



Weather Forecast.

OCTOBER, 1887.

My general impressions of this month do not differ greatly from my *Almanac* "general forecast," printed over a year ago. In fact, one of the beauties of forecasting by Astro-Meteorological rules is, that revision is seldom necessary. But that one can dwell at more length on the probabilities of an approaching month two weeks beforehand, than one can two or three seasons ahead, goes without saying. October, 1887, I take it, will be somewhat more of a "winter" than a "fall" month. It will be pretty full of cold, wet, "wretched" weather, with snow and sleet falls. There will be generally wintry weather about the middle. Snow-falls in Northern and North-Western sections will begin even earlier than this, say by the 6th or 7th. Intermixed, will occur hot weather for the time of year, glorious brief spells of "Indian summer." Killing frosts are probable as early as the first week. Heavy rains in the West and South seem very likely. The storm periods of October are likely to be of marked severity. People who think they know all about the weather will say that the winter has set in before October is out, and will predict in consequence a severe, cold winter, with heavy snows. They will be mistaken, however, just as they were when the cool days at the close of August led them to talk of an early fall and a cold September. Fact is, September has been a generally fine warm month, with—up to date (19th)—an absence of marked disturbances, exactly as anticipated. My forecast by weeks is as follows:

October opens cold and frosty N., cool in the S.

First week, Oct. 2 to 8: Killing frosts in Northern and Middle sections—Dark, cold weather about 6th and 7th, with high winds and heavy precipitation in places; rains general (snow probable).

Second week, Oct. 9 to 15: Misty, mild—Brief period of "Indian summer" weather—Cloudy and stormy again, rainy and cold—Unsettled at the close, with general wind, rain, hail and snow.

Third week, Oct. 16 to 22: Hot weather for October, quite a summer-like

spell—Cloudy and dull—A cold change—Killing frosts about 20th, 21st and 22nd, according to locality.

Fourth week, Oct. 23 to 29: Milder, with thick atmosphere and a storm period—Cool, fine and frosty—Close of week rainy, sleety and windy, with low temperatures for the season.

Close of month: Very cold and stormy, winter-like, sleet and snow N., rains S.

NOTES.

I have prepared more lengthy forecasts for my 1888 *Almanac* than for any previous issue. The "general forecast" embraces an amount of information alone worth many times the price of the book.

Very cold weather; an abrupt entry of winter, at the close of November and entry of December, 1887.

Heavy precipitation during October this year. Similar in quantity to that of 1885.

Amongst those contributing special articles to *Smith's Planetary Almanac* for 1888 are: Messrs. A. J. Pigeon, Thos. Birt, E. F. Test and Rev. P. C. Lawrence.

In Canada, the Eastern and North-Western States, late fall ploughing, well on in November, will likely be in order this year.

The effects of that ecliptic conjunction in August, 1886, cost Charleston in repairs to properties alone \$3,550,000.

"I have kept a daily record of the weather. Your forecasts are very accurate, and to farmers should be priceless," is how one correspondent in Minnesota puts it.

"We appreciate your valuable work, and frequent reference has proved your forecasts of the weather generally correct," is the unsolicited testimony of Mr. D. S. Barriger, Vice-President of the Omaha Elevator and Grain Co., in a recent letter to the editor.

The first wild geese flying southward passed over Montreal on the morning of Sept. 21st. There is a good deal of nonsense accepted as gospel with regard to the flight of birds and the changes of the weather. Birds and other animals are simply gifted with instinct, and can have no knowledge whatever of a season in advance. They take their cue from their immediate surroundings. These birds indicated something, however. They showed us that away North, beyond the reach of the telegraph, cold weather had occurred, doubtless with snow, driving them South. Had this occurred earlier they would have come South earlier. Again, the remaining of arctic birds in Southern latitudes shows the winter North to be a severe one, else they would not stay, and the absence of arctic birds during winter, even though our winter may be severe, should be taken as an indication that the winter further North is a comparatively mild one.



Association.

Ere another number is issued the Astro-Meteorological Association will have got to active work again for another season. As already intimated, the season will likely be a very prosperous one. I am pleased to state that several well-known Montreal names have been handed me for proposal as members.

Although impossible, with such a limited membership, to arrange what papers shall be read a season ahead, I am able to announce what is already promised. At the opening meeting, which is really the closing session of our financial year—the Association dating from Oct. 29, 1884,—Mr. A. J. Pigeon will read a paper of great interest on "The Great Pyramid," dealing specially, of course, with its relation to the Astronomy, not only of the earliest, but more modern times. On October 25th, I have been requested to lecture on "The Worlds Around Us," in Association Hall here, the lecture to be one of the winter course for young men. It will be ably illustrated with slides by Mr. Pigeon. At the fourth annual meeting on November 4th, the reading of reports, election of officers, president's address, and other usual business will be in order. Promises of papers on different subjects have been received for meetings later on from several members, and it is hoped that large audiences will be the rule. The rent of the room has to be paid whether associates attend or no, and a full house is always preferable to an empty or half empty one. The meetings this season will be held at the same place, viz: the Fraser Institute, Dorchester Street, Montreal.

The regular meetings for the season of 1887-8 are: Oct. 7th, Nov. 4th, Dec. 2nd, Jan. 6th, Feb. 3rd, Mar. 2nd, April 6th and May 4th. That is, provided it is not decided to alter the meeting night from Friday to Tuesday evening, of which there is some talk at present.

Vice-President Mansill writes that he has finished the book on which he has been laboring for some time, entitled "A New System of Natural Science." He