

5. In foul weather, when the mercury rises much and high, and so continues for two or three days before the foul weather is quite over, then expect a continuance of fair weather to follow.

6. In fair weather, when the mercury falls much and low, and thus continues for two or three days before the rain comes, then expect a great deal of wet, and probably high winds.

7. The unsettled motion of the mercury denotes uncertain and changeable weather.

But to these remarks may be added, that, when the barometer suddenly falls two or three-tenths, without any material alteration in the thermometer, and the hygrometer is not much turned towards moist, a violent gale of wind may be expected. When the hygrometer inclines far towards moist, with only a trifling descent in the barometer, it denotes a passing shower and little wind; and when the barometer falls considerably, and the hygrometer turns much towards moist, the thermometer remaining stationary, and weather inclined to rise than fall, both violent wind and rain are likely to follow in the course of a few hours.

General Prognosticks of the Weather.

Amongst these we may reckon such as are derived from birds, beasts, insects, reptiles, and plants.

Birds, in general, retain in the quill part of their feathers a quantity of oil, which, when they feel an extraordinary degree of moisture in the atmosphere, they express by means of their bills, and distribute it over their feathers, to secure their bodies against the effects of an approaching shower.

Swallows in pursuit of the flies and insects, on which they prey, keep near the earth in wet weather; and in dry weather, from the same cause, they fly much higher.

Domestic animals, as cows and sheep, but particularly the latter, on the approach of rain, feed with great avidity in the open field, and retire near the trees and hedges as soon as they are satisfied. In fine weather they graze and lounge about, eating and resting alternately with apparent indifference.

The pimpernel, commonly called peep-a-day, or shepherd's weather-glass, closes its leaves before rain, and the down of the mandelion is much affected by moisture.

Insects and reptiles of all kinds, seek or avoid rain according to their respective habits, by these means, giving notice of every change of weather.