

THE WEATHER ;
Its Present Relation to Man.

BY L. J. HEATWOLE,

Presiding over the Virginia Branch of the Astro-Meteorological Association.

It is well-known that there are, among theological writers and thinkers, some who hold the opinion that foreknowledge of the weather is detrimental to the progress of Christianity; the principal ground for this opinion being that a part of the best discipline of this life comes from the various uncertainties and unexpected changes of the weather.

Viewing the matter thus, it might be also urged that other branches of human progress be discouraged; that the sanitary measures adopted by our municipal governments, and the establishment of all efficient City, State and Provincial Boards of Health, by which means the origin and fatal consequences of malignant diseases are prevented, are not to be considered conducive to the advancement and promotion of religious faith among the people.

The fact is that there is not another question in all the departments of science more closely allied with the moral, physical and social interests of mankind than a thorough knowledge of the laws and forces that control the weather. In all the vocations of life, no other question is more frequently made the subject for remark. Deplorable as it may seem, it is still true that no other branch of natural science is so little studied or searched into by the masses.

The idea of deriving any practical benefit from this study, has long been looked upon with disfavor, and its advocates have pretty generally been classed among those who profess to deal with the supernatural, who pry and search after the "hidden things" that God does not choose to reveal to man.

It may be presumed, however, that the same Power that controls and regulates all the forces and energies of the Universe, has also endowed man with that faculty which we call "common sense"—a faculty by which he becomes enabled to think and judge for himself, and also to reach certain conclusions with regard to the manifold phenomena of nature constantly going on around and above him, inviting his attention and investigation.