

INTRODUCTION.

"HOW ARE YOU? FINE DAY!" is a fair sample of the customary greeting of the members of the Anglo Saxon race the world over, whether it rains, blows, hails, snows, or the sun shines aloft. An Egyptian would greet a friend under similar circumstances with "How goes the perspiration?" a Greek of the present time with, "What do you do?" a Dutchman, "How do you fare?" a Chinaman, "Have you eaten your rice?" or "Is your stomach in good order?" a Russian, "How do you live on?" or the very familiar, "Devil take you;" an Arab, "God grant thee His favor;" a Turk, "Be under the care of God;" a Persian, "Is thy exalted condition good?" a Japanese, "Do not hurt me;" and a Burmese, kissing the friend, "Give me a smell." It appears from these illustrations that in the matter of salutation the Anglo-Saxon has almost a monopoly of the weather, and it is not wonderful that he has a special interest in knowing what weather is to come, and has ever endeavored, and will continue to endeavor, to peer into the approaching seasons. Mr. Vennor contends that this desire is not without reason, and that nature has given her students very good ground to work upon in endeavoring to foretell weather. He argues that as a shepherd knows from experience what kind of day the morrow will be, by indications which never lie, any one, if he had the same experience in years, could as surely foretell the character of the coming year by the one preceding it. The great difficulty met immediately on the threshold of this theory is, that while there are three hundred and sixty-five or three hundred and sixty-six days, as the case may be, in a year, in this degenerate age, there are but some three score years and ten in a lifetime, and therefore the experience necessary to foretell the seasons is very difficult to obtain. This may be overcome by keeping a record of each day's character. That such a record will be soon obtained there can be no doubt, and the result of constant thought and enquiry can have but one conclusion. Mr. Vennor does not put forward his predictions as prophecies, but simply as opinions based on certain facts, and with the gallant Admiral Fitzroy, the founder of the present extensive and valuable meteorological system, may say, "Certain it is, that although our conclusions may be incorrect, our judgment erroneous, the *laws of nature* and the signs afforded to man are invariably true. Accurate interpretation is the deficiency." This accurate interpretation Mr. Vennor holds may be attained to, and study with that result in view will be rewarded by the most satisfactory results.

But this year VENNOR'S ALMANAC is not confined to the foretelling of seasons. It will have a new interest from the large amount of information and weather lore it contains; Virgil, Shakespeare, Longfellow, Howard, Admiral Fitzroy, Doctor Looris, Steinmetz, Howe, Butler and other observers have been made to contribute to it, and the information obtained as the result of their observations will