

**THE WEATHER.**—The causes which govern the phenomena of weather, being physical agencies independent of the will, or interference of any being save of Him "who rules the storm," are as fixed and as certain in their operation, and as regular in the production of their effects, as those which maintain and regulate the motions of the solar system. The moment of the rising or setting of the sun on any given day of the ensuing year, is therefore, *in the nature of things*, not more certain than the atmospheric phenomena which will take place on that day. The doubt and uncertainty which attend these events belong altogether to our anticipations of them, and not to the things themselves. If our knowledge of meteorology were as advanced as our knowledge of astronomy, we should be in a condition to declare the time, duration, and intensity of every shower which shall fall during the ensuing year, with as much certainty and precision as we are able to foretell the rising, setting, and southing of the sun and moon, or the rise and fall of the tides of the ocean.

When it is said, therefore, that drought or rain is *expected* to predominate, the uncertainty implied by the term *expected* must be understood to belong to the knowledge, or rather ignorance of him who makes the prediction, and not to the event, which, as we have shown, is *necessary* and not *contingent*.

But the most absurd of these explanations is that of the word *changeable*, which is here used in a most novel sense. Changeable weather, in the ordinary use of the word, is applied to weather which changes frequently and suddenly, at short intervals, from fair and clear to cloudy and wet. But the weather-almanack sense of this term is, *weather in which it is uncertain whether drought or rain will predominate*. Now, as we have already shown that no uncertainty can attend the weather itself, but that the uncertainty belongs only to the mind of the author of the *Weather Almanack*, it will be necessary to remember that changeable weather is weather about which the said author confesses that he has no foreknowledge. Thus, though for a week the face of the heavens continue clear and cloudless, the temperature of the air mild and uniform, and the atmosphere calm and still, yet the weather during such week might be *changeable* according to the *Weather Almanack*, and its author would claim the credit of a prediction fulfilled. In fact, every day in the year in which he has annexed the word *changeable* must fulfil his prediction, whatever be the state of the weather, since, happen what will, no one can doubt the uncertainty of the author's own mind as to the event, when that uncertainty is itself the essence of his prediction.—*Monthly Chronicle*.

**DECORATIVE PICTURES FOR THE WESTERN STEAMSHIP.**—Mr. Parris exhibited to his friends, in the early part of this week, the series of designs that he has painted to fill the panneling round the saloon of the great Western Steam-ship: and a very pleasing display of ornamental art it was, highly creditable to the taste and ingenuity of the artist. The compartments are long and narrow—proportions very unfavourable for pictorial purpose; but the difficulty is so well overcome that the disadvantage is not apparent at first sight. The subjects are various, each consisting of a group of figures from rustic or fashionable life, occupied with some sport or recreation: here are seen a loving couple in a bower, there a gallant handing a fair dame into a carriage; in others harvesting, fishing, and such-like out-door employments, are going on. The gay colours and picturesque costumes, and the bright and glowing freshness of the landscape background, give gaiety and airy lightness to the scenes, producing a pleasurable impression on the eye without taxing the mind,—which is just the point to aim at in these decorative pictures. The groups of implements and emblems that form the base (so to speak) of each design, and the little Cupids that are to fill the upper range of panneling, are pretty and fanciful, and carry out the general intention.

The pictures were shown to good effect by a row of gas jets along the middle of the room near the ceiling, which shed a broad stream of light on both sides; a mode of lighting up a picture-gallery that might be advantageously adopted without much difficulty.

Mr. Parris is also employed on a set of pannel-pictures, on a larger scale and more elaborately finished, for the Army and Navy club.

We are glad to see the taste for pictorial decoration spreading in this country. No artists are so well qualified to delight the eye by their arrangements of colour and effect as those of the British school; for one who is able to paint a grand history picture, we have fifty who are competent to embellish a room in a beautiful style.—*Spectator*.

