

SIMCOE.—On 1st, thunder storm, with lightning and heavy rain for 24 hours, from SW, calm. On 14th, lightning, thunder, and heavy rain. 15th, frost in morning. 16th, at night, lightning, thunder, and heavy rain. 22nd, hard frost in morning; minimum thermometer, 32°. 23rd and 24th, frost. 28th, fog. Rain on 1st, 2nd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 25th. Very heavy rain for 24 hours on 25th.

STRATFORD.—On 1st, at 8 20 a.m., thunder in SE; 7 40 p.m. lightning W—NE till 9 p.m. 12th, windy. 14th, at 1 30 p.m. distant thunder in NW, dense nimbi from W to E horizon fringed towards Z by cumuli moving from W to E, cumuli scattered along the rest of horizon, wind W, and velocity 2; at 1 40 p.m. rain began, wind W, velocity 8, nimbi covering nearly all the sky except from E to SW horizon, where cumuli were seen; at 1 42 p.m. hail, very heavy, stones small; at 1 45 p.m. lightning with thunder; at 1 46 p.m. hail ceased; at 2 p.m., wind lulled to velocity 5; at 2 40 p.m. rain ceased; at 3 30 p.m., wind NW, velocity 3; at 5 45 p.m., distant thunder again heard. 15th, frost; at 9 p.m. observed an arch of white light in the southern part of sky, extending from SE to W horizon, elevation at highest part about 45°, breadth of arch 16°, dark on upper edge; the light was similar to auroral light, and remained visible for half an hour. 16th, thunder, lightning and rain. 20th, high wind, E, from 9 30 a.m. to 4 p.m. 21st, hoar frost in the evening. 22nd, ice on the pools of water, first of season. 23rd, storm of wind. 26th, at 7 15 p.m., aerolite seen in S. 29th, frost. Fogs on 1st, 6th, 10th, 14th, 24th, 28th. Rain on 1st, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 26th. Continuous rain from 6 45 p.m. 24th to 5 a.m. of 26th; depth 2.3423 inches. The following is a comparative statement of rainfall at Stratford in September for seven years:—

September, 1860, 11 days	3.9915 inches.
" 1861, 15 "	2.9688 "
" 1862, 11 "	4.0103 "
" 1863, 7 "	1.8841 "
" 1864, 10 "	3.9274 "
" 1865, 9 "	3.1064 "
" 1866, 17 "	5.3225 "

The only month (since August, 1860) in which the rainfall exceeded that of September, 1866, was March, 1861, when rain and melted snow measured 5.3839 inches.

WINDSOR.—On 1st, lightning, thunder and rain. Meteors on 3rd, 14th and 28th from Z to SW. Meteor on 5th from Z to W. On 8th, lightning and rain; double rainbow observed in NE at 6 p.m.; wind N, dark cumulo strati, golden edged, passing rapidly from SW. 11th, lightning and rain. 12th, aurora at 9 p.m. for one hour, an arch with streamers, at 10 p.m. dark strati rose from N horizon, obscuring the sky. 15th, frost for the first time this season affected vegetation. 22nd, frost. 28th and 29th, remarkably heavy dew. Fog on 29th. Rain on 1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 26th. Harvest retarded by rain, but loss slight. Indian corn, near Detroit River, ripened, but in the interior considerably injured by frost. Month remarkable for a low temperature, with considerable variations; days sometimes warm, but nights cold.

5. THE WET WEATHER.

In England, they have had the same long period of wet weather that we have had in Canada. The *Christian World* has the following pertinent remarks upon the subject:—

Philosophers of the weather can write such pretty knowledge as this:—The rain we see descending was thawed for us out of the icebergs which have watched the Polar star for ages; and the lotus lilies have soaked from the Nile, and exhaled as vapor, snows that rested on the summit of the Alps." And also: "The atmosphere is a vast machine that is apparently tasked to its utmost, yet is always in order, and never breaks down; an engine which pumps our rivers up from the sea, and carries them through the clouds to their sources in the mountains. Air and water are the great agents of the sun in distributing his heat over the surface of the globe, cooling this climate and tempering that." But even Captain Maury, author of the marvellous theory of wind circuits, cannot tell us why we should have thousands of tons of water more than usual spilled over Europe (and especially the United Kingdom) this summer rather than other summers. Has the great southern oceanic cauldron, where during our winter and spring, the intense heat of a tropical sun has been manufacturing our rain, pumping up vapor to be condensed in the northern hemisphere—for in our north temperate zone the annual mean rainfall is thirty-seven inches, while in the south only 26)—has this great cauldron been subject to stronger influences than usual? Perhaps it would be small practical satisfaction to know. We are really driven back from the strongholds of inductive philosophy to the simple fact of the Divine ordering; we must recognize here that "Circumstance, which is the will of God,"—a will which the majority of men deny and disown whenever they can, striving to imprison the Most High in His own laws; considering him as a God that is far off, and not a God that is at hand in the multifarious affairs of His creatures. Yet inspiration tells that even the erratic "hail, snow, vapors, and stormy wind" are obedient to His impulses; they "fulfil His Word."

