

alarm-spreading prognostications. The scientist, with his able army of assistants spread over a continent, dares scarcely predict 48 hours in advance, yet the charlatan, scorning observations, with one bound leaps over weeks and even months and there plants his weather signal. Let us turn for a moment to some of the superstitions and fallacies regarding weather. As far back as 1508, not long after the invention of printing, a book was published in Germany under the title of the "Bauern Practik" or "Husbandsman's Practice," as its translation was known in England. It taught the farmer, the sailor, all, indeed, who were interested in the weather what would be its character, not only for the coming year, but in all future years. Christmas is the chief radiant point upon which the prognostications depend. Plenty, peace, war, drought, rain, honey, wine, corn, follow according as Christmas is fine or cloudy, and if the sun rises obscured or if he sets obscured, or if Christmas falls on a Sunday or some other day of the week and so on. In a less degree the 12 days following Christmas, i.e., to Epiphany, had a mystic influence on future weather and affairs of life.

There are said to be forty weather saints, among the most prominent of whom is undoubtedly St. Swithin, whose day is July 15th, and the superstition is that if it should rain on that day it will rain for forty days after. In order to see this belief fulfilled I would suggest migration to southeastern Alaska, where forty, fifty or sixty days' rain can be had on short notice.

Of the heavenly bodies for forecasting the weather the moon has ever held pre-eminently first place not only by the people but by the self constituted prophets, who, under the protecting shield of astronomy, profess to have framed infallible rules for the weather as judged from the ever varying position of the sun, moon and planets.

By careful examination of thousands of accurate barometric observations distributed over the globe we find that whatever