

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

## APRIL 1893.

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**General Summary.**—The month of April was remarkably fine, warm, and dry, especially over the southern parts of England, where the severe drought which set in early in March continued with scarcely any intermission. Pressure and temperature were considerably above the average; the winds were mainly Easterly in the south, but variable in the north; rainfall was very deficient in all but the extreme northern districts, and bright sunshine was unusually prevalent, especially over the eastern, central, and southern parts of England.

**Pressure.**—Mean at 8 a.m. ranged from a little above 30·2 ins. over the central and north-eastern parts of England to a little below 30·1 ins. both in the Scilly and Shetland Islands. The general distribution of pressure was in fact distinctly anticyclonic, and the actual values were considerably in excess of the average,\* the difference from the normal amounting to 0·30 in. or more, in all but the extreme northern and southern parts of the Kingdom. *Highest* readings were recorded on the 8th, when the barometer exceeded 30·6 ins. in Scotland and exceeded 30·4 ins. over the whole of Ireland and England. *Lowest* readings were observed in most places on the 19th, when the barometer fell below 29·9 ins. on all but our east coasts and below 29·8 ins. at most of our western stations. In the northern parts of the kingdom, however, the lowest readings, which were in some cases below 29·7 ins., occurred either between the 1st and 2nd or between the 29th and 30th. *Range* was small, especially over the southern districts, where it amounted to less than three-quarters of an inch.

**Depressions.**—No depressions were observed in our immediate neighbourhood, the nearest disturbances being those which passed along to the westward of our Islands on the 18th and 19th. In the course of the month numerous depressions moved eastwards across the north of Scandinavia, while shallow systems were occasionally developed over Spain and the Bay of Biscay. The former series passed too far to the northward, and the latter were too irregular in their movements to admit of their tracks being shown on Map 2, Plate IV.

**Anticyclones.**—Two such systems were observed, each of considerable size and persistence. The first appeared off our south-west coasts on the 1st, and, spreading eastwards, became united with another system lying over Russia, the combined area for a time covering nearly the whole of Europe. The second was formed over the North Sea about the middle of the month, and remained over the more northern parts of our Islands and the Continent until very nearly the close of the period.

**Winds** were mainly Easterly in the south, but very variable over the more northern parts of the United Kingdom, and a large proportion of calms prevailed in the north of Scotland. Gales were entirely absent in most places, the only station with anything like the ordinary number being Stornoway, where there were as many as six.

**Temperature.**—*Mean at Sea Level* ranged from 56° at Jersey and 53° or more in the south of England generally to 46° or less on the east coasts of England and in the extreme north of Scotland, the values being above the average\* in all districts. Over a considerable portion of England and Ireland the excess amounted to between 4° and 6°, while at Llandoverly and Arlington it exceeded 7°. The general distribution was quite abnormal, the leading feature of interest (shown very clearly in Map 3, Plate IV.) being the marked difference existing between the values recorded at coast and at inland stations in the eastern parts of Great Britain. *Highest* readings were observed mostly between the 20th and 22nd or on the 24th, and were unusual for the time of year; at several of the English stations the thermometer rose to 80° or more, and at Cambridge it reached 84°. *Lowest* readings occurred mainly between the 12th and 14th, when sharp frost was observed in most districts. The lowest readings of all were 21° at Stamford and 22° at Churchstoke and Cirencester. *Vapour Tension* ranged from a little below 0·24 in. in many parts of central and northern England to 0·32 in. or more on our extreme south-west coasts. *Relative Humidity* was very low, especially over England and the Channel; in London the mean value for the month was only 73 per cent., while at Jersey it did not exceed 69 per cent.

**Rainfall** was considerably less than the average\* in nearly all parts of the kingdom, the deficiency being especially marked over the southern half of England, where the total amount was in most cases less than one-tenth of the normal quantity. At Hurst Castle and the North Foreland no rain was measured during the entire month, and in most other parts of England, with the exception of our north-western counties, the fall was considerably under half-an-inch. Over Ireland and Scotland, however, the amounts were in most cases over an inch, the largest of all being 3·5 ins. at Glencarron and 3·1 ins. at Fort William. The number of rainy days ranged from less than 5 at most of the English stations to between 15 and 19 in the north of Scotland.

**Bright Sunshine** was above the average in all districts, the excess being small in Ireland and Scotland, but very considerable in the greater part of England. Over a large portion of our eastern, midland, and southern counties the per-centage of the possible amount was above 60, in the Channel Islands it ranged between 70 and 72, and at Westbourne it was 74. In the northern parts of Scotland, however, the per-centage was mostly below 40, the smallest of all being 29 at Fort Augustus.

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