

FOUR MILD FEBRUARIES.

According to the Toronto Observatory, the February just past was one of the warmest in a considerable period of years. The same month in 1878 was also an open one, and carriages and carts took the place of sleighs in most sections of the country. And here are two more mild Februaries.—

From the Canadian Gleaner.

The month of February, 1877, will be a memorable one, for its exceeding mildness and the small amount of moisture which fell from the clouds, either in the shape of rain or snow, the whole scarcely exceeding two-thirds of an inch. There were only ten days in which the thermometer did not rise above the freezing point of water, and on two mornings only did it reach zero, and never below it. The winds also were moderate, with a fair amount of sunshine.

It has occurred to me that many of your readers would be interested in an account of the winter of 1833-4, more particularly as the month of February of that season was even milder, in some respects, than the one which has just passed. The fall of 1833 was pleasant, and ploughing was not entirely stopped by frost until about the 20th of November. Steady frost set in about that time, and snow fell in sufficient quantity on the 6th of December to make sleighing. The fore part of winter was steady, but mild, and the St. Lawrence was not frozen over so that teams could cross until the 18th January. There was one week of cold weather, the thermometer reaching to 18 below zero. February set in mild, and there was almost constant thaw until near the end of the month, and in the third week snow had nearly disappeared. There were two thunderstorms in February. One on the 20th prevailed over the Province and did much damage. On the 24th crows and flies made their appearance. On the 26th there was a fall of snow, sufficient to make sleighing until the 4th of March. Mild weather again set in and the frost began to leave the ground. On the 13th we began to prepare ground for a garden, by removing stones and stumps. Green blades of grass began to appear and sheep and young cattle found themselves food, and the rivers also were free of ice. On the 20th March there was a severe thunderstorm with heavy rain, which raised the rivers. On the 21st frost again set in, and on the 25th there was a fall of snow which lay a day or two. Warm weather again set in on the 30th, and on the 3rd April frogs were heard croaking for the first time, and the woods began to be enlivened by the music of the birds. On the 1st of April the steamboat Franklin commenced to run from St. Johns to Lake Champlain. The steamer Chateaugay also began her regular trips from Chateaugay Basin to Lachine early in April. Ploughing was now general and some were sowing. Mosquitoes made their appearance about the 7th, and the weather was so warm that fires were not needed. The roads became dry and good, and all the month of April continued fine. There was thunder several times, and also a few flurries of snow. By the 21st vegetation was far advanced, and many trees were nearly in full leaf—even the maple; wheat was above ground, and pools of water full of tadpoles. In the first week of May there was thunder and, occasionally, frost. On the 13th there was snow, and on the 14th it snowed for ten hours. On the morning of the 15th there was severe frost, ice on pools being about half an inch thick. No harm resulted from the frost, as the snow protected vegetation. It was a dry, hot summer and an early harvest, but the crop was tolerably good.—*Vennor's Almanac.*

The Mildness of Winter.

The following letter has appeared in the *Scotsman*—

February 14, 1882.

SIR,—The mildness of the winter, and the numerous instances of roses and various kinds of plants flowering out of doors, not usually seen in a British climate at the same period, have been everywhere the subject of remark; while the premature advance of growth is thought by many to be the earliest up to this date, that has been for many years past.

Having noticed several articles upon the same subject in the pages of the *Scotsman*, I have thought it may prove interesting to submit to you an extract from my notes, taken here for the long period of thirty-one years, the object of observation being intended as an indicator of earliness or lateness of the season at the time taken. I may also state that the apricot trees from which these notes are set down, are growing against an S wall of brick, and 14 feet high, free and open to all changes of weather, and the dates are the days on which the first full expanded flower is seen. Locality, south coast of Moray Firth; distance from the sea, about three miles as a crow flies, climate probably as early and mild as any in Scotland.

It will be seen by the subjoined statement that the blossom was open in 1874, seven days earlier than the present, and one day earlier in the year 1869. Mignonette survived the winter in 1874, and continued to flower through the following summer. Lilacs and horse chestnuts in flower April 25th; white hawthorn blossom open 2nd of May; and same year apricots ripe 22nd July. Thus showing that the mild winter and early spring was followed by a warm summer. Dates of apricots flowering:—

1852.....	February 28	1868.....	March 2
1853.....		1869.....	February 12
1854.....	March 2	1870.....	March 9
1855.....	" 8	1871.....	" 3
1856.....	" 1	1872.....	February 20
1857.....	" 1	1873.....	March 2
1858.....	February 25	1874.....	February 6
1859.....	" 22	1875.....	March 7
1860.....	March 9	1876.....	February 26
1861.....	February 24	1877.....	March 3
1862.....	" 28	1878.....	February 23
1863.....	" 24	1879.....	March 10
1864.....	March 2	1880.....	February 20
1865.....	" 15	1881.....	March 14
1866.....	February 23	1882.....	February 13
1867.....	" 21		

