

In regard to all these five eras, there is difficulty and confusion in having to count sometimes backwards and sometimes forwards, according as a particular date is before or after the commencement of the era. To get over the complexity the creation of the world has been adopted, by Christians and Jews alike, as the commencement of a universal era. This would be unexceptionable, if authorities agreed as to the number of years which elapsed between that event and the birth of Christ, but so far are they from agreeing that, according to competent authorities, there are one hundred and forty different computations of the interval. The one most usually adopted by English writers is 4004 years; but they vary from 3616 up to 4684 years. The symbol A. M., or *Anno Mundi*, signifying year of the world, is arrived at by adding 4004 to the Christian designation for the year—that is, if the popular English chronology be adopted.

On Observing the Weather.

Whether clear or cloudy, a rosy sky at sunset presages fine weather; a red sky in the morning, bad weather or much wind; a gray sky in the morning, fine weather; a high dawn wind; a low dawn, fair weather. Soft looking or delicate clouds foretell fine weather, with moderate or light breezes; hard edged oily looking clouds, wind. A dark gloomy sky is windy; a light bright blue sky indicates fair weather. Generally the softer clouds look the less wind, but perhaps more rain may be looked for; and harder, more greasy, rolled, tufted or ragged, the stronger a coming storm will prove. A bright yellow sky at sunset presages wind, a pale yellow wet; and thereby the prevalence of red, yellow, or gray tints, the coming weather may be foretold very nearly. Small inky clouds foretell rain; light scud driving across heavy masses show wind and rain, but if alone may indicate wind alone. High upper clouds crossing in a direction different from the wind felt below, foretell a change of wind. After fine weather, the first signs in the sky of a coming change are usually light streaks, curled or mottled patches of white distant cloud, which increase, and are followed by an over-casting of misty vapor that grows into cloudiness. This appearance, more or less oily or watery, as wind or rain will prevail, is an infallible sign. Misty clouds, forming or hanging on heights shows wind and rain coming if they remain or increase. If they rise or disperse the weather will improve.

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