

ing the alternations of day and night, they must be regarded, even when constructed upon the most improved principles, as very imperfect instruments for prognosticating the weather, which chiefly depends upon changes going on in the elevated regions of the atmosphere. They are also subject to another defect. Like all other solid bodies, they absorb radiating caloric, and accordingly, grow warm more rapidly than the atmosphere, when temperature is on the increase; and on the other hand, radiate caloric, and grow cold more rapidly than the atmosphere, when temperature is on the decrease. In the former case, they over-indicate the dryness of the atmosphere; in the latter, they over-indicate its dampness. On these accounts it has been frequently observed, that hygrometers have indicated a considerable degree of dryness, particularly during day and summer, when a rain of long continuance was about to commence. And on the other hand, they have frequently indicated a great degree of dampness, and accordingly, have erroneously prognosticated wet weather, particularly upon the approach, and during the continuance of night, when atmospheric stillness, a cloudless sky, and a high settled state of the barometer, gave us every assurance of the continuance of dry weather.

In one of our former Almanacs we also alluded to the Hygrometer. It is, however, to our way of thinking, more of a toy than a serviceable meteorological instrument. One such,—and a very nice little house and table instrument—is manufactured at Albany, N. Y. by Mr. Ullman, but on a different principle than any we have elsewhere met with.

Our next article on "Weather Prognostications" will treat of signs in the "Appearances of the Clouds," "Color of the Sky" and "Appearances of the Heavenly Bodies."

### Weather Chips.

—There are already indications of a severe ending of the year 1882; but we are not going to touch upon this yet—although our system would permit of our doing so with considerable chance of success.

—We have seldom seen it fail,—and we are backed by the records of a half century—that *thunder in April* is indicative of a *wet mid-summer*, in those sections of country in which it has been experienced.

—The Editor of the WEATHER BULLETIN has the largest collection of Birds in the Dominion of Canada, not excepting even the public collections. These were collected during fifteen years' rambles in the wilds of Canada. It is our intention to give a number of articles on Canada and United States birds in a future number of this paper, and we commence some of them in the present issue.

—A cold summer is always a cloudy and wet one; and a generally cloudy season is invariably a cool one. Our prediction relative to the summer of 1882, therefore, being a cloudy picture we expect a generally cool and wet season.

### Press on Predictions.

Vennor's predictions for April will be found in this issue. The famous prophet has made himself popular with the ladies by predicting a fine Easter Sunday, which is favorable for the crop of Spring bonnets.—*Milwaukee, Wis., April 3rd.*

Vennor's predictions for the month of March were quite accurately filled, enough so to reflect a continuance of the honor he has this year received for his close figuring.—*Evening Wis. April 1st.*

Vennor's storm, foretold in a letter to a Shadac gentleman, came in on time. All day yesterday it snowed and blowed in a manner that would do credit to a day in February or early March. We take back half the hard things we have said about Mr. Vennor.—*The Times, Moncton, N. B.*

Vennor hit it wonderfully in saying this spring "will set in with, if not quite, almost summer heat."—*Commercial Cincinnati.*

—The FARMER'S FRIEND can only be had by subscribing to VENNOR'S WEATHER BULLETIN for the year (\$1). We have 1,000 books ready for mailing at once to all subscribers.

—Besides one hundred other articles the FARMER'S FRIEND contains—*A New Exposition of Weather Philosophy; Winter Weather Wisdom; The Practical Use of Weather Reports and Maps, and how they are made; The Law of Winds; Storm Disturbances; The Placing and Reading of Instruments; Atmospheric Fertility, etc.* There are also papers on *Live Stock, Crops, Fruits and Vegetables, Household Affairs, etc.*, which cannot fail to be of interest to everyone. The matter is all new and original and is not clipped from other journals. Most of the Farming Papers and Reviews now circulated contain the same matter over and over again; but in the preparation of our FARMER'S FRIEND, the matter was collected from original sources and at considerable expense. We have no hesitation in saying that no Farmer, Planter, or Householder as ever yet had so useful a book in their hands.

—A daily journal says that a few of the English writers on scientific topics have from time to time flung ridicule upon those who accept the theory that there is a connection between the activity of the sun's surface, as shown in sun-spots, and the weather of the earth. The theory appears, however, to be gaining converts. Dr. W. W. Hunter, director general of statistics in India, has recently contributed new arguments for its support. His researches embrace the records of sixty-four years at Madras. The cycle of increase and decrease of sun-spots is taken at eleven years. Within each of these eleven-year periods the minimum of rain-fall, forty inches, occurs in the last, first, and second years; the maximum, fifty-four inches, in the fifth and sixth years. Within the whole period, the five years of minimum sun-spots have had an average of only thirty-seven inches rain-fall—less by eleven and a half inches than the average of the locality. Six severe famines have taken place during the sixty-four years, caused by the droughts of the minimum years and directly following them; the six droughts each occurring during the last, first, or second year of an eleven-year period. These researches must prove of great value, since they will enable the recurrence of East Indian famines to be foreseen and provided for.

### Brief Paragraphs.

When the earth was very young, says Dr. Ball, Astronomer Royal for Ireland, it went round so fast that the day was only three hours long. The earth was liquid then, and as it spun round and round at that fearful speed, and as the sun caused ever increasing tides on its surface, it at last burst in two. The smaller part was the moon, which has been going round the earth ever since at an increasing distance. The moon now raises tides on the earth, and while there was any liquid to operate on in the moon the earth returned the compliment.

The famous Gold of Ophir rose tree, on the Maddox farm in El Dorado county, California, was recently destroyed by a violent wind-storm. Its stem was twenty-six inches in circumference, and the shrub itself had grown around and over the oak fifty feet high, stopping in its upward progress only because it had nothing upon which to climb higher. When in full bloom, a splendid mass of golden flowers concealed the oak entirely from view with a blaze of glory which many persons have traveled far to see.

—"Do Railways and Telegraph wires influence in any manner our rain and snow-falls or general weather?" is a question that has been asked us by several writers recently. It is an important and curious question, and one well worthy of investigation. We can imagine such mediums affecting electric currents and thereby influencing the course and scattering of thunder-storms; but cannot, in any way, see what effect they could have upon either the rain or snow-falls of the country. However, we are glad to put the question and idea on record in our paper—hoping to hear further respecting it.

—"The 'Goose Bone' of Kentucky must not be laughed at. It has predicted well for many sections this year. The good people down there have faith in it—as their fore-fathers have had—and we cannot believe that any mere 'old saw' has been held on to so long, without there being something in it. We like the Kentucky folk'; and so does every one who goes down there and spends a time with them. They are the very essence of friendship and whole-souled hospitality. Good luck to the 'goose bone.'"

—April is said to be "the key of the year," but how few there are that can fit the key in the lock.

The attempt to read the weather by the odd or even endings of the years ('80, '81 or '82 for example) is ridiculous in the extreme; as well try a toss up of the dice. Remember, that the weather existed before numerals.

March, which according to the proverb, ought to go out like a lamb, is not doing so to any extent worth mentioning, and his latter days like those of a depraved old man, are, if anything, worse than those of his youth or prime. There is plenty of sunlight, but it is a malicious sun with a sickly smile for human suffering under hot blasts.