

Torpedo Balloon.—Humanitarians, who look for the suppression of war to the development of the deadliest engines of warfare, will read with satisfaction a suggestion recently thrown out for a further employment of the torpedo. "A torpedo balloon" the device is to be styled, and the name is a sufficient indication of its nature. A balloon is to be constructed capable of rising with a torpedo beneath it, and starting to windward of a camp or fortified city, or whatever it is desired so destroy, it is to be burst or detached by means which it would be easy to contrive, and thus to allow its cargo of death and destruction to fall into the midst of the enemy. The detachment of the torpedo, it is suggested, might be effected with great ease and certainly by means of a thin electric wire, and the proper moment for dropping the charge, in order to explode it on any given point, would be only a matter of instrumental observation and a little practice. The idea seems to be fearfully practicable; and apart from the consideration that the very perfection of modern warfare seems really to present the most hopeful prospect of useful peace, it might be denounced as too frightful an idea to be entertained by civilized combatants. By means of such an engine a fortified place might be attacked from a point from which no guns could be brought into action, and without the smallest opportunity of retaliation. The carnage and devastation by the explosion of a torpedo in a fortress or camp would be infinitely greater than a bombshell could produce, and while to the besiegers even a failure need involve no harm or even danger, the balloon might be floated out of the range of shot and to the besieged would be fraught with ruin against which no conceivable defence would avail anything. The effect of a torpedo dropped into a garrisoned fortress or a fortified camp would be something really dreadful to contemplate.

Rain and Snow Fall during 1877.

McGILL COLLEGE OBSERVATORY.

MONTH.	Inches of rain.		Inches of snow.		Inches of rain and snow melted.	No. of days on which rain and snow fell.	No. of days on which rain or snow fell.
	Inches of rain.	No. of days on which rain fell	Inches of snow.	No. of days on which snow fell.			
January.....	0.12	2	23.3	21	2.33	1	22
February.....	0.34	7	3.6	11	0.70	5	13
March.....	2.73	8	22.4	16	5.04	5	19
April.....	1.98	12	10.2	4	3.00	4	12
May.....	0.62	18	.....	.....	0.62	.....	18
June.....	2.35	16	.....	.....	2.35	.....	16
July.....	3.65	17	.....	.....	3.65	.....	17
August.....	3.50	20	.....	.....	3.50	.....	20
September.....	1.50	12	.....	.....	1.50	.....	12
October.....	3.19	18	5.4	2	3.73	1	19
November.....	4.31	16	5.1	8	4.82	3	21
December.....	1.17	8	4.3	12	1.60	4	16

Total rain fall during the year was 25.46 inches.
 Total snow fall during the year was 74.3 inches.
 Total snow and rain melted was 32.84 inches.
 Total number of days on which rain fell 154.
 Total number of days on which snow fell 74.
 Total number of days on which rain or snow fell 205.
 Total number of days on which rain and snow fell 23.

METEOROLOGICAL ABSTRACT FOR THE YEAR 1877.

MONTHLY RESULTS DERIVED FROM TRI-HOURLY OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT MCGILL COLLEGE OBSERVATORY, HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL, 187 FEET.

MONTH.	THERMOMETER.				BAROMETER.				+ Mean pressure of vapor	† Mean relative humidity.	WIND.			Rain and snow melted.
	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Range.	Mean.	‡ Max.	‡ Min.	Range.			Mean direction.	Mean velocity in m. p. hour.	Sky clouded per cent.	
January.....	9.67	40.2	-20.9	61.1	30.0709	30.665	29.047	1.618	.0627	79.0	W. S. W.	13.73	72	2.33
February.....	26.62	48.2	2.1	46.1	29.9828	30.565	29.552	1.013	.1193	77.8	W.	14.91	60	0.70
March.....	25.12	46.0	-7.7	53.7	29.9108	30.397	28.848	1.519	.1109	75.9	W.	11.54	67	5.04
April.....	43.70	74.3	19.0	55.3	29.9860	30.441	29.493	0.948	.1742	62.1	N. E.	8.90	45	3.00
May.....	55.64	79.0	22.2	46.8	29.9181	30.330	29.575	0.755	.2803	60.4	W.	11.09	65	0.62
June.....	65.73	85.0	49.1	35.9	29.9097	30.238	29.562	0.676	.4227	66.6	W. S. W.	8.63	55	2.35
July.....	70.60	88.5	55.0	33.5	29.8699	30.204	29.465	0.738	.5059	68.1	S. W.	8.11	53	3.65
August.....	69.24	88.0	55.9	32.1	29.8886	30.235	29.635	0.600	.5378	75.7	W. N. W.	5.88	63	3.50
September.....	61.79	84.3	42.0	42.3	30.0160	30.372	29.592	0.780	.3977	70.6	W. S. W.	7.00	45	1.50
October.....	45.22	79.3	21.9	56.4	30.0032	30.403	29.435	0.968	.2417	78.5	N. N. E.	7.96	69	3.73
November.....	35.93	52.3	18.5	33.8	30.0499	30.677	29.115	1.562	.1812	83.8	W. S. W.	10.97	74	4.82
December.....	27.26	44.1	7.3	36.8	30.0866	30.698	29.383	1.315	.1268	82.0	W.	8.97	71	1.60
Means.....	44.710	67.43	22.95	44.48	29.9744	.....	.....	1.0436	.2634	73.37	.....	9.81	62.0	.....

* Barometer readings reduced to sea level, and to temperature of 32° Fahrenheit, † Pressure of vapor in inches of mercury. ‡ Humidity relative, saturation 100. § Observed.

Greatest heat was 88.5 on the 26th of July; greatest cold—20.9 on the 12th of January—giving a range of temperature for the year of 109.4 degrees. Greatest range of the thermometer in one month was 61.1 in January. Highest barometer reading was 30.698, on the 18th of December; lowest was 28.848, on the 7th of March. Greatest range of the barometer in one month was 1.618, in January. Range for the year was 1.850 inches. Least relative humidity was 21, on the 26th of April.

Greatest mileage of wind during the year, in one hour was 47 on the 9th of March, when the maximum velocity in gusts was at the rate of 51 miles per hour. Mean direction of the wind, W. S. W.