**PENAL LAWS.**—As ten millions of circles can never make a square, so the united voice of myriads cannot lend the smallest foundation to falsehood. It were to be wished, then, that instead of cutting away wretches as useless, before we have tried their utility, and thus converting correction into vengeance, it were to be wished that we tried the restrictive arts of government, and made the law the protector, and not the tyrant of the public. We should then find that creatures, whose souls are held as dross, only wanted the hand of a refiner; we should then find that wretches now stuck up for long tortures, lest luxury should feel

a momentary pang, might, if properly treated, serve to sinew the state in times of danger; that, as their faces are like ours, their hearts are so too; that few minds are so base, as that perseverance cannot amend; that a man may see his last crime without dying for it; and that very little blood will serve to cement our security.

**SKETCH OF CALHOUN.**—Our pleasantest evenings were some spent at home in a society of the highest order. Ladies, literary, fashionable, or domestic, would spend an hour with us on their way from a dinner, or to a ball. Members of Congress would repose themselves by our fire-side. Mr. Clay, sitting upright on the sofa, with his snuff-box ever in his hand, would discourse for many an hour, in his even, soft, deliberate tone, on any one of the great subjects of American policy which we might happen to start, always amazing us with the moderation of estimate and speech which so impetuous a nature has been able to attain. Mr. Webster, leaning back at his ease, telling stories, cracking jokes, shaking the sofa with burst after burst of laughter, or smoothly discoursing to the perfect felicity of the logical part of one's constitution, would illuminate an evening now and then. Mr. Calhoun, the cast-iron man, who looks as if he had never been born, and never could be extinguished, would come in sometimes to keep our understandings upon a painful stretch for a short while, and leave us to take to pieces his close, rapid, theoretical, illustrated talk, and see what we could make of it. We found it usually more worth retaining as a curiosity than as either very just or very useful. His speech abounds in figures, truly illustrative, if that which they illustrate were but true also. But his theories of government (almost the only subject on which his thoughts are employed), the squarest and compactest theories that ever were made, are composed out of limited elements, and are not, therefore, likely to stand service very well. It is at first extremely interesting to hear Mr. Calhoun talk; and there is a never-failing evidence of power in all he says and does which commands intellectual reverence; but the admiration is too soon turned into regret—into absolute melancholy. It is impossible to resist the conviction that all this force can be at best but useless, and is but too likely to be very mischievous. His mind has long lost all power of communicating with any other. I know no man who lives in such utter intellectual solitude. He meets men and harangues them by the fire-side as in the senate; he is wrought, like a piece of machinery, set a-going vehemently by a weight, and stops while you answer; he either passes by what you say, or twists it into a suitability with what is in his head, and begins to lecture again. Of course, a mind like this can have little influence in the senate, except by virtue, perpetually wearing out, of what it did in its less eccentric days; but its influence at home is to be dreaded.—*Miss Martineau*.

## THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 27, 1838.

**GOVERNOR OF UPPER CANADA.**—Among politicians the reply of the new governor of Upper Canada, commands considerable interest, it being regarded as indicative of the spirit of Sir George Arthur, and of the course he will pursue in the government of the province. As most of our readers, will desire to peruse so important a document, we have inserted it entire, with the accompanying address.—

Address of the Reformers of Toronto, to Sir George Arthur, with His Excellency's reply.

To His Excellency SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, &c. &c. Lieutenant Governor.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the undersigned inhabitants of the City of Toronto, approach Your Excellency to tender you our congratulations on your appointment to the Government of Upper Canada, and upon your safe arrival, after a long and protracted, voyage at this inclement season of the year. We request Your Excellency will accept, on this occasion, the expression of our sincere attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty's person and Government—an attachment as sincere and devoted as that can be of those who may differ with us in opinion on measures of Colonial administration. We do not approach Your Excellency to oppress you with any reiteration of complaints. The History of the Province is before you, and an impartial enquiry into it, with the experience of a short time, will enable Your Excellency to judge of the reasonableness of the object of reformation, for many years sought by a very large portion of Her Majesty's subjects in his Province. The unhappy state of the country will probably, for the present, restrain all expressions of public opinion, and we do not desire to revive discussions for which men's minds are at present obviously quite unfit. We are, however, prepared to assure Your Excellency, that in the promotion of public order, and the adoption of measures for the pacification of the country, you will have the prompt and energetic support of the loyal, patriotic, and Constitutional Reformers of the Province. We have observed with feelings of unmixed plea-

