

bridge, published in the August number of the *American Meteorological Review*. After noticing that winter really sets in about the middle of December, he goes on to say—

“It is characterized by a maximum of bright, still, cloudless days, a scanty snow-fall, and frequent and prolonged breaks of warm weather, heralded by the chinook wind, of which more hereafter. Occasionally a bad snow-storm will cover the prairie to a depth of eighteen or twenty inches; this, however, is very exceptional. The winter generally breaks up in February by a grand blow from the west, followed by a period of from one to three weeks of warm, bright weather, which may fairly be called the beginning of spring.

“Spring, here as elsewhere, is the most variable and capricious season of the year. On the whole, it may, perhaps, be described as cold and damp, with frequent rain-falls, varied by bursts of the most gloriously bright, warm weather, lasting sometimes a fortnight or three weeks.

“May is generally fine, warm and bright; June and the earlier part of July, rainy; the remainder of July, August, September, October and November, warm and very dry.

“The summer, July to September, is characterized by hot days and cool nights, with very little rain, but the warm, hazy days of autumn often lasting well into December, are the glory of the year.

“The grand characteristic of the climate as a whole, that on which all weather hinges, is the chinook wind. It blows from west to south-west, in varying degrees of strength, from the gentle breeze, that just lowers the heads of the daisies, to the howling gale, that carries off contributions of chimneys, barrels, shingles, hats and miscellaneous rubbish to our neighbors in Assiniboia. In winter the wind is distinctly warm; in summer, not so distinctly cool. Its approach is heralded by the massing of dark, cumulus clouds above the mountain tops, and a distant wailing and rumbling from the passes and gorges. Its effect in winter is little short of miraculous. When the real chinook blows, the thermometer often rises in a few hours from 20° below to 40° above zero; the snow, which in the morning may