (Fair weather) When the cumulus clouds are smaller at sunset than they were at noon, expect fair weather.
- (Cumulus, indicating hail, snow, or rain) If clouds are formed like fleeces, deep and dense, or thick and close towards the middle, the edges being very white, while the surrounding sky is bright and blue, they are of a frosty coldness, and will speedily fall in hail, snow, or rain.
- (storm) And another storm brewing; I hear it sing i' the wind, yond' same black cloud, yond' huge one, looks like a foul bumbard that would shed his liquor * * Yond' same cloud cannot chuse but fall by pailfuls. *Shakespeare, Tempest.*
- " The pocky cloud or heavy cumulus, like festoons of drapery, forbodes a storm. *Scotland.*
- " In summer or harvest, when the wind has been south for two or three days, and it grows very hot, and you see clouds rise with great white tops like towers, as if one were upon the top of another and joined together with black on the nether side, there will be thunder and rain suddenly. If two such clouds arise, one on either hand, it is time to make haste to shelter. *Shepherd of Banbury.*
- (thunder) When cumulus clouds become heaped up to leeward during a strong wind at sunset, thunder may be expected during the night.

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS (CUMULO STRATUS)

(*Cumulo Stratus*, definition) The cirro stratus blended with the cumulus, and either appearing intermixed with the heaps of the latter, or superadding a wide spread structure to its base. *Howard.*

(*clouds, black*) After black clouds, clear weather.

„ Clouds that are carried with a tempest, to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.
2 Peter, chap. ii., v. 17.

„ So foul a sky clears not without a storm.
Shakespeare, King John.

(*on hills*) When the clouds are upon the hills
They'll come down by the mills.

(*Helm cloud*) A cloud, called the Helm Cloud, hovering about the hill tops for a day or two, is said to presage wind and rain. *Yorkshire.*

„ Misty clouds, forming or hanging on heights, show wind and rain coming, if they remain, increase, or descend. If they rise or disperse, the weather will improve. *Fitzroy.*

„ When the clouds on the hill tops are thick and in motion, rain to the south-west is regarded as certain to follow. *Scotland.*

Cheviot When Cheviot ye see put on his cap,
Of rain ye'll have a wee bit drap. *Scotland.*

Riving Pike If Riving Pike do wear a hood,
Be sure the day will ne'er be good. *Lancashire.*

Roseberry Topping If Roseberry Topping wears a cap,
Let Cleveland then beware of a rap.

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS

Breddon Hill When Breddon Hill puts on his hat,
Ye men of the vale beware of that. *Worcestershire.*

Largo Law When Largo Law puts on his hat
Let Kellie Law beware of that;
When Kellie Law gets on his cap
Largo Law may laugh at that. *Scotland.*
Note.—Largo Law is to the south-west of Kellie Law.

Cairns Muir When Cairns Muir wears a hat,
The Macher's Rills may laugh at that.
Note.—Cairns Muir is N.N.E. of Macher's Rills,
Wigtownshire, Scotland.

Cornsancone If Cornsancone put on his cap, and the Knipe be clear, it will rain within twenty-four hours.

Note.—This is a sign which it is said never fails.
Cornsancone Hill is to the east, and the Knipe to the south-west of the New Cumnock districts where the proverb is current.

„ A cloud on Sidlaw Hills foretells rain to Carmylie.
„ Bin Hill „ „ „ Cullen.
„ Paps of Jura „ „ „ } Gigha and
„ Mull of Kintyre „ „ „ } Cara.

Skiddaw Heavy clouds on Skiddaw, especially with a south wind, the farmer of Kirkpatrick, Fleming, looks on as an indication of coming rain.

Note.—Skiddaw lies to the south of the place.

Criffel The rolling of clouds landward and their gathering about the summit of Criffel is regarded as a sign of foul weather in Dumfries and Kirkpatrick, Fleming, and intervening parishes.
Note.—Criffel is to the S.W. of the place.

CLOUDS.

CLOUDS

Craighill There is a high wooded hill above Lochnau Castle, Take care when Lady Craighill puts on her mantle ; The Lady looks high and knows what is coming, Delay not one moment to get under covering.

Note.—The hill lies to the north-west of the district where this saying is quoted.

MIST White mist in winter indicates frost.

Scotland.

(*while*)

(*black*) Black mist indicates coming rain.

