

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

## JANUARY 1892.

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**General Summary.**—The weather for January was quiet for the time of year, although pressure was as a whole below the average; depressions were few in number and of no great depth; temperature was somewhat low. The wind was more Northerly than usual; gales were frequent in the north and north-west, but were not severe; and, except in Scotland (where heavy snows and rains occurred at times), the rainfall was deficient. Bright sunshine was in excess of the average,\* except in the north of Scotland, but at no station did the duration amount to one third of what might have been recorded had the sky been continuously clear.

**Pressure.**—*Mean for the Month at 8 a.m.* varied from 29·9 ins. and more over the south of Ireland and the western parts of the English Channel to about 29·5 ins. over the Shetland Islands. It was therefore somewhat below the average\* for January over Great Britain, but rather in excess in the south of Ireland. Gradients were a little steeper, and were favourable for winds from a more westerly point than the normals. *Highest* readings occurred on the 25th or 26th, when the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and more over the south-western and southern parts of the kingdom. *Lowest* occurred in the north on the 6th, and in the west and south on the 16th, when a deep depression lay over the Atlantic, not far from the Irish coast. *Range* was moderate for the time of year.

**Depressions.**—The depressions which passed directly over our Islands were few in number and small in size, and were mostly secondary to larger systems lying over northern Europe. They were short-lived and dispersed soon after leaving our shores. The formation and dispersal of such systems within our area have formed a marked feature of the barometric changes of the month.

**Anticyclones.**—The only well-defined anticyclonic system which spread fairly over our Islands was that of the 25th–26th in which the barometer rose to 30·5 ins. and more over our south-western districts, and subsequently exceeded 30·7 ins. over the Bay of Biscay and Spain. On the 13th, however, there was a secondary anticyclone developed very temporarily over Ireland and England, and in which the barometer did not rise to much above 29·8 ins. at any station.

**Winds.**—The winds were chiefly Westerly to Northerly, the former being the more prevalent of the two at the southern station, the latter in the extreme north. They were often strong in force; both on our northern and extreme north-western coasts the number of gales (of force 7 and more) was large, viz., 10 to 17, while in the south there were only two or three.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at sea level* ranged from between 42° and 43° in the extreme south-west of Ireland and England, and in the Channel Islands, to less than 35° over the northern parts of Scotland (inland), the north-east of England, Lincolnshire, and the Fen districts, as well as at Llandoverly, and to rather below 37° over the inland parts of the north of Ireland. The distribution was quite winterlike. These values show, when compared with the averages\* for January in the 20 years 1871–90, a deficiency of 1° to 3° over Great Britain and the north of Ireland as a whole, and a rather larger quantity over the south-west of Ireland and South Wales. *Lowest* readings were recorded in the western and north-western districts between the 8th and 11th, but in the north-eastern and eastern districts between the 13th and 16th; the lowest of all were 7° at Bawtry and Lairg, 9° at Fort Augustus, and 10° at Nairn and Rothamsted. *Highest* were recorded in almost all places between the 29th and 31st, and were as high as 56° to 59° at some Scotch and Irish stations. *Range* was therefore rather large in the west and north, but moderate elsewhere. *Vapour Tension* varied from 0·18 in. and less over the inland parts of England and east of Scotland, and from 0·20 in. and less over central Ireland to nearly 0·23 in. in the western, southern, and eastern parts of Ireland and to 0·26 in. in the Scilly Islands. *Relative Humidity* was 80 per cent. in the east of Scotland, 85 per cent. at Valencia Island, and less than 90 per cent. over North Wales and Central England, but exceeded 95 per cent. along the south coast of England and in the Hebrides.

**Rainfall** was slightly in excess of the average\* in most parts of Scotland, but deficient elsewhere. The largest aggregates recorded were 14·6 ins. at Glencarron, 12·3 ins. at Laudale, 9·1 ins. at Fort William, and 6·3 ins. at Belmullet; the smallest 0·4 in. at Dungeness, 0·5 in. in London, at the North Foreland, and at Spurn Head, 0·6 in. at Oxford, and 0·8 in. at Rothamsted, Cambridge, Geldeston, and Leith. The heaviest falls in 24 hours were 4·3 ins. at Glencarron on the 28th, 3·3 ins. at Laudale and 2·0 ins. at Fort William, 1·3 ins. at Ochertyre on the 17th, and at Aberdeen on the 18th.

**Bright Sunshine** was in excess of that usually experienced in January, except in the northern parts of Scotland, where there was a deficiency. The per centage of the possible duration which was actually registered, however, varied from between 30 and 32 per cent. at our south coast stations, and from between 20 and 25 per cent. in many parts of England, and on the eastern coasts of Ireland and Scotland, to only 12 per cent. at Glasgow, 11 per cent. at Stornoway and Fort William, 9 per cent. at Fort Augustus and in London, 8 at Blackpool, and 6 per cent. at Braemar.

\* The averages employed are—*Pressure and Temperature* for the 20 years, 1871–90; *Rainfall* for the 25 years, 1866–90; *Bright Sunshine* for the 10 years, 1881–90.