Daily readings of maximum and minimum thermometer at Gordon Castle, of current month:—

	Max.	Min.		Max.	Min.
Feb. 1.....	54	41·8	Feb. 8.....	46·6	38·2
" 2.....	51·2	36	" 9.....	53·6	29·3
" 3.....	50	34·6	" 10.....	54	45·6
" 4.....	53·4	41·3	" 11.....	54·9	39·6
" 5.....	51·9	40·8	" 12.....	50·8	49·4
" 6.....	54·2	41·4	" 13.....	53	42·8
" 7.....	50·8	34·5			

This being one of the stations of the Meteorological Society of Scotland, the instruments were furnished by it, and recently tested by Mr. Buchan, Hon. Sec.

I am, &c.,
JOHN WEBSTER,
Gordon Castle Gardens

Disadvantages of a Snowless Winter.

SNOWLESS winters have their drawbacks. Apart from the epidemic of influenza and bronchial affections encouraged by the persistent damp and rainless season, lovers of the picturesque are threatened with a grievous disappointment during the coming summer. It is quite true that the householder rejoices, his pipes are intact, his roof is watertight, shoeless urchins have not howled at his door with their importunate offers of assistance, mendacious mendicants have not chanted in the frozen roadway, the vestries and the parishes have not once been hauled over the coals for their dilatoriness in not carting off the unsavory refuse, and no single passenger has sprained his ankle over a slippery coal-plate; but, to make up for all this, the rivers are running dry, we are to have no more waterfalls, and the open winter, as it is called, is prophesied to ending an unwholesome drought. Snow, after all,

has its advantages. No doubt it soaks unpleasantly through the stoutest doubled soled boots; but, by resting on the mountains, it cools the air that passes over them, makes a warm nest for the sensitive plants, and when melted foams down the mountain streams into the valleys, bringing freshness and exhilaration every mile after the glaciers is left behind. Ominous rumors already come from Germany and Switzerland. The Rhine is said to have reached the lowest level of the present century, and the navigation is already seriously impeded. If we are to have no rivers in the summer of 1882, what will become of the tourists, personally conducted and otherwise? There will be weeping at Coblenz and lamentation at the Lurlei. But, worse than that, what will become of the shipbuilders and the pianoforte makers, who look for their annual supply of wood from the great forests near the snow line?—the mighty trunks that by nature's water propulsion are cut down on the high mountains of the Black Forest, and are passed along the turbulent torrent by village after village until they arrive in the wider streams, when they are made into those giant rafts that we see sailing from Dingen downward to the sea all through the holiday season. We could all of us endure one week of snow for the sake of the waterfalls and cataracts which are to rejoice our eyes when summer comes.—*London Telegraph.*

WEATHER PROGNOSTICATIONS.

Graham Hutchinson, a sound and common sense meteorologist, published a book in the year "MDCCCXXXV." This had a very fair circulation in Great Britain and a partial one in Europe. But few copies reached America, and still fewer "frozen" Canada. It is our purpose to reproduce in the BULLETIN, from time to time, several of these old but still sound and interesting papers, particularly where they relate to the systems of "Weather Prognostication."

On Prognostications of the Weather, with Explanations of the Principles on which they depend.

The attention paid to meteorological phenomena by the mass of mankind in all ages and nations has been principally directed to the means of foretelling the changes and character of the weather. With this view, coincidences between certain kinds of weather, and an endless variety of phenomena presented by the celestial bodies, by clouds and various other objects in Nature, both mineral and vegetable, together with the cries and instinctive movements of animals, including birds, beasts, fishes, insects and reptiles, have all been faithfully observed and recorded. And these, without any inquiry as to the cause, nature and extent of the coincidences, have been severally promulgated by their authors as infallible indicators of the forthcoming weather.

As we proceed, we will notice the more important means by which the weather may, with more or less probability, be foretold, but, for the sake of brevity, will allow the mass of rubbish heaped upon this department of meteorological science to remain unmolested.

I.—PROGNOSTICATIONS ON PAST EXPERIENCE.

In all intertropical climates, the returns of certain kinds of weather are periodical. In such climates, therefore, all that is necessary by way of prognostication, is to observe and record the character of the weather that usually prevails during the different seasons of the year. But though past experience may enable us to predict within a few days of the time of the year when the rainy season will commence and terminate, it does not give us such precise information as will enable us to foretell the precise day on which