

of one somewhere in any January he designated a failure. To hold the mirror up to history is the only rational method of uninspired prophecy and just such I hold is your method.

Very truly, W——.

Toronto.

SNOW BLOCKADES.

SIR.—What is the chief cause of the snow blockades that during the past winter and this spring so seriously checked traffic on Canadian railroads, especially in the North-West? Deficiency in height of road-bed. No Canadian railway should when passing through a level tract have a road-bed less than three feet high. This is a matter demanding serious attention from the Dominion as well as Provincial Governments, and their engineers whose duty it is to inspect all railways before they are opened for traffic. No railroad should be accepted by the Inspector with a road-bed of an altitude less than from thirty to thirty six inches, particularly if such roads have received aid in public money or land or both, as in the case of the Syndicate's roads. In some instances their roads are said to be level with the surrounding plains, the ties being laid on the surface, or but little elevated above it. Such lines of railway will prove useless in the winter when most needed.

OSSEVER.

Ottawa, April 28th 1882.

COLDELT MAY IN 42 YEARS, (Mass.)

Worcester, Mass., May 4th, 1882.

Henry G. Vennor, Esq., Montreal.

DEAR SIR.—Thus far this month your forecast has been verified; the future will be watched with interest. Yesterday morning was the coldest morning in May for the past forty-two years. On only two occasions before in May has the temperature been below freezing—May 1st, 1847, when the record was 31°, and May 7th, 1864, 29°. This year, May 3rd, gave a reading of 23° on mercury and metallic thermometers. The temperature of the next thirty days will be regarded with a great deal of interest. I am very much pleased with your *Weather Bulletin* and find many valuable ideas and suggestions. I am preparing for my own use and aid in writing up my monthly review, a table showing the amount of rain and melted snow; also the amount of snow which has fallen each month for the past 41 years. Should you like this for your *Bulletin*, I should be pleased to furnish you with a copy.

In haste, yours truly,

J. BRAINERD HALL, *Evening Gazette*.

Mr. Vennor, Montreal.

DEAR SIR.—Your prediction for May, so far, in the southern part of Indiana is true. Heavy frost and freezing. Yours, CHAS McCULLOUGH.

New Trenton, Indiana.

N. A. Stevens, Brandon, Wis.

We cannot answer your questions. The editor of this paper makes no pretensions to astrology. Go ask your "table turners."

MECHANICUS, Pa., May 5th, 1882.

Prof Henry G. Vennor.

DEAR SIR.—Your packet of *Bulletins* to hand, which I distributed among practical farmers.

I have now to inform you that the NINTH ANNUAL TRI STATE Picnic and Exhibition of the *Patrons of Husbandry* will be held in this vicinity, commencing Monday, August 21st, and continuing for one week. I hope to be able to arrange for your presence at this meeting, which will be attended by practical farmers from at least eight different States. We have selected the 21st for the reason, that, in your Almanac for 1882 you predict good weather on and after that date—so you see that I am a believer in "Vennor." I will be glad to hear from you as to the probability of having you at the picnic, and also whether in your present opinion we have selected the right day for fair weather. An early reply will oblige.

Yours truly, K. H. THOMAS.
Ed. Farmer's Friend.

ROCK CITY FALLS, N. Y., May 6th, 1882

H. G. Vennor, Esq., Montreal, Canada

DEAR SIR.—We are having very cold weather I think for this time of the year, and prospects for

June 1st or from May 20th to June 22nd? as we have our excursion of military going East at that time. This kind of weather is not agreeable. Please hurry up *Bulletin* and oblige Yours &c.,

W. W. J. PRICE.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 24th 1882.

H. G. Vennor, Esq.

DEAR SIR.—Employing a large force of hands and a great deal of my work being out of doors, I have for the past three years gone almost entirely by your predictions to good advantage. I should be glad to be able to get your predictions regularly, if you will be kind enough to say how or what arrangement I can make entirely satisfactory to you.

Yours respectfully,

SIMON SULLIVAN, Plumber & Steam Fitter.

LOOAN, Ohio, April 25th, 1882

H. G. Vennor, Montreal, Canada.

SIR.—We have had a white frost in this section of country for the last three mornings. Small fruit all killed. Please send me your *Bulletin* for May.

Yours respectfully, M. L. MOORE.

NO BUSH FIRES AS YET.

WAYNERLY, O., MAY 14, 1882.

To the Editor of the *Commercial*:

We are pretty well drowned out here just now, and are anxiously looking for the "sultry weather," and some of the "bush fires," that are promised us at this time by that Canadian astrologer, Vennor. Let him send some of his bush-fires this way, quick! We long for "bush-fires."

ALBERT MEYER.

This writer clearly does not take the *BULLETIN* or he would have been prepared or have known of the wet MAY. One object of this weather paper is to enable us to revise our almanac as the months approach. In this case, however, as both the rains and bush-fires were experienced; the latter, of course, not everywhere. On the very date given in the almanac, bush-fires were reported in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and regions as well as at other points in both Canada and the U. States.—ED.]

