

12,000 in the province of Tomboro only 26 individuals escaped. Violent whirlwinds carried up men, horses and cattle into the air, tore up the largest trees by the roots and covered the whole sea with floating timbers." Here is another period of about eighteen years. Thus these five storms have occurred at periods corresponding almost with the synodic revolution of the moon's nodes. If one should make a long forecast and predict a storm for August or September, 1905, I think that the prospect would be as good as that of Dr. Halley, who predicted the re-appearance of the comet that bears his name.

A table showing the mean temperature at Montreal during each month of the current year, was exhibited by Mr. Smith. It showed that January, February, March and April (1887) have given results below the mean of the past 13 years; May, June and July results above; August, September and October, results below.

It was decided, after discussion, to form special sections as an aid to study, as follows: Section "A." Planetary Meteorology; Section "B." Astronomy and Section "C." Meteorology.

Some notes on "The Accumulation of Ice at the Poles" were furnished by Mr. Pigeon, in reply to a question from Bishop Ussher.

He remarked that such accumulations could only take place by displacing an equal weight of water from the equatorial regions. Water had to find its level, and get equally distributed over the globe, and thus sustained the equilibrium. If the accumulation became abnormal, it would have no effect on the axis of the earth, the specific gravity of water being *nearly* the same liquid and frozen. Suppose some great accumulation of ice or rock to take place, despite the summer's sun, the consequence would be a rush of water over the Continents, more or less disastrous, without in the least disturbing the inclination of the polar axis of the Earth. So wonderfully had the clockwork of a Universe been adjusted by an All Wise Creator.

Mr. Brown contributed some "Current Notes on Science" and the President followed with a paper on "The Star of Bethlehem." \*

He laid the blame of the nonsense then being said about "the Star of Bethlehem having again appeared," to the radiancy of Venus, near her "greatest brilliancy" at the winter solstice. He placed all the theories of astronomers accounting for this appearance under the following heads: 1. The star may have been a miraculous light; 2. It may have been caused by a close conjunction of planets; 3. It may have been a comet; 4. Or a new, temporary or "blaze" star. He followed, in a most fascinating discourse, the whole of these theories to a conclusion, and finally decided in favor of the new, or "blaze" star theory.

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\* Published in *Daily Witness*, Montreal, Dec. 17th, 1887.