(*in low ground*) If mists rise in low ground and soon vanish, expect fair weather. *Shepherd of Banbury.*

(*on hills*) If mist rise to the hill tops and there stay, expect rain shortly.

on mountains Thin, white, fleecy broken mist slowly ascending the sides of a mountain whose top is uncovered, predicts a fair day. *Scotland.*

„ When the mist creeps up the hill,
Fisher out and try your skill ;
When the mist begins to nod,
Fisher then put past your rod.

Scotland.

„ A white mist in the evening, over a meadow with a river, will be drawn up by the sun next morning, and the day will be bright.—Five or six fogs successively drawn up portend rain. Where there are high hills, and the mist which hangs over the lower lands draws towards the hills in the morning, and rolls up to the top, it will be fair : but if the mist hangs upon the hills, and drags along the woods, there will be rain. *Rev. W. Jones.*

„ When the mist comes from the hill,
Then good weather it doth spill ;
When the mist comes from the sea,
Then good weather it will be.

MIST, DEWS, &c.

MIST

and fogs In the evenings of Autumn and Spring vapour arising from a river is regarded as a sure indication of coming frost. *Scotland.*

Haze Hazy weather is thought to prognosticate frost in winter, snow in spring, fair weather in summer, and rain in autumn. *Scotland.*

DEWS The dews of the evening industriously shun,
(*evening*) They're the tears of the sky for the loss of the sun.

„ If the dew lies plentifully on the grass after a fair day, it is a sign of another. If not, and there is no wind, rain must follow. *Rev. W. Jones.*

and fog When in the morning the dew is heavy and remains long on the grass, when the fog in the valleys is slowly dispersed and lingers on the hill sides, when the clouds seem to be taking a higher place, and when a few loose cirro-strati float gently along, serene weather may be expected for the greater part of that day. *Scotland.*

„ Dew is an indication of fine weather ; so is fog. *Fitzroy.*

SKY

(*clear*)

Clear in the south beguiled the cadger.

Scotland.

„ A small cloudless place in the north-east horizon is regarded both by seamen and landmen as a certain precursor of fine weather or a clearing up. *Scotland.*

Colours A dark gloomy blue sky is windy, but a light bright blue sky indicates fine weather ; when the sky is of a sickly-looking greenish hue, wind or rain may be expected. *Fitzroy.*

SKY, RAIN.

SKY

Greenish If the sky is of a deep clear blue or a sea-green colour near the horizon, rain will follow in showers.

„ In winter when the sky about mid-day has a greenish appearance to the east or north-east, snow and frost are expected. *Scotland.*

„ When the sky in rainy weather is tinged with sea-green, the rain will increase; if with deep blue, it will be showery. *Rev. W. Jones.*

Reflecting The glare of the distant Ayrshire ironworks being seen at night from Cumbræ or Rothsay, rain is expected next day. *Scotland.*

„ In Kincardine of Monteith and in all that district, the reflection from the clouds of the furnaces of the Devon and Carron works (to the east) fortells rain next day. *Scotland.*

(yellowish) The carle sky
Keeps not the head dry.

„ From Dumfries to Gretna a lurid yellowish sky in the east or south-east is called a Carlisle or Carle sky, and is regarded as a sure sign of rain. *Scotland.*

RAIN, *from* If it begin to rain from the south with a high wind
South for two or three hours, and the wind falls but the rain continues, it is likely to rain twelve hours or more, and does usually rain till a strong north wind clears the air. These long rains seldom hold above twelve hours, or happen above once a year.

Shepherd of Banbury.

„ *morning* Rain before seven,
Lift before eleven.

RAIN.

RAIN

morning Morning rains are soon past.

France.

„ „ If it begin to rain an hour or two before sunrise it is likely to be fair before noon, and so continue that day; but if the rain begin an hour or two after sunrise it is likely to rain all that day except the rainbow be seen before it rains. *Shepherd of Banbury.*

„ *midnight* If it rain at midnight with a south wind, it will generally last above twelve hours.

„ *and wind* Small rain abates high wind.

France.

„ *uncertain* It rains by planets.

„ *sudden* Sudden rains never last long, but when the air grows thick by degrees, and the sun, moon, and stars shine dimmer and dimmer, then it is likely to rain six hours usually.

Shepherd of Banbury.

„ *from* They are wet with the showers of the mountains.
mountains *Job xxiv., ver. 8.*

„ *during* If it rain when the sun shines it will surely rain
sunshine the next day about the same hour.

Suffolk.

„ „ A sunshiny shower
Never lasts half-an-hour.

Bedfordshire.

„ „ Sunshiny rain
Will soon go again.

Devonshire.