If we try to look at the bright side of our bad weather, we shall see the probability that it has largely aided in checking the advance of cholera. Had September been unusually close and sultry, as it was last year, there is no saying how the plague-germs might have ripened and diffused themselves through our cities. These chill torrents of rain have aided the sanitary inspectors not a little, sweeping both air and streets free from predisposing causes of disease. Again, it is not improbable that the past inclement season may originate a system for saving corn and hay by artificial drying, which may prove of incalculable value to future harvests. The leading newspapers have spoken about it. Improvements are often forced upon the world by calamities.

It does not seem hurtful to the votaries of science that they should learn that their boasted inductive philosophy cannot pierce "all mysteries and all knowledge." Before the every-day facts of the weather, the philosophers of Europe have been baffled. For the present, God has reserved to Himself this foreknowledge, and has hidden the links of law which doubtless bind cause and effect here, as elsewhere in His creation, from the keen eyes of learned men. Ocean has been spanned with a thin wire, which carries human thought from hemisphere to hemisphere; but not the most able electrician or meteorologist of them all can certainly say what weather will prevail to-morrow. It is as if to the proud boastings of modern philosophy were spoken the words, "Hitherto shalt thou come and no farther."

VII. Biographical Sketches.

No. 43.—J. B. E. DORION, ESQ., M.P.P.

The late Mr. Jean Baptiste Eric Dorion was the sixth of seven sons of the late Mr. P. A. Dorion, a member in the Lower Canada Legislature for Champlain previous to the Union Act, and a grandson, on the maternal side, of Mr. Bureau, M.P.P., in the same legislature for the County of St. Maurice. He was born at Ste. Anne de la Perade, in Sept., 1826, and was consequently in his fortieth year. Being descended from a family so closely connected with the legislature, his aspirations were early turned to politics, and in or about the year 1848, he, in concert with Mr. P. Blanchet and one or two other gentlemen of advanced political views, established *L'Avenir* newspaper in this city, which was always held to be the most uncompromising organ of the Rouge party in Canada. In 1857 he entered Parliament for Drummond and Arthabaska, which seat he held until 1857, when he was defeated, but was, however, again returned at last general election. Mr. Dorion was also editor of *Le Defricheur*, and a strong and influential advocate of the rights of the settlers, many of whom he induced to leave the French parishes along the river, and settle in the more fertile lands in the Eastern Townships. He was also one of the best stump speakers in the province, and a man of bold and uncompromising temperament, as also one of the most vigorous writers on the Rouge press—*Leader*.

No. 44.—THE VERY REV. JOHN H. McDONAGH, V.G.

It becomes our painful duty to announce the death of the Very Rev. J. H. McDonagh, late pastor of the Perth mission, and Vicar General of the diocese of Kingston. The sad event occurred on the morning of Wednesday, the 26th ulto., after an illness of some months' duration. The amiable and exemplary deceased was a native of the Archdiocese of Tuam, and made his studies in the College of St. Jarlath's. He was ordained, we believe, in 1834, and devoted himself to labor on a foreign mission. Perth, if we mistake not, was his first mission, where he spent thirty years of earnest zeal and ability, which won for him the affectionate regard of Catholics and Protestants alike. The death of the Very Rev. Vicar General McDonagh is deeply lamented by the inhabitants of Perth and the surrounding country, irrespective of creed. By his brethren in the priesthood his loss will be mourned as that of a faithful and prudent counsellor, a sincere and trustworthy friend. In his last hours, Father McDonagh had the consolation of being attended by his nephew, the Rev. Dr. Madden, of Port Hope, to whom he was much attached. His numerous friends in the Archdiocese of Tuam, and prominently amongst them, Archbishop Mac-Hale, by whom he was greatly esteemed, will learn with regret the premature demise of Vicar General McDonagh, who, but a few summers ago, was amongst them—the very impersonation of health and strength.—*Requiescat in pace.*—*Catholic Freeman*.

No. 45.—DEATH OF INVENTORS, LOWE AND SNIDER.

The English papers announce the death of Mr. James Lowe, the inventor of the screw propeller, and Mr. Snider, whose name has