

INTRODUCTION.

The expression of the *London Times* which is reproduced on the preceding page, but feebly indicates the great interest which is now being taken in the science of meteorology and its great importance and value. The opinion has been slowly but firmly imprinting itself upon scientific men, that while the secrets of the weather appear to be very closely kept, they are not impenetrable, and not only Mr. Vennor, in Canada, but thoughtful and learned men in England, France, Germany and the United States, are devoting their chief attention to discover them.

It is evident that there must be causes for the various changes in the weather, which is much less variable than is generally believed, and if these causes can be arrived at the character of a season must be capable of being determined for months ahead, although not with the exactitude shown in pre-recording the movements of the planets. This view was held by Sir John Leslie many years ago, who thus expresses it: "It cannot be disputed that all the changes which happen in the mass of our atmosphere—involved, capricious and irregular as they may appear—are yet the necessary results of principles as fixed, and perhaps as simple, as those which direct the revolution of the Solar system." The same plan for arriving at the secrets of the weather is being followed out in all the countries mentioned. The changes are being closely watched and recorded, and the conditions of the atmosphere, planets, sun, &c., closely noted, so that the proper conclusions may be arrived at. In this Mr. Vennor is doing his share, and already the publication of his winter almanac has caused a wide-spread interest in the matter throughout the Dominion.