

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT.

JUNE 1884.

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## SECTION I.

### GENERAL SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH.

OVER the British Islands and their neighbourhood the month of June was dry, cloudy, and, until near the end of the month, cold and gloomy. The last week of the month was decidedly warm and summerlike, the thermometer rising to between  $80^{\circ}$  and  $84^{\circ}$  over the greater part of England on the 27th and 28th. Barometric pressure was high generally and its range small. The winds were chiefly from the northward or north-westward, and of little strength; gales were almost unknown. Thunderstorms occurred frequently at intervals.

June 1-2.—The anticyclone, which had been lying partly over the Atlantic and partly over the western districts of Ireland during the latter half of May, moved south-eastwards towards the close of the month, and at 8 a.m. on June 1st covered the Bay of Biscay and nearly the whole of France. At the same time an apparently large and well-marked depression appeared to the north-westward of the Hebrides, with the result that South-westerly and Southerly winds set in on all our coasts, accompanied by a rise of temperature and genial weather. These conditions did not last long, for both this depression and a subsidiary disturbance (No. XXXIX.\*) which was formed off the west of Scotland early on the 2nd, soon dispersed. A small new system (No. XL.\*) was then formed at the mouth of St. George's Channel, and travelling south-eastwards and eastwards, united with another shallow disturbance which appeared over France on the 3rd; the resulting complex system finally disappeared in the neighbourhood of Strasbourg. (See the Weekly Weather Report, No. 23.) The rainfall brought by these disturbances was slight, and confined to the western and southern parts of the kingdom.

June 3-9.—The conditions now became more complex, gradients for Northerly and North-westerly winds being established over the United Kingdom and France, while gradients for Easterly winds prevailed over Scandinavia. Temperature again fell, and cold weather was experienced for several days, with a great deal of cloud and occasional falls of rain in some localities. Between the 4th and 7th (pressure being then lowest over the Baltic) a well-marked depression (No. XLI.\*) advanced from the Baltic, and travelling steadily in a west-north-westerly direction, passed between the Shetlands and Orkneys on the 6th, and finally dispersed off the north-west of Scotland. A second and very similar disturbance followed in a slightly more northerly track, but this dispersed over the south of Norway on the night of the 7th. The first brought with it some cold rain to the northern parts of our Islands, while in the south the weather became even more unsettled owing to the formation of another small depression (No. XLII.\*) near the mouth of St. George's Channel on the 6th. Its motion was east-south-easterly, and with it cold rainy weather was experienced over England, the fall of rain on the 6th amounting to 0·8 inch in London and 0·9 inch at Hurst Castle. Thus it will be seen that while over the more northern parts of our area depressions were moving more or less in a westerly direction from the Baltic, there was a disturbance over our south-western districts which moved eastwards towards North Germany.

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\* See Section II. and Map 2, Plate XIII., for the history and tracks of depressions.

On the 8th and 9th the distribution of pressure became somewhat less complex and gradients for Northerly winds prevailed on all our coasts. Cold, cloudy, showery weather prevailed, except in the west, and thunderstorms occurred in various parts of England, but the weather showed some signs of improvement.

June 10-14.—Pressure now began to give way on our north-western coasts, and as this change spread north-eastwards the high-pressure area over Scandinavia disappeared, while that over the Bay of Biscay increased, and developed into a well-marked anticyclone (No. XII., p. 62), which extended north-eastwards over France and the south of England. South-westerly breezes set in over the more northern parts of the kingdom, while variable airs were felt in the south; the sky cleared, temperature rose, and on the 13th the maxima over England ranged from  $80^{\circ}$  to  $83^{\circ}$ . The only rainfall experienced during this period was confined to the extreme northern and north-western parts of the kingdom. On the 13th-14th an apparently large depression passed in an easterly direction outside our extreme northern coasts towards the north of Scandinavia, but was at too great a distance from us for its track to be accurately made out (see the maps in the Weekly Weather Report 1884, No. 24). In its rear the barometer rose quickly at our western and northern stations, a new high-pressure area (No. XIII., p. 62) appeared off our western coasts, and our winds veered round to north-west and north, with dry but cloudy weather.

June 15-23.—During this period of nine days the centre of a large anticyclone lay off our western coasts while its eastern part spread over the United Kingdom generally. Northerly winds of little strength were consequently prevalent, and as the sky was generally cloudy during the daytime the temperature was not high. The nights, being clear, were decidedly cold. The highest of the daily maxima ranged as a rule between  $65^{\circ}$  and  $75^{\circ}$ , and the minima were sometimes as low as  $40^{\circ}$  to  $43^{\circ}$  in the shade. The air was dry, but some slight drizzling showers were experienced from time to time at our north-eastern and extreme south-eastern stations.

June 24-27.—A gradual and important change now took place. The anticyclone in the far west moved southwards and south-eastwards, until on the 27th the highest pressures were found over France and Great Britain, while the lowest lay to the westward of Ireland. The wind backed slowly from N.W. to the westward, and then to the southward, and the weather remained fine. Temperature rose considerably, so that the daily maxima over England increased to between  $77^{\circ}$  and  $80^{\circ}$  on the 26th, and to between  $80^{\circ}$  and  $84^{\circ}$  on the 27th, the air then became close and sultry, and fog or mist appeared in several localities. In Scotland the weather was cooler and rain fell at times.

June 28-30.—The anticyclone then moved north-eastwards to Scandinavia and grew larger, while another anticyclonic system appeared over the Bay of Biscay and the Peninsula. Between them shallow depressions were formed, thunderstorms and rain spread over the country, accompanied by varying winds and a fall of temperature. On the 30th, however, these disturbances were less pronounced, and the month closed with an improving tendency.