

see the heavens plainer, as we lie dreaming on the yet warm moss by the singing spring. The days are calm; the nights are tranquil. The year's work is done. She walks in gorgeous apparel, looking upon her long labour, and her serene eye, saith "It is good." This description is peculiarly applicable to the fall season of Canada, and nowhere in the world, perhaps, is the splendid colouring of the dying foliage at this period of the year so striking or beautiful as in our Canadian forests. The marvellous hues that give our woods their autumnal beauty, so rich that a painter can scarcely depict them faithfully without laying himself open to the charge of extravagance, are chiefly due to the prevalence of the maple in our woodland scenery. No other tree can vie with this in the variety and loveliness of the tints which the foliage assumes in its departing glory. The oak, the elm, and beech, with their appropriate drapery, add to the charm and grandeur of the scene. Nature puts on a royal robe well befitting the solemn repose that precedes the sterner reign of winter.

November is a month of very uncertain character in this climate. It is hard to say how it will behave. Sometimes it begins with a rough cold snap that startles us into a conviction that winter does really mean to come again, and, as if to make amends for its rough behaviour at the outset, closes with a delightful reminder of a departed season which we call "Indian Summer." Or this order is reversed, in which case summer in pretence begins the month, and winter in earnest closes it. The well-known March proverb is not inapplicable to November. If it come in like a lamb it will go out like a lion, and *vice versa*.

MEAN TEMPERATURES FOR NOVEMBER.

Stratford.....	36° 75
Hamilton.....	39° 76
Barrie.....	37° 99
Toronto.....	38° 36
Belleville.....	38° 82
Montreal.....	34° 76
Quebec.....	35° 50
St. John, N. B.....	37° 40
Halifax.....	38° 00

December brings the indubitable winter, as July does the summer. Whatever dreamy expectations we may have had of possible Indian summer, vanish now. Pleasant weather indeed we may have, but it will be pleasant wintry weather, with perhaps now and then a day so fine and warm that it seems to have lost its proper place in the year. Clear, bracing, but chilly, air will quicken the pulse, and send the blood coursing through the veins with unusual vigour. The snow will wrap the earth in its white coverlet, and all things will yield to the sleep of winter, and to the reign of the frost king.

MEAN TEMPERATURES FOR DECEMBER.

Stratford.....	22° 65
Hamilton.....	25° 96
Barrie.....	23° 94
Toronto.....	26° 05
Belleville.....	22° 85

Montreal.....	24° 12
Quebec.....	21° 20
St. John, N. B.....	25° 93
Halifax.....	28° 00

We are accustomed to think and speak of winter as a season of comparative rest and leisure for the farmer. But how far that is true and applicable to individual cases, depends on a variety of circumstances. Winter affords but little respite to the man who has a large area of land to clear, or a numerous herd of cattle to feed. These, however, are exceptional cases, and most farmers, when winter fairly sets in, feel that they are less driven than at any other period of the year. But while "broken weather," as it is often termed, lasts, every one has enough to do. That charming writer on rural affairs, "Ike Marvel," says: "Even into December, country improvements may go safely forward; the clearing of land, the thinning of over-crowded forest-growth, the building of walls, the construction of walks and roads,—for these, severally, or together, no better time can be found than that which immediately precedes the locking frost of winter. And when the dead-lock is fairly established,—so far treatment of the land goes,—the open sunny weather of December still invites us many a day out of doors. If we have rocks to move, they glide easily over a frosted and stiffened turf; the brambles and waste growth of outlying pastures cut easiest when the earth is locked unyieldingly about their stems; the woods, despoiled of their leaves, give free insight and out-sight to their most sequestered nooks." These are but examples of a thousand and one things that may be done just at the setting in of winter, and there are few so beforehand with their work as not to be caught by the "dead-lock" with some needful preparations or unfinished undertakings that must needs be postponed until another year. Happy are those on whom winter does not shut down with a host of half-accomplished schemes of preparation and improvement!

Arts and Manufactures.

ACOUSTICS AND BUILDINGS.

In the July number we noticed a lecture published in the *London Builder*, on the subject of our heading, and especially referring to the most approved form of ceiling for public rooms, for the reflection of sound, and the advantage of using a large portion of wood lining, or screens, for the reinforcement of the speaker's voice. The lecturer next drew attention to the practice of the ancient Greeks, whose theatres were built chiefly of stone or marble, and who "sought to make up the lacking reinforcement, owing to the want of elastic materials in their structures, by employing the aid of resonance." Hollow earth-