„ *showers* If short showers come during dry weather they are
short said to "harden the drought" and indicate no change. *Scotland.*

RAIN, STORMS, &C.

RAIN

„ *preceded*
by fair There is usually fair weather before a settled course
weather of rain. *Fitzroy.*

„ *followed* If hail appear after a long course of rain, it is a
by hail sign of clearing up. *Scotland.*

STORMS, Untimely storms make men expect a dearth.
unseasonable *Shakespeare, Richard III.*

„ *in* As humorous as winter, and as sudden
morning As flaws congealed in the spring of day.
Shakespeare, Henry IV.

„ *sigh of* Just before a storm the sea heaves and sighs.
Fitzroy.

SQUALLS Squalls are considered as a favourable sign in tempests and hurricanes, as shortly preceding their discontinuance. They are accessions of new air to the prevailing wind or storm, and partly from a new direction, and are generally accompanied by arched clouds, or thunderstorms, and by rain. *Fitzroy.*

„ *sudden* The sudden storm lasts not three hours.

„ „ The sharper the blast
 The sooner 't is past. *Charles Wesley.*

small showers Small showers last long, but sudden storms are short.
Shakespeare, Richard II.

„ „ The faster the rain, the quicker the hold up.
Norfolk.

„ „ After a storm comes a calm.

„ *changes* Lang foul
 Lang fair. *Buchanan's Almanack. Scotland.*

THUNDER, &C.

THUNDER

Silence before We often see, against some storm,
a A silence in the heavens, the rack stand still,
thunderstorm The bold winds speechless, and the orb below
 As hush as death: anon the dreadful thunder
 Doth rend the region. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*

Thunder in morning Thunder in y^e morning signifies wynde, about noone
 rayne, in y^e evening great tempest. *Digges.*

„ *and rain* After much thunder, much rain. *France.*

„ *from south* A thunderstorm from the south is said to be followed
 by warmth, and from the north by cold; when
 the storm disappears in the east it is a sign of
 fine weather. *Scotland.*

LIGHTNING Sheet lightning, without thunder, during the night, having a whitish colour, announces unsettled weather. In the west of Scotland morning lightning is regarded as an omen of bad weather. *Scotland.*

RAINBOW If there be a rainbow in the eve
 It will rain and leave;
 But if there be a rainbow in the morrow
 It will neither lend nor borrow.

„ Rainbow to windward, foul fall the day,
 Rainbow to leeward, damp runs away. *Nautical.*

„ If a rainbow appear in fair weather, foul will follow,
 but if a rainbow appear in foul weather, fair will follow.

„ The rainbow in the marnin
 Gives the shepherd warnin
 To car' his gurt cwoat on his back;
 The rainbow at night is the shepherd's delight,
 For then no gurt cwoat will he lack.
Wiltshire.

RAINBOW

- „ A rainbow in the morning
Is the shepherd's warning;
A rainbow at night
Is the shepherd's delight.
- „ When a rainbow appears in wind's eye rain is sure
to follow.

Undulation in air Much undulation in the air, on a hot day in May or
June, foretells cold. *Scotland.*

Clearness of air When the distant hills are more than usually distinct, rain approaches.

Frost, &c. Quick thaw, long frost. *Old Anglo-Saxon.*

Hoar Frost Hoar frost is good for vines but bad for corn.
France.

Frost & Fog He that would have a bad day maun gang out in a
fog after a frost. *Scotch.*

Bearded frost Bearded frost, forerunner of snow.

Hail Hail brings frost in the tail.

„ A hailstorm by day denotes a frost at night.

Aurora The aurora borealis indicates approaching change.

„ The first great aurora, after a long tract of fine
weather in September or beginning of October,
is followed on the second day, and not till the
second day about one o'clock, on the east coast,
and about eleven o'clock in Nithsdale, by a
great storm; the next day after the aurora
is fine weather. *Scotland, Professor Christison.*

„ If an aurora appear during warm weather, cold and
cloudy weather is to follow. *Scotland.*

METEORS

Numerous falling stars presage wind next day.
Scotland.

Electric Lights Last night I saw St. Elmo's stars,
With their glimmering lanterns all at play,
On the tops of the masts and the tips of the spars,
And I knew we should have foul weather that
day.

Tide If, after the first ebb of the tide, it flows again for a
little while, a storm approaches. *Scotch Coast.*

„ Showers occur more frequently at the turn of the
tide.

Flood If the river Tweed rise without rain, it foretells the
same within 12 hours.

ANIMALS, &c.

