

Now, as we have had within the four years mentioned winters of extreme severity, and springs of unusual chilliness, as well as those of the very opposite character, extreme mildness, and singular forwardness, we shall not err very greatly if we take an average date for the leafing of the red maple from the four dates given for the last four years,—viz: the 24th of May, and we think our readers will generally find that this tree will at all events in the neighbourhood of Halifax, expand its leaves within three or four days of either before or after, that date. In the case of the Birch, we may take both kinds which are common near the city: the white, or Paper Birch (*Betula papyracea*), and the Black Birch (*B. nigra*.) The two species vary from each other so slightly in their time of leafing, that we may for our purpose consider them as one. With the leafing of the birch, we are even more familiar than that of the maple, for we find it marked down in our note book as early as 1860, in which year it was in leaf on May 26th. Of 1861 we have no record, but in 1862, the date is put down as May 20th. In 1863, May 24th. In 1864, May 25th. In 1865, May 20th. In 1866, May 17th; and this season 1867, May 26th. Taking the average of these dates, we find May 23rd to be the medium, and three or four days at most before or after this date, will be found to include the date of leafing of this tree.

On looking over our note book, we perceive that all the trees, shrubs, and plants we have observed, varied no more in their time of leafing, than the trees we have named, so we may take those trees as a criterion to go by in considering the question of the supposed backwardness of certain spring seasons. In the case of the maple during the space of five years remarkable for excess of heat and cold we only find the time of leafing to oscillate over a period of six days; and as regards the birch, during the space of seven years, the variation did not extend beyond the same bounds. Here then, we have an unfailing record by which we can prove 'beyond a doubt' that the Nova Scotian seasons vary but slightly, and that the oft-repeated declaration that more frequently than agreeably "winter long lingers in the lap of spring," is incorrect. Let him who is prone to murmur at Nature's apparent delay in opening the door of her vast store-house on the approach of summer, rather rest satisfied with the annual bounties she so invariably bestows, and return his heartfelt thanks to the Great Ruler of nature—

"Who all things form'd, and form'd them all for man,
Who marked the climates, varied every zone,
Dispensing all His blessings for the best,
In order and in beauty."

J. M. J.

Selections.

THE SUNDAY MORNING'S DREAM.

My first day of returning health, after many weeks of severe illness, was a bright Sunday in June. I was well enough to sit at an open window in my easy chair, and as our home stood in a pleasant garden in the suburbs of London, the first roses of the year scented the soft breeze that fanned my pale cheeks, and revived my languid frame. The bells of our parish church were just beginning their chimes and the familiar sounds awakened in me an intense longing to be with my family once more a worshipper in the house of God. I took up my Bible and Prayer-book, which had been placed ready on the table beside me, intending to be-