

dense and murky; lightning in S.W., thunder and rain at 5.20 for 40 minutes, and showers in night. Rain on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 25th, 28th, 31st. Storms of wind on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 13th, 16th. Rainbow on 7th at 7.30 p.m. and on 16th at 7.30 p.m. Cherries (Oxhearts) ripe on 2nd; uncultivated cherries ripe on 18th. Chestnut trees in bloom on 19th. On 20th, Indian corn tassels appear; pumpkins and cucumbers in bloom.

PEMBROKE—On 4th, thunder and rain. 6th, thunder and lightning. 12th, frequent sheet lightning at evening in the east. 16th, lightning. 17th, thunder and rain. 24th, lightning. 27th, lightning, thunder and rain. Rain on 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 27th, 31st. Storms of wind on 5th, 9th, 12th, 28th and 30th. Some very heavy rain storms occurred during the month in this vicinity. Crops generally good.

PETERBOROUGH—On 4th, lightning. 5th, lightning; lightning and rain; thunder and rain. 8th, (Sunday) heavy rain in forenoon. 12th, faint aurora with sudden wind. 18th, brilliant and incessant lightning in bank of clouds at S.W. horizon. 14th, very faint aurora at 10.30 p.m. 15th, (Sunday) lightning. 16th, thunder; heavy thunder, lightning, rain and wind storm, from W.; silent lightning in the evening. 17th, storm of thunder, lightning, wind and rain from W.; much thunder and lightning during the day. 20th, heavy dew with fog. 21st, lightning. 22nd, (Sunday) thunder shower in afternoon. 24th, lightning. 28th, lightning, with thunder, wind and rain shower at 2.20 p.m. Rain on 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 28th. Fogs, 20th, 24th, 26th. Solar halo on 19th, 20th, and 31st. A few small shooting stars observed on the nights of the 15th, 25th and 30th.

STRATFORD—On 3rd, rainbow at 7.40 p.m.; lightning in W. at 8.30 p.m. 4th, imperfect rainbow at 6.15 p.m.; lightning in E. at 8.30 p.m. 5th, forenoon very sultry and oppressive; about 11 a.m. dense nimbi appeared at horizon, but passed to N.E. and S.E.; about noon dense nim. again appeared in N.W., and at 12.15 p.m. a few peals of thunder heard, accompanied by a few drops of rain, wind being S.W., velocity 3; at 2 p.m. thunder heard in N.W. where dense nim. appeared stretching from W. to N.E., temperature of air, 79°; at 2.30 p.m., sky overcast with dark nimbi, low, moving from N.W. to S.E. rapidly, wind changed suddenly to N.W. and became very violent, velocity rising to 7, rain also began to fall, and lightning was first observed; at 2.45 p.m. rain very heavy and thunder loud, lightning very vivid till 3 p.m.; at 3.20 p.m., wind W 2, temperature 68°; at 4 p.m. rain ceased, depth .2673; lightning in W. at 8.20 p.m. 7th, thunder at 7.30 a.m., 6 p.m., 11.15 p.m.; very heavy rain at 10.55 p.m., for 9h. 20 min. depth 1.5340 in. 13th, lightning and thunder, 16th, warmest day for six years; thunder heard in W. 17th, at 2.20 p.m., thunder in S. where dense nim., wind N.W., velocity 1; 3.10 p.m. rain began; 3.20 p.m. wind S.S.E. 3; 3.30 p.m. wind E.S.E. 1; 3.35 p.m. lightning, thunder very heavy in N.W.; 3.45 p.m. wind E.S.E. 1; nim. very low moving slowly from W. to E., rain very heavy from 3.40 p.m.; 4.08 p.m., dense nim. in N.W. moving to S.E. very rapidly, wind N.E. 3; 4.10 p.m. wind suddenly veered to W. and N.W. and increased to 7, rain drifting through the air like snow; 4.12 p.m., wind N. 7; 4.25 p.m. wind N. 5, gentle rain; 4.30 p.m., wind N.E. 4; 5.30 p.m., wind S. 2; 6 p.m., wind S. 1, rain ceased, depth 1.0948 in; the changes of the wind during the storm were very remarkable. it having gone round the compass twice since 1 p.m., the direction of change (except 4.12 p.m.) being contrary to that of the hands of a watch. 22nd (Sunday) at 3.30 p.m. thunder and lightning in N.W.; 3.50 p.m. rain; 4.05 p.m. wind W, velocity 8, rain very heavy; 4.08 p.m. heavy rain and wind ceased; 5.40 p.m. rain ceased, depth .5283 in; this storm was very destructive in the adjoining counties of Wellington and Waterloo. 28th, thunder and lightning. 29th, thunder. Rain on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd. Fogs 26th and 27th. Wind storms on 3rd, 5th, 17th, and 22nd.

