

spell in October; and the longer unseasonable weather lasts in this month, the longer and more open will autumn linger.

As I have already stated, our snow storms of winter are from the N.E. by E., and for some hours before these form, heavy *strata* clouds of a deep leaden hue, gradually cover the eastern horizon. At such times may be noticed two strata of clouds propelled in two opposite directions, the upper stratum moving from the south, the lower from the N.E. by E. The wind during these storms often attains to a velocity of some 30 or 40 miles per hour. This wind veers always by the N. to the W., or W.N.W., and generally with great velocity, and *this is our cold term*. This wind is piercing, and it carries before it the loose, finely crystallized snow in clouds. This is what the French call a "*poudrierie*." Such a wind may last for two days or more, but it more generally lulls down at sunset into a calm. During such terms, the beautifully crystalline forms of the snow are seen to perfection, and these may continue perceptible for upwards of 24 hours.

The yearly mean of our thunder storms is about 14. These are generally of short duration, and form in the W. or N.W. When a summer has been characterized by repeated and almost daily thunder storms (as was 1875) a wet fall and winter may be looked for, with repetitions of these storms even during the depth of winter. In such cases, the following spring is wet, cold and very backward, and the summer intensely hot and generally dry, with early frosts.

An open autumn, with snow falling suddenly on almost unfrozen ground, invariably is followed by an early and warm spring—(such will be our autumn this year.)

A severe autumn with late snows, brings in a severe winter, with February, March and April snow falls, and consequently a backward spring. This year (1876) we have enjoyed

"The year's last loveliest smile,
That comes to fill with hope the human heart,
And strengthen it to bear the storms awhile,
Till winter's days depart."

Thus, autumn leaving us so smilingly, we have the promise of an early spring, and therefore shall endure with patience Winter's cold and stormy blasts, which are but for a brief season.

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A YEAR OF GREAT RAIN-FALLS.

1858 was a year of unusual rain-falls, and therefore is worthy of being placed on record for future comparisons. Rain fell during this year on no less than 111 days, amounting to 50,035 inches on the surface. It was raining 521 hours, 33 minutes, and was accompanied by thunder and lightning on twenty days. According to the observations taken at the observatory of St. Martin, Isle Jesus, this amount of rain exceeds by upwards of seven inches the usual average compared with a series of years, and was owing to the excessive rains of June and July.