

Soft looking or delicate clouds foretell fine weather, with moderate or light breezes ; hard edged, oily looking clouds, wind. A dark, gloomy, blue sky is windy ; but a light bright blue sky indicates fine weather. Generally, the softer clouds look the less wind (but perhaps, more rain) may be expected ; and the harder, more " greasy," rolled, tufted, or ragged, the stronger the coming wind will prove. Also, a bright yellow sky at sunset presages wind ; a pale yellow, wet :—and thus by the prevalence of red, yellow, or grey tints, the coming weather may be foretold very nearly, indeed, if added by instruments, almost exactly.

Small inky-looking clouds foretell rain :—light scud clouds driving across heavy masses show wind and rain ; but, if alone, may indicate wind only.

High upper clouds crossing the sun, moon, and stars, in a direction different from that of the lower clouds, or the wind then felt below, foretel a change of wind.

After fine clear weather, the first signs in the sky of a coming change are usually light streaks, curls, whips, or mottled patches of white distant cloud, which increase, and are followed by an overcasting of murky vapour that grows into cloudiness. This appearance, more or less oily, or watery, as wind or rain will prevail, is an infallible sign.

Usually the higher and more distant such clouds seem to be,—the more gradual, but general, the coming change of weather will prove.

Light, delicate, quiet tints or colours, with soft, undefined forms of clouds, indicate and accompany fine weather ; but gaudy or unusual ones, with hard, definitely-outlined clouds, foretel rain, and probably strong wind.

Misty clouds forming or hanging on heights show wind and rain coming—if they remain, increase, or descend. If they rise or disperse, the weather will improve or become fine.

When sea-birds fly out early, and far to seaward, moderate wind and fair weather may be expected ; when they hang about the land, or over it, sometimes flying inland, expect a strong wind with stormy weather. As many creatures besides birds are affected by the approach of rain or wind, such indications should not be slighted by an observer who wishes to foresee weather.

There are other signs of a coming change in the weather known less generally than may be desirable, and therefore worth notice ; such as when birds of long flight, rooks, swallows, or others, hang about home, and fly up and down, or low—rain or wind may be expected. Also, when animals seek sheltered places instead of spreading over their usual range ; when pigs carry straws to their sties ; when smoke from chimneys does ascend readily (or straight upwards during calm), an unfavorable change is probable.

Dew is an indication of fine weather ; so is fog. Neither of these two formations occurs under the overcast sky, or when there is much wind. One sees fog occasionally rolled away, as it were, by wind—but seldom or never formed while it is blowing.

Remarkable clearness of atmosphere near the horizon, distant objects, such as hills, usually visible, or raised (by refraction), and what is called " a good hearing day," may be mentioned among the signs of wet, if not of wind, to be expected.

More than usual twinkling of the stars, indistinctness or apparent multiplication of the moon's horns, halos, " wind-dogs,"* and the rainbow, are more or less significant of increasing wind, if not approaching rain, with or without wind.

Near land, in sheltered harbours, in valleys, or over low ground, there is usually a marked diminution of wind, during part of the night, and a dispersion of clouds.

At such times an eye on an overlooking height may see an extended body of vapour below (rendered visible by the cooling of night) which seems to check the wind.

Lastly, the dryness or dampness of the air, and its temperature (for the season), should always be considered, with other indications of change or continuance of wind and weather.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

* Fragments or pieces (as it were) of rainbows (sometimes called " wind-galls") seen on detached clouds.