WINDSOR—On 3rd, thunder, lightning and rain. 7th, severe thunder, lightning and rain storm, reaching greatest height at 4 p.m., building struck by lightning at about 150 yards from observatory; no remarkable thermometric or barometric change observable; clouds came up rapidly from S.W. 8th, sudden change of wind from S.E. to N.E. 10th, sudden change of wind from N.E. to S. 11th, wind exceedingly variable, sudden change from S. to N.W. 12th, Aurora at 10.30 p.m.; night exceedingly calm and clear; arch from N.E. to N.W.; at first neither waves nor streamers, but at a later hour slight waves to the N.E.; dark cloud forming low on N. horizon under the arch of Aurora. 13th, lightning; meteor from zenith to S.W. horizon. 17th, lightning, thunder and rain. Rain on 1st, 3rd, 4th, 17th, 18th, 27th.

4. METEORIC INFLUENCES.

To the Editor of "Ottawa Citizen."

DEAR SIR,—In my meteorological notes which appeared in the *Citizen* some two weeks ago, I predicted the occurrence early in November, of the phenomenon of a 'shower' of meteors or falling stars, of which wet summers like the present, accompanied with violent auroral disturbances and electrical commotions, have been noticed to be the precursors. Since then, I see M. Arago, the celebrated astronomer has predicted the same occurrence fixing the date when these meteors may be looked for, viz: 13th and 14th of November; and he further states that it will be the last display of the kind this century, and will equal if not surpass that witnessed by Humboldt at Cumana in 1799.

Now, in conjunction with this approaching phenomenon, we may trace causes for the unusual amount of rain and the generally dis-

turbed state of the atmosphere with which we have been troubled. The violent rains have been by no means local, as the European, and even the Australian (Queensland) papers testify. This may be accounted for, from the earth, or even the whole solar system, having entered into or so closely approached the meteoric belt or zone, that the atmosphere is acted upon by its influence, and meteoric causes may be working, of which we know absolutely nothing from their seldom occurrence. It is a known fact that brilliant meteors are generally attended with violent rains or stormy weather, either just before or after; and why therefore should not the approaching 'shower of stars' also influence the 'flood-gates of Heaven'? If more attention was given to meteorological matters in our schools,—a knowledge of which is always useful, many changes of the weather may be foretold, and looked for without the usual almanac bore.

Yours truly,

S. B. SMALL.

Buckingham Village, Sept. 10th, 1866.

VI. Biographical Sketches.

No. 42.—THOMAS JAFFRAY ROBERTSON, Esq., M.A.

Died, at his residence, Victoria Square, on the night of the 26th inst., deeply regretted, T. J. Robertson, Esq., M.A., Head Master of the Normal School for Upper Canada, in the 62nd year of his age.

The late Mr. Robertson was born, educated, and spent the first half of his public life in Ireland.

When it was proposed in 1846 to establish a Norman School for Upper Canada, the Board of Education (now Council of Public Instruction) at its first meeting, July 21st, 1846, acceded to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools for the appointment of Mr. John Rintoul, A.M., (formerly of Edinburgh) head master of the National Model Schools in Dublin, provided it were concurred in by the National Commissioners in Ireland—authorizing "the Superintendent of Schools to communicate with the Irish National Board of Education relative to the appointment by that body of Mr. Rintoul, or any other gentleman they may deem competent, to the head mastership of the Upper Canada Normal School."

The Irish National Board highly approved of the appointment of Mr. Rintoul, and he conditionally accepted it; but shortly afterwards his wife was prostrated by a painful and at length fatal malady, which prevented him from coming to Canada, even after several months delay. Mr. Rintoul, therefore, withdrew his acceptance of the appointment, and his resignation of office under the Irish National Board, which proceeded to the selection of Mr. Robertson as head master of the Normal School for Upper Canada.

The letter which the Irish National Board directed to be written on Mr. Robertson's appointment, will enable the public to judge of his position in Ireland, and of his fitness for the office which he has so worthily filled during nineteen years in Canada. That letter is as follows:—

"EDUCATION OFFICE, Dublin, June 16, 1847.

"SIR,—We are directed by the Commissioners of National Education to inform you, that a letter from Mr. Rintoul was laid before them at their meeting on the 3rd June, acquainting them that he had at length been enabled to accept the appointment of Head Master of the projected Normal School at Toronto, and resigning into their hands the trust they had confided to him. The commissioners accepted Mr. Rintoul's resignation with feelings of regret for the loss of his valuable services. At the following meeting of the board on the 10th inst., another communication was received from Mr. Rintoul, of which we are desired to transmit you a copy; and, in compliance with the request therein contained, the commissioners permitted him to withdraw his resignation.

"Under these circumstances the commissioners felt themselves called upon to select, without delay, another person to fill the office of head master of the Toronto Normal School, in accordance with the request contained in your letter to them of the 25th July, 1846, and also in your letter addressed to Mr. Rintoul, dated 7th April, 1847, in which you state as follows:—

"Should you, however, not be able to leave Dublin for Canada by July, the board requests you will inform the Commissioners of National Education of it as soon as you are aware of your own inability to come to Canada, and that they will have the kindness to select another head master for the Normal School for Upper Canada, in the terms of my letter to the secretaries of the National Board of the 24th of last July."

"The gentlemen whom the commissioners have selected is Mr. Thomas Jaffray Robertson, who has been in their service since the early part of year 1832.