

**SUMMARY of OBSERVATIONS made at the STATIONS included
in the DAILY and WEEKLY WEATHER REPORTS, for the
CALENDAR MONTH,**

M A Y 1888.

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General Summary.—Weather of May was rainy at the beginning and end, but very dry for a week after the 20th. Pressure and temperature were about their average values. Wind was light, except in Scotland at the opening of the month. Rainfall was defective, except at several of the western and northern stations, where the falls were large.

Pressure.—*Mean for the Month at 8 a.m.* was nearly at its average* value over the greater part of the United Kingdom, but in the north and north-west was about 0·05 in. in defect, and in the south-east as much in excess. It ranged from 29·83 ins. in the Shetlands to 30·07 at Hurst Castle and in London, and to 30·09 ins. at Jersey. *Highest* readings exceeded 30·5 ins., and occurred on the 23rd in the north and on the 11th in England and Ireland, the maxima on the former occasion being slightly the higher of the two. *Lowest* on the 1st or 2nd; a reading of 28·88 occurred at Stornoway on the 2nd. *Range* was considerable in the north, amounting to 1·6 ins. or more, at several stations.

Depressions were not numerous, and their paths were entirely confined to the northern and north-western parts of the area, none of the centres crossing England or Ireland.

Anticyclones were two in number; the first, with readings of 30·5 ins., advanced from the south-westward on the 8th, and passed over Ireland, throwing an arm over England on the 11th. The second, on the 20th, advanced from the southward, was central over England on the 21st, and then increased in intensity, readings of 30·6 ins. being recorded in Scotland on the 23rd.

Wind was very variable, most points being nearly equally represented in the wind-roses. In the south of England and in the north-west there was an absence of Northerly winds. At Aberdeen the East wind was deficient, and at Yarmouth the South-east. The force was generally light, owing to the prevalent anticyclonic conditions, but strong gales from South-west and South were experienced in the north-west and north during the first three days of the month.

Temperature ranged from about 54° in the Channel Islands and south of England to 44° in the Shetlands. It did not differ much from its average* value, but was slightly in defect in the extreme north and down the east coast. The map shows isolated patches of rather high and low temperature irregularly distributed over the country. *Highest* readings occurred over Great Britain on the 19th, when the thermometer rose to 80°, or near it, at several stations in the north-west of England. In Ireland the highest occurred between the 20th and 25th. *Lowest* readings occurred principally on the 11th; they were generally above the freezing point at the coast stations lower inland. *Range* was considerable at some parts, and amounted to 51°·0 at Bawtry. *Vapour Tension* varied from 0·33 in. at Scilly, Valencia, and Pembroke, to 0·25 in. at Aberdeen and Sumburgh Head. It was about 0·30 in. over Ireland, and somewhat lower over England. *Relative Humidity* exceeded 90 per cent. on the west coast of Scotland and at Milford Haven. It was low over England, the value for Liverpool being 70 and for London 69 per cent., while that for Leith was not much higher.

Rainfall varied from 6·7 ins. in the west Highlands to 0·54 at Bawtry, 0·52 at Durham, and 0·39 in. at North Shields. It was above the average* in many parts of Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the west and north of Scotland, below it, to the extent of an inch, in England generally, and on the east coast of Scotland. The British Isles were almost rainless from the 10th to the 12th, and again from the 21st to the 26th. The greatest fall during the month was on the 29th, when as much as 1·84 ins. fell at Donaghadee, an amount nearly equalled at Ardrossan and Glenlee in the same districts.

Bright Sunshine varied from 61 per cent. in Jersey, and over 50 per cent. at most of the south coast stations, to 36 at Glasgow and 32 at Stornoway. The general per-centage was from 40 to 45.

* The averages employed are—*Pressure* and *Temperature*, for 29 years 1861–80; *Rainfall* for 20 years 1866–85.