The observations of naturalists, shepherds, herdsmen, and others who have been brought much into contact with animals, have proved most clearly that these creatures are cognisant of approaching changes in the state of the air long before we know of their coming by other signs. To many kinds of animals, birds, and insects, the weather is of so much more importance than to us that it would be wonderful if nature had not provided them with a more keenly prophetic instinct in this respect. The occurrence of a storm would, doubtless, be the means of depriving some of the carnivora of a meal, and it is known that utter destruction would occur to the nests of some birds if the tenants were absent during a gale of wind or a pelting shower; while to vast numbers of insects the state of the weather for the fraction of a week may determine the whole time during which they can enjoy their little lives. To enable all these creatures to prepare for coming trouble they seem to have been fitted with what is to us an unknown sense informing them of minute changes in the atmosphere, and it has long been observed that they eat with more avidity, return to their homes, or become unusually restless before the coming of the danger of which they are forewarned.

This is a subject on which there is still a great deal to be learnt, and I hope naturalists will continue to collect notes on so important a matter.

ANIMALS, &c.

- ANIMALS When animals seek sheltered places instead of spreading over their usual range, an unfavourable change is probable.
- „ If animals crowd together, rain will follow.
- Dogs* When dogs eat grass it will be rainy.
- „ If dogs roll on the ground and scratch, or become drowsy and stupid, it is a sign of rain.
- Spaniels* If spaniels sleep more than usual it foretells wet weather.
- Cats* When cats sneeze it is a sign of rain.
- „ Cats are observed to scratch the wall or a post before wind, and to wash their faces before a thaw, they sit with their backs to the fire before snow.
Scotland.
- „ While rain depends, the pensive cat gives o'er her frolics, and pursues her tail no more.
Broome.
- „ When cats wipe their jaws with their feet it is a sign of rain.
- Horses* If horses stretch out their necks and sniff the air, rain will ensue.
- Cattle* The cattle also concerning the vapour.
Job xxxvi., v. 33.
- Bulls* If bulls lick their hoofs or kick about, expect much rain.

ANIMALS

- Bulls* If the bull lead the van in going to pasture, rain must be expected, but if he is careless and allow the cows to precede him, the weather will be uncertain.
- Oxen* If oxen turn up their nostrils and sniff the air, or if they lick their fore feet, or lie on their right side it will rain.
- Asses* If asses hang their ears downward and forward, and rub against walls, rain is approaching.
- „ If asses bray more frequently than usual, it foreshows rain.
- „ Hark! I hear the asses bray,
We shall have some rain to-day. *Rutland.*
- „ It is time to stack your hay and corn,
When the old donkey blows his horn.
- Goats* Goats leave the high grounds and seek shelter before a storm. *Scotland.*
- Goats and Sheep* If goats and sheep quit their pastures with reluctance, it will rain the next day.
- Sheep* If sheep gambol and fight, or retire to shelter, it presages a change in the weather.
- „ Old sheep are said to eat greedily before a storm, and sparingly before a thaw; when they leave the high grounds and bleat much in the evening and during the night, severe weather is expected. In winter, when they feed down the hill, a snow storm it looked for; when they feed up the burn, wet weather is near.

ANIMALS

- Sheep* When sheep turn their backs to the wind, it is a sign of rain.
- Pigs* When pigs carry straw to their sties, bad weather may be expected.
- „ When pigs are more than usually restless or grunting, it will rain.
- Rats* If rats are more restless than usual, rain is at hand.
- Mice* If mice run about more than usual, wet weather may be expected.
- Moles* If moles throw up more earth than usual, rain is indicated.
- Hares* Hares take to the open country before a snow storm. *Scotland.*
- Weasels, Stoats, &c.* If these animals are seen running about much in the forenoon, it fortells rain in the after part of the day. *Scotland.*
- Bats* It will rain if bats cry much or fly into the house.
- „ If bats abound and are vivacious, fine weather may be expected.
- BIRDS* When the fieldfare, redwing, starling, swan, snow-fleck, and other birds of passage arrive soon from the north, it indicates the probability of an early and severe winter. *Scotland.*
- „ When birds of long flight—rooks, swallows, or others, hang about home and fly up and down or low, rain or wind may be expected.

BIRDS

„ If birds return slowly to their nests, rain will follow.

Small birds If small birds seem to duck and wash in the sand, it is held to be a sign of coming rain.

Sea-birds When sea-birds fly out early and far to seaward, moderate winds and fair weather may be expected. When they hang about the land or over it, sometimes flying inland, expect a strong wind with stormy weather.

