

The Rockwood Review.

he mercurial column in the barometer.

On the 4th inst., my son on breaking the ice in the spring, (which is about 7 feet deep), where our cattle herd obtain their daily supply of water, noticed that the water immediately arose $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 inches above the ice surface ! The previous night and morning of the 5th, brought a frigid experience of 2 below zero with a calm clear sky.

On Monday, the 5th, the thermometer indicated ten to thirteen above zero, with Northeasterly breeze and snow falling briskly but about dawn of day on the sixth a rain storm came on and the temperature immediately arose to 43 degrees, with a violent South East wind, changing at 6 p.m. to North-west gales and a drop of the thermometer to 17 above zero while to-day (seventh) the thermometer stands at 23, with clouds and fresh Westerly winds.

This rise of the water level must have an analagous cause to the oceanic tides and the "uplifting sea" and the aneroid barometer would probably show identical subtle changes in meteorological conditions before the advent of indications in the sky or in direction of the wind.

This water rising in springs, so easily noticed in the winter when there is an ice covering, has firmly established traditions among farming folk that "coming events cast their shadows before" but the first turning points of the changed moods are masked and veiled and mostly undiscernible.

In the shallow pools that are sometimes situated between 2 ridges the pressure of distant underground bodies of water might presumably force upward the level of the swale water, when the ice pressure was taken off by the chopping of an escape hole, and the unconfined liquid is soon seen to rise and overflow the whole surface ice of the small pool should the oncoming storm centre be somewhat delayed. The cause of the phenomenon is undoubtedly more meteorological than hydrographical.

These portents and AVANT COUR-

RIERS of weather disturbance are sometimes of use in farm work and in prudential suggestions in undertaking long journeys, etc. As somewhat illustrative that the instincts of wild creatures give cognizance of approaching weather changes, a few jottings may be here set down. About the 20th of last month, a rambler in the woods a mile or two from here noticed quadrupedal tracks on the snow which he supposed were those of "Essence Puddler" (Mephitis) He informed a trapper, (a very dark Mink pelt is worth about \$2 now), who went with pickaxe and spade and laboriously disinterred the ground hog who it seems had waked up and begun "cavorting" about the snowy forest—chipmunks, were seen out the same day and rather strange to relate a pair of red headed woodpeckers were out about the big pine stubs in vivacious activity: (the latter were positively watched by my son on the 20th or 21st of February. Yet 26th and 27th February gave us one of the severest blizzards of the winter with the thermometer 9 below zero.

The last days of February and 3 or 4 days of March also brought us a return of a detachment of Snow buntings—a few of these mixed in with 8 or 10 Shore larks, and came daily with the latter to eat grain, (wheat, oats, Millet seed) that had been scattered on the snow surface in our barn yard as food for our poultry. The two species were tame and approachable, and the hoar frost effects were seen on the backs and wings of the Shore larks as if they had bivouaced "out of doors." After partaking a while of the wheat grains, the Snow buntings would visit a big stone heap near by, whose top was bare of snow, to procure a supply of crumbling grit for the digestive processes: these visits continued during about a week of inclement weather. These incidents may show sometimes the uprise of the water level, invariably precedes an approaching area of low barometrical pressure and that the Shore larks probably associate with the Snow buntings in their Northern breeding grounds.

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