TROY, OHIO, May 2nd 1882.

DEAR SIR.—From what I have learned from your former predictions I have acquired some faith in that which is to come. I do not know the full import of your inquiry about the record of the weather for the year 1816, but it calls to mind a remark I have heard from my mother about the cold summer which must have been about that date. She said there was frost every month (Ohio) in that year, and some of the harvesters donned their overcoats on going out in the harvest field to reap that harvest.—Success to your new science.

Respectfully, J. REZN

VIGO, P. O. Ross Co, O May 2nd

DEAR SIR.—I have been much interested in your forecastings of the weather, and hope you may be able to bring these prognostications to a reliable scientific basis. Yours truly, DAVID CLIMER.

LANCASTER, Ohio,

DEAR SIR.—Did you ever hear the story of the Dutchman who "did not believe at all in that man Vennor," and when confronted by the verification of some striking prediction, said, "that's nothing. it would have happened just the same if Vennor had hadn't predicted it."—A pretty good anecdote.

Very truly, P. B. EWING.

MANITOBA, 18th May, 1882.

H. G. Vennor, Esq.:

S. C.—Being ever disposed to give credit where it is due, I now take the liberty of addressing you to congratulate you on your correct forecast, or prediction of the weather last fall, from that time to the present. Having for the last three years noticed earnestly your predictions of the weather, and afterwards thinking you were not far astray, though I was not at the time aware whether or not they were intended to extend or apply to this province. But having read those of last fall, I determined to notice more particularly how near you were right, as you stated that this province and the North-West territory would probably experience the same

weather. I must here admit that I only took meagre notes weekly since, of the weather, but I have found the weather all through the winter and up to the present time to correctly verify your predictions. You stated, I think, that the latter part of February and through March, there would be intensely cold weather accompanied by storms of wind and snow. All of which we have had more than enough of during that time. In fact, such weather as we then had, has been unprecedented in this province, as admitted by the natives and oldest settlers here. I have been here myself some years, and I must candidly admit that I have never seen anything like or approaching such weather. Indeed we have had nothing yet like spring weather, such as we are accustomed to have here, it having been cold and disagreeable so far, and all farming operations in a very backward state. This, if I mistake not, you also predicted. The snow-fall during March, I do not, I think, exaggerate, when I say that it has been more than double if not treble the quantity that we generally have in any one winter. As our snow-fall, though frequently through the winters, are very light in comparison to those of the lower provinces. You will, I hope, excuse a perfect stranger in taking the liberty of addressing you, congratulating you as I have here done. My only excuse is that I am pleased to find that such correct forecasts of the weather can be given so far ahead. For if you can always be as correct in your predictions as I think you have been in the one of last fall, it must certainly prove a great boon to the world at large, as preparations can then be made to meet any unusual weather. I have the honor to be, sir, Yours very respectfully, A. C. HARVEY.

Paragraphs.

NOTES ON SNOW-SHOES.

In the Yosemite Valley sleds drawn by horses are used in travelling over the snow. The animals are provided with snow-shoes, consisting of blocks about thirteen inches square and one inch in thickness, to which suitable attachments are fixed on the upper side for the purpose of securing the foot. The horses readily learn to manipulate these apparently clumsy appendages, and make excellent progress over the snow.

[On the *Rivière de Lièvres*, north of Buckingham, in Ottawa County, Que., a Norwegian settler, for seven winters, used snow-shoes on one of his horses, photographs were taken of the animal so shod. Of course the shoes were of a special construction.—ED.]

THE *Evening Wisconsin*, Milwaukee, of April 29th contained the following:—

Vennor's predictions, published in yesterday's *Wisconsin*, are decidedly discouraging. They announce not only a cold, disagreeable, wet May, but a very wet and cold summer, with frosts in August, and a winter unusually stormy and severe. On the other hand, those who rely upon the equinoctial signs, predict a pleasant, dry summer with prevailing winds from the west. It is claimed by them that the direction of the wind on the 20th of March gives the prevailing direction for the succeeding two months, on the 21st of March, for the two months succeeding the first two, and on the 22nd of March for the still succeeding two. This carries the prediction to the middle of September, and this year, indicates favorable summer weather.

[Weather prognosticators advance many ridiculous theories in support of their views, and amongst them few are more foundationless than the one here advanced. The wind is just the unruly member that cannot be reduced to rule. My back records prove most conclusively that there is no relationship whatsoever between the "direction of the wind on the 20th of March," or 21st, and that of the ensuing two or three weeks. We have something much surer than to go upon, namely "*Weather Waves*," on which we have before written briefly. These give us our only premonition of the probable direction of the winds during any approaching month. The indications for the present summer or season are in favor of continually shifting winds and these never for any