„ If sea fowl retire to the shore or marshes, a storm approaches.

Fowls If fowls grub in the dust and clap their wings, or if their wings droop, it indicates coming rain.

„ If fowls roll in the sand,
Rain is at hand.

„ If the cock moult before the hen,
We shall have weather thick and thin;
But if the hen moult before the cock,
We shall have weather hard as a block.

Cock If the cock drink in summer it will rain a little after.
Italy.

„ If cocks crow late and early, clapping their wings unusually, rain is expected.

„ If the cock goes crowing to bed,
He'll certainly rise with a watery head.

Hen and chickens If a hen and chickens crowd into a house, it is a sign of rain.

BIRDS

Ducks. When ducks are driving through the burn,
That night the weather takes a turn.

Ducks and geese If ducks and geese fly backwards and forwards, and continually plunge in water and wash themselves incessantly, wet weather will ensue.

Swan If the swan flies against the wind, it is a certain indication of a hurricane within twenty-four hours, generally within twelve.

Correspondent in the Athenæum, Vol. III., p. 229.

„ When the white swan visits the Orkneys, expect a continued severe winter.
Scotland.

Pigeons If pigeons return home slowly, the weather will be wet.

Rooks When rooks seem to drop in their flight, as if pierced by a shot, it is considered to foretell rain.

„ This “tumbling” of rooks is amongst the best known signs of rain in places where those birds are found.

„ The low flight of rooks indicates rain. If they feed busily and hurry over the ground in one direction, and in a compact body, a storm will soon follow. When they sit in rows on dykes and palings, wind is looked for; when going home to roost, if they fly high, the next day will be fair, and *vice versa*. If when flying high they dart down and wheel about in circles, wind is foreshown. In autumn and winter, if after feeding in the morning they return to the rookery and hang about it, rain is to be expected.
Scotland.

BIRDS.

BIRDS

- Rooks* When rooks fly sporting high in air
It shows that windy storms are near.
- „ If rooks stay at home, or return in the middle of the day, it will rain; if they go far abroad, it will be fine. *Devonshire.*
- Thrush* The missile thrush (in Hampshire called the storm-cock) sing particularly loud and long before rain.
- Starlings, &c.* If starlings and crows congregate together in large numbers, expect rain.
- Magpie* When magpies fly abroad singly, the weather either is or will soon be stormy, but when both birds are seen together, the weather will be mild.
- Jackdaws* When three daws are seen on St. Peter's vane together
Then we're sure to have bad weather. *Norwich.*
- Swallows* If swallows touch the water as they fly, rain approaches.
- Robins* If robins are seen near houses, it is a sign of rain.
- Sparrows* If sparrows chirp a great deal, wet weather will ensue.
- Ravens* If ravens croak three or four times and flap their wings, fine weather is expected.
- Blackbirds* When the voices of blackbirds are unusually shrill, or when blackbirds sing much in the morning, rain will follow.
- Larks* If larks fly high and sing long, expect fine weather.

BIRDS.

BIRDS

- Owls* If Owls scream during bad weather, there will be a change.
- „ The dirt bird (or dirt owl) sings, and we shall have rain.
- Ptarmigan* The frequently repeated cry of the ptarmigan low down on the mountains during frost and snow, indicates more snow and continued cold. *Scotland.*
- Hern or Bittern* When the hern or bittern flies low, the air is gross and thickening into showers.
- Cranes* If cranes appear in autumn early, a severe winter is expected.
- Peacock* When the peacock loudly bawls
Soon we'll have both rain and squalls.
- „ If peacocks cry in the night, there is rain to fall.
- „ Much crying of peacocks denotes rain.
- Grouse* The gathering of grouse into large flocks indicates snow. Their approach to the farm yard is a sign of severe weather—frost and snow. When they sit on dykes in the moor, rain only is expected. *Scotland.*
- Dotterel* When dotterel do fast appear,
It shows that frost is very near;
But when the dotterel do go,
Then you may look for heavy snow. *Scotland.*

BIRDS, &C.

BIRDS

Snipes The drumming of the snipe in the air, and the call of the partridge, indicate dry weather and frost at night to the shepherds of Garrow.

Scotland.

Fulmar If the fulmar seek land, it is a sign to the inhabitants of St. Kilda that the west wind is far off.

Petrel If the stormy petrel seek the shore or the wake of a vessel, a storm is imminent.

Kites If kites fly high, fine weather is at hand.

Woodpeckers When woodpeckers are much heard, rain will follow.

Fishes Fishes rise more than usual at the approach of a storm. In some parts of England they are said not to bite so well before rain.

