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"WEATHER."

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(Continued from the May number.)

The North-West is the breeding ground of our "cold waves." In connection with anti-cyclones there prevail, however, from time to time, especially in the winter months, severe storms of wind, either with or without snow. When accompanied by snow they are popularly known as blizzards. It may be interesting to state in connection with the etymology of this word, that among one of the first to mention the blizzard was Henry Ellis, who made a voyage to Hudson's Bay in the ship "California" in the year 1746 and wintered near York Factory. In addition to regular storms of low and high barometer, there are other atmospheric disturbances, generally known as local storms, such as hail, thunder and dust storms. From the concentric layers which a hailstone usually presents, when cut in two, one infers a growing process in which the stone passes at last as many times as it has separate layers from a stratum of air having a high temperature to one having a correspondingly low one. This process would involve a vortex motion, in which the stone is alternately drawn in and thrown out of the vortex and finally, by increasing weight, falls to the earth. It is well known that hailstorms follow a path whose breadth is very narrow compared with its length. In thunderstorms we have another element—electricity—entering our meteorological phenomena. It has been shown that the geological character of the soil has much to do with the frequency of lightning strokes, the proportions being one for a chalk bed, seven for clay, nine for sand, and twenty-two for loam. Oaks are most often and beeches least often struck, and nearly always in the clear or at the forest's edge. The risk of houses being struck increases with segregation and height, and is five times greater in the country than in the city districts. In very dry countries during the rainless season local whirlwinds occasionally pass over limited sections, the disturbance being similar to that of a feeble tornado. The haze peculiar to the season known as Indian