

In the same years the ice broke up on April 27th and April 16th. If then we assume for the time that the average period of freezing up in Muskoka Bay is December 2nd, and of opening April 22nd, we have an opportunity of comparing it with such harbours as Kingston, Montreal, and Quebec, the records of which are the only ones at hand. The average time of closing and opening for five years is as follows:—

CLOSING.		OPENING.	
Kingston, Jan. 4th.		April 7th.	
Montreal, Dec. 11th		April 17th.	
Quebec, Dec. 9th.		April 22nd.	

Comparing these, we find this small bay is only closed seven days before Quebec, and nine before Montreal, two harbours whose powerful currents and tidal influences combat the action of the frost, and one month before Kingston harbour, which receives the full force of the heavy seas running the whole length of Lake Ontario; while, as if showing that the ice when formed was of not so durable a nature, it opened only fifteen days after Kingston, five days after Montreal, and at the same time as at Quebec. Judging from these facts, we are inclined to believe that the lake itself remains open as long as any land-locked bay on the north shore of Lake Ontario.

In 1867 the coldest day was January 30th, 20° below zero; and in 1868, February 3rd, 24° below. The following table shows the mean results of the months of 1867-8, the observations being taken twice a day during the year:—

	1867.		1868.	
	6 A.M.	NOON.	6 A.M.	NOON.
January	11	23.3	13.4	27.3
February	22	34.3	8.12	26.3
March	25	37	22.2	43.3
April	32.3	51	28.2	54
May	41.5	60.1	45	59
June	61.4	78.3	55.2	75.5
July	62.4	82.4	48.5	91
August	62	81	58.2	74.5
September	43	71.4	50.3	68.1
October	38.3	62.4	34.3	49.4
November	29.4	41.2	27.1	40.3
December	14	28.5		

A glance at this will clearly show that, if American climatologists are correct in their statements that the limit for the cultivation of Indian corn is a mean temperature for July of 67°, this grain, the most delicate of our cereals, should not be a stranger to the Muskoka district; and indeed we can readily testify to having procured from the Indians of that section as fine green corn as we have ever seen in Canada. And if corn, why not wheat, barley and oats, which flourish full three degrees further north? Within a few yards of where these observations were taken, the writer has seen citrons ripen, as they had ripened in succession for a number of years; while the beautiful flowers which adorn our gardens, and the

fruits and vegetables peculiar to our country, flourished beside them; And if nature has given this region a climate slightly colder than the southwestern portion of Ontario, it is compensated by a steady and moderate covering of snow during the whole winter, so that when the cold blasts of March are spent, the husbandman's labours commence at once. Among other memoranda we notice that butterflies were first seen last year on April 19th, gulls on the 11th, ducks on the 14th, and the first wild flowers on the 19th. How much earlier are we in Toronto?—*Globe*.

SEA SICKNESS.

The November number of that excellent monthly, the *New York Medical Journal*, contains an essay on sea sickness, by Dr. Fordyce Barker, for the following synopsis of which we are indebted to our valued contemporary, the *Country Gentleman*:—After remarking that there are few other maladies which produce such an aggregate of human suffering, and none which the medical profession has done so little to relieve, or for which it is so seldom consulted, Dr. Barker proceeds to characterize and combat what he denominates three common errors in regard to it—being ideas which are so generally held that their denial must surprise at least most non-medical readers. The first is the belief that sea sickness is often beneficial and never permanently injurious. The author not only doubts that it ever benefits the health at all, but thinks the improvement resulting from a sea voyage is generally proportioned to the freedom from sickness. In many instances, moreover, he has known serious and permanent injury to result; and he advises all persons of depressed vital powers with impaired digestion, whose past experience has demonstrated their liability to this ailment, to avoid exposure to such a hazard.

Then it is commonly thought that sea sickness is never dangerous to life. It does not often result fatally, but oftener, Dr. Barker suspects, than is generally supposed, having known of three deaths from this cause, and heard of three others. These deaths resulted from starvation, owing to the utter impossibility of retaining a sufficient amount of food.

The third error is the general belief that the medical art is powerless for the mitigation of the malady. There are indeed no specific drugs which will cure or prevent it, but every physician ought to be able to give such advice as will diminish the tendency to it, and mitigate the suffering. This advice our author gives, arranged in seven rules—of such a nature, unfortunately, that few will be guided by them, but we are assured that, if followed, they will prove efficacious.

1. Make every preparation at least twenty-four hours before starting. 2. Eat a hearty meal before going on board. 3. Go to bed before the ship starts, having conveniently arranged such articles as will be needed for a