Dolphins If dolphins are seen to leap and toss, fine weather may be expected, and the wind will blow from the quarter in which they are seen.

Porpoises When porpoises swim to windward, foul weather will ensue within twelve hours.

Earth-worms If many earth worms appear, it presages rain.

Toads If toads come out of their holes in great numbers, rain will fall soon.

REPTILES, &C.

REPTILES

Frogs When frogs croak much it is a sign of rain.

„ If frogs, instead of yellow, appear russet green, it will presently rain.

„ If frogs make a noise in the time of cold rain, warm dry weather will follow.

„ When frogs spawn in the middle of the water it is a sign of drought, and when at the side it foretells a wet summer.
Scotland.

Snakes Rain is foretold by the appearance and activity of snakes.

Leech A leech confined in a bottle of water is always agitated when a change of weather is about to take place. Before *high winds* it moves about with much celerity. Previous to *slight rain or snow* it creeps to the top of the bottle but soon sinks; but, if the *rain or wind* is likely to be of long duration, the leech remains a longer time at the surface. If *thunder* approaches, the leech starts about in an agitated and convulsive manner.

Snails When black snails cross your path, Black clouds much moisture hath.

Glowworm When the glowworm lights her lamp, The air is always damp.

„ If glowworms shine much it will rain.

Bees When many bees enter the hive and none leave it, rain is near.
Scotland.

BEEES.

BEEES

If bees stay at home,
Rain will soon come ;
If they fly away,
Fine will be the day.

„ A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay ;
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon—
But a swarm in July
Is not worth a fly.

„ A bee was never caught in a shower.

PLANTS, &c.

The vegetable world has not escaped the notice of the weather prophets, and many plants have been observed to give indications of stormy weather long before it actually take place. The closing, for instance, of the pink-eyed pimpernel, or ploughman's weather glass, is better understood among the Bedfordshire labourers than the indications of any instrument, and has to them the great advantage of being in the fields where they work, of being easily understood, and of costing nothing. From the blossoming and fruition of certain plants a rough code of rules has also been laid down as to the coming harvest, the time for sowing, and the severity or mildness of the seasons. These will be found mentioned in their proper places.

Dandelion When the down of the dandelion contracts, it is a sign of rain.

Wood Sorrel A species of wood sorrel contracts its leaves at the approach of rain.

Gnats If gnats play up and down, it is a sign of heat, but if in the shade it presages mild showers ; if they collect in the evening before sunset and form a vortex or column, fine weather will follow, while if they sting much it is held to be an unfailing indication of rain.

INSECTS, &c.

INSECTS

- Flies* If flies cling much to the ceilings, or disappear, rain may be expected.
- „ If flies sting and are more troublesome than usual, a change approaches.
- Ants* If ants are more than ordinarily active, or if they remove their eggs from small hills, it will surely rain.
- Crickets* When crickets chirp unusually, wet is expected.
- Beetles and crickets* Before rain, beetles and crickets are more troublesome than usual.
- Clock beetle* If the clock beetle flies circularly and buzzes, it is a sign of fine weather.
- Rain beetle* A certain long-bodied beetle is called in Bedfordshire the rain beetle, on account of its always appearing before rain.
- Spiders* If garden spiders forsake their cobwebs rain is at hand.
- Gossamer* When you see gossamer flying, Be sure the air is drying.
- Chickweed* Chickweed expands its leaves boldly and fully when fine weather is to follow, but if it should shut up, then the traveller is to put on his great coat.
- Siberian Sow Thistle* If the flowers keep open all night the weather will be wet next day.
- Clover* Clover contracts its leaves at the approach of a storm.

PLANTS, &c.

PLANTS

- Convolvulus* The convolvulus folds up its petals at the approach of rain.
- African Marigold* If this plant do not open its petals by seven in the morning, it will rain or thunder that day. It also closes before a storm.
- Sensitive plants* Sensitive plants contract their leaves at the approach of rain.
- Seaweed* A piece of kelp or seaweed hung up will become damp previous to rain.
- Pink-eyed Pimpernel* When this flower closes in the day time, it is a sign of rain.*
- Various plants* The indications of plants, as to the times for sheep shearing, harvest, &c., will be found under the head of "Times and Seasons."
- Flowers* The odour of flowers is more apparent just before a shower (when the air is moist) than at any other time.
- Dust* Dust rising in dry weather is a sign of approaching change. *Scotland.*
- „ If dust whirl round in eddies when being blown about by the wind, it is a sign of rain.
- Chairs and Tables* When chairs and tables creak and crack it will rain.
- Walls* When walls are more than usually damp, rain is expected.