sure, the desire manifested by all parties in England, that severe punishments should not be inflicted upon the unfortunate persons engaged in the late lamentable rebellion, and that in deference to this universal feeling, and in obedience to the dictates of Her own most Gracious and Amiable disposition, Her Majesty has been pleased to authorize the proclamation of a general amnesty for political offences. In carrying into effect the gracious inclinations of Her Majesty in this Province, Your Excellency will have the noblest gratification of an elevated mind, the announcement of pardon to the miserable and guilty, and we venture to assure you that an administration thus begun, will be hailed as the commencement of a long course of general confidence, peace, and prosperity, and we sincerely pray that it may be happy and glorious to yourself, and both satisfactory and honorable to Her Majesty, and the noble Empire over which she promises so worthily to reign.

## REPLY.

**GENTLEMEN,**—I thank you for your congratulation on my appointment to the Government of this Province.

I am much gratified to receive from you expressions of loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's person and Government, which, without reference to political distinctions, which I do not desire to renew, I am convinced are truly sincere and unqualified. I am happy to find that you express your unwillingness to revive political discussions connected with reform, for it could not fail to be a most painful subject to me at this moment, when so many of Her Majesty's subjects are placed in circumstances of the utmost peril, and their unfortunate families exposed to desolation and ruin. The specious delusion by which these unhappy men were seduced from their allegiance to their Sovereign, and were led to become accessories if not principals in the crimes of Treason, Robbery, Arson, and Murder, being no other than Reform, I cannot but regret that under these circumstances any portion of the Inhabitants of this City should have felt it necessary at this moment to present themselves under the character of Reformers, as a distinct class of the people of this Province. The doing so has a tendency to awaken excitement, and to agitate the community at a period when every man is liable to be called upon to take a part in the administration of justice, and should be able to approach that sacred duty with a mind sobered, disciplined, and unprejudiced. You must, moreover, be aware that individually, as loyal subjects of Her Majesty, you are entitled to the protection, respect, and consideration of the government, and to these I hope you will see that no classification or profession relating to abstract political opinions, ought to make any addition.

In considering the cases of the unfortunate persons to whom you have alluded in your Address, it is of the greatest consequence that the Executive Government, having regard to justice as well as mercy, should have no misgiving that there exists any probability of a renewal of the disgraceful scenes which have so recently disturbed the tranquility of the Colony, through the malignant recklessness of men whose professed object was reform.

Punishment can never be justifiably resorted to as an act of vengeance; it is only to be sanctioned as the necessary means of preventing the recurrence of crime, and this necessity would plainly be much obviated if attachment and a spirit of obedience to the Sovereign and the Laws were known to exist amongst all classes of the community.

**LATE FROM ENGLAND.**—We are indebted to the polite attention of Capt. Sir Richard Grant, for London papers to the 30th of March and Cork to the 3d of April, obtained from the steam ship *Sirius*, from Liverpool for New York, which he boarded on Friday last in lat. 41 24, long. 64 36, out 16 days, all well. All the news of interest will be found in the following summary.—*Jal.*

The Coronation of her Majesty, it is said, will take place on the 21st of June.

The question of anticipating the proposed termination of the Negro apprenticeship system, engaged both houses of Parliament. The term proposed is the 1st of August next.

Measures for the arrangement of the Irish Title question, was shortly to be submitted to Parliament by Lord John Russell, the leading features of the plan is their commutation into a rent charge, at the rate of seven-tenths of the amount, and at the expiration of the existing interest, the rent charge to be purchased by the State.

Sir G. Grey, in answer to a question in the House of Commons, said there would be no objection to submit a statement of the expences of Lord Gosford's mission in Canada.

**SPAIN.**—The Spanish campaign is about to open seriously. A carlist expedition of eight battallions have succeeded in getting out of the west of Biscay, and proceeded towards Palencia. Don Buerens has followed with a superior force. The Queen's forces are said to be very efficient.

The ship *Elvine*, from Liverpool for Calcutta, with a cargo valued at about £50,000, has been totally lost near the former place.

**GREAT WESTERN STEAMER.**—The first trial of this gigantic vessel was made in London river on the 24th March, with