* This flower is called the countryman's weather glass.

VARIOUS SIGNS OF RAIN.

- Soot* If soot falls down the chimney, rain will ensue.
- Corns, wounds, and sores* If corns, wounds, and sores itch, or ache more than usual, rain is to fall shortly.
- Corns* A coming storm your shooting corns presage,
And aches will throb, your hollow tooth will rage.
Broome.
- Rheumatism* When rheumatic people complain of more than ordinary pains in the joints, it will rain.
- Winds* *Clouds* The hollow winds begin to blow,
- Barometer* The clouds look black, the glass is low,
- Soot* The soot falls down, the spaniels sleep,
- Spiders* And spiders from their cobwebs creep.
- Sunset* Last night the sun went pale to bed,
- Moon* The moon in halves hid her head,
- Rainbow* The boding shepherd heaves a sigh,
For, see! a rainbow spans the sky;
- Walls ditches* The walls are damp, the ditches smell,
- Pimpernel* Closed is the pink-eyed pimpernel;
- Chairs* Hark how the chairs and tables crack,
- Joints* Old Betty's joints are on the rack;
- Ducks* Loud quack the ducks, the peacocks cry,
- Peacocks, hills* The distant hills are looking nigh;
- Swine* How restless are the snorting swine,
- Flies* The busy flies disturb the kine;
- Swallow* Low o'er the grass the swallow wings,
- Cricket* The cricket, too, how sharp he sings;
- Cat* Puss on the hearth, with velvet paws,
Sits wiping o'er her whiskered jaws,
- Fishes* Through the clear stream the fishes rise
And nimbly catch th' incautious flies;
- Glowworms* The glowworms, numerous and bright,
Illumed the dewy dell last night;
- Toad* At dusk the squalid toad was seen
Hopping and crawling o'er the green,

VARIOUS SIGNS OF RAIN.

- Dust* The whirling dust the wind obeys,
And in the rapid eddy plays:
- Frog* The frog has changed his yellow vest,
And in a russet coat is dressed;
- Air* Though June, the air is cold and still,
- Blackbird* The yellow blackbird's voice is shrill;
- Dog* My dog so altered in his taste,
Quits mutton bones on grass to feast;
- Rooks* And, see yon rooks how odd their flight,
They imitate the gliding kite,
And seem precipitate to fall,
As if they felt the piercing ball—
'Twill surely rain—I see with sorrow
Our jaunt must be put off to-morrow. *Dr. Jenner.*
- WIND* For ere the rising winds begin to roar,
- Sea* The working seas advance to wash the shore;
- Leaves* Soft whispers run along the leafy woods,
- Mountains* And mountains whistle to the murmuring floods.
- Waves* Ev'n then the doubtful billows scarce abstain
From the toss't vessel on the troubled main;
- Cormorants* When crying cormorants forsake the sea,
And, stretching to the covert, wing their way—
- Coots* When sportful coots run skimming o'er the strand;
- Hérons* When watchful herons leave their watery stand,
And mounting upward with erected flight,
Gain on the skies and soar above the sight:
And oft, before tempestuous winds arise,
- Meteors* The seeming stars fall headlong from the skies,
And shooting through the darkness gild the night
With sweeping glories, and long trails of light;
- Chaff* And chaff with eddy winds is whirl'd around,
- Leaves* And dancing leaves are lifted from the ground;
- Feathers* And floating feathers on the waters play:
- Thunder* But when the winged thunder takes his way
From the cold north and east and west engage,
And at their frontiers meet with equal rage,
- Winds* The clouds are crush'd; a glut of gathered rain
The hollow ditches fills, and floats the plain;
And sailors furl their dropping sheets amain.

VARIOUS SIGNS OF THE WEATHER.

RAIN	Wet weather seldom hurts the most unwise ; So plain the signs, such prophets are the skies.
Crane	The wary crane foresees it first, and sails Above the storm, and leaves the lowly vales :
Cow	The cow looks up, and from afar can find The change of heav'n, and snuffs it in the wind :
Swallow	The swallow skims the river's wat'ry face :
Frogs	The frogs renew the croaks of their loquacious race.
Ants	The careful ant her secret cell forsakes, And drags her eggs along the narrow tracks :
Rainbow	At either born the rainbow drinks the flood :
Rooks	Huge flocks of rising rooks foresake their food, And, crying, seek the shelter of the wood.
Waterfowl	Besides the several sorts of wat'ry fowls, That swim the seas or haunt the standing pools,
Swans	The swans that sail along the silvery flood, And dive with stretching necks to search their food, Then lave their backs with sprinkling dews in vain, And stem the stream to meet the promised rain.
Crow	The crow with clam'rous cries the shower demands, And single stalks along the desert sands. The nightly virgin while her wheel she plies, Foresees the storm impending in the skies
Lamps	When sparkling lamps their splutt'ring light advance, And in the sockets oily bubbles dance.
FINE	Then after show'rs 'tis easy to descry
WEATHER	Returning suns, and a serener sky.
Stars	The stars shine smarter ; and the moon adorns,
Moon	As with unborrowed beams, her sharpened horns.
Gossamer	The filmy gossamer now flits no more, Nor halcyons bask on the short sunny shore ;
Swine	Their litter is not toss'd by sows unclean ;
Mist	But a blue droughty mist descends upon the plain ;
Owls	And owls that mark the setting sun declare A starlight evening and a morning fair.
Hawk and	Tow'ring aloft, avenging Nisus flies,
Lark	While dar'd below the guilty Scylla lies ; Wherever frightened Scylla flies away, Swift Nisus follows and pursues his prey ; Where injured Nisus takes his airy course

VARIOUS SIGNS OF THE WEATHER.

RAIN

Thence trembling Scylla flies and shuns his force.
This punishment pursues the unhappy maid,
And thus the purple hair is dearly paid.

Ravens

Then thrice the ravens rend the liquid air,
And croaking notes proclaim the settled fair.
Then round their airy palaces they fly,
To greet the sun ; and seized with secret joy,
When storms are overblown, with food repair
To their forsaken nests and callow care.
Not that I think their breasts with heavenly souls
Inspired, as man who destiny controls,
But with the changeeful temper of the skies,
As rains condense and sunshine rarifies,
So turn the species in their altered minds :
Composed by calms and discomposed by winds.
From hence proceeds the birds' harmonious voice :
From hence the cows exult, and frisking lambs
rejoice.

Birds
cows and
lambs

Virgil, "Georgics." Dryden's translation.

Various
signs of
rain

A boding silence reigns
Dread through the dim expanse ; save the dull sound
That from the mountain, previous to the storm,
Rolls o'er the muttering earth, disturbs the flood
And shakes the forest leaf without a breath,
Prone to the lowest vale aerial tribes
Descend ; the tempest-loving raven scarce
Dares wing the dubious dusk ; in rueful gaze
The cattle stand, and on the scowling heavens
Cast a deploring eye ; by man forsook,
Who to the crowded cottage hies him fast,
Or seeks the shelter of the downward cave.

Thomson.

Weather
Rhyme

Well Duncombe, how will be the weather ?
Sir,—It looks cloudy altogether,
And coming across our Houghton Green,
I stopped and talked with old Frank Beane,
While we stood there, Sir, old Jan Swain
Went by, and said he knowed 'twould rain ;

RAIN

The next that came was Master Hunt,
And he declared he knew it would'nt;
And then I met with farmer Blow,
He plainly said he didn't know.
So Sir, when doctors disagree,
Who's to decide it, you or me?

This is a village rhyme written in the last century,
and well known in Bedfordshire, where all the
names are still found.

Barometer The barometer rises for northerly or easterly winds,
and for dryer, calmer, and colder weather.

„ The barometer falls for southerly and westerly
winds, and for damper, stormier, and warmer
weather.

„ Long foretold,* long last;
Short notice, soon past. *Fitzroy.*

„ First rise after low,
Foretells stronger blow.

„ When the glass falls low,
Prepare for a blow;
When it rises high,
Let all your kites fly.

Strings, etc. Strings of catgut or whipcord untwist and become
longer during a damp state of the air, and *vice*
versa.

On this principle is constructed the weather
house, a toy usually found in country houses,
and from which the figure of a woman emerges
in fine weather, while a man wrapped in a
great coat comes out before rain.

* By the falling of the mercury.

Ditches, drains, etc. Ditches, and dunghills, are more offensive
before rain.

Doors, etc. Doors and windows are hard to shut in damp
weather.

Salt Salt increases in weight before a shower.

Smoke If during calm, smoke does not ascend readily,
expect rain.

Sounds Sounds are heard with unusual clearness before a
storm. The railway whistle for instance seems
remarkably shrill.

„ A sound in air presaged approaching rain,
And beast to covert scud across the plain.
Thos. Parnell.

