

or protracted; in other words, my impressions tend more on the side of heavy snow-falls than severe weather. The months of January and February will be, on the whole, brilliant and Canadian winter-like, and the reverse of wet and gloomy, as was the greater part of the winter of 1876. Most of the snow-falls will come in the fore and middle parts of this winter, and diminish rapidly towards March. March bids fair to set in blustry and go out quietly, and it is probable that during this month there will be early indications of spring. The animals this year have neither prepared for a long nor a severe winter, so that our April may be expected to be natural, that is showery and warm, with rapidly advancing vegetation. I look for an unusually early arrival of birds during this month, and early opening of navigation. May will in all probability set in warmly, but as I have already stated opposite this month in the almanac. rains are hovering near. These, however, will in all probability come later on in the season, so that this opening month of summer may be expected to be unusually summer-like and pleasant. It will, in other words, be in striking contrast to the cold, backward, rainy May of 1876. Such are my impressions respecting the approaching winter and spring of 1877, written before the first snows of winter have set in, and while the nights are almost free from frost. For convenience in drawing up my monthly calendars, I have had to divide this general sketch into portions suitable to the respective months. But this is not from choice, but of necessity; for I should much rather have my forecast of the weather read as a whole than thus dissected. I, therefore, have to request those persons into whose hands this pamphlet will fall, to read along with the probabilities for each month, this general chapter on the autumn, winter and spring of 1876-77.

H. G. V.

MONTREAL, 21st Nov., 1876.

THE BEAVER.

WHAT IS LEARN'T FROM ITS ACTIONS.

As beavers do not hibernate, they are compelled to provide a store of subsistence for the long Canadian winters, during which their ponds are frozen over, and the danger of venturing upon the land is so largely increased as to shut them up, for the most part, in their habitations. In preparing for the winter, their greatest efforts in tree cutting are made. They commence generally in the latter part of September, and continue through October and into November, the several employments of cutting and storing their winter wood, and of repairing their lodges and dams. These months are the season of their active labors, which are only arrested by the early snows and the formation of ice on their ponds. It is a feature of the climate of the Lake Superior region, as also that around Hudson's Bay, that the snows begin to fall before the frost has entered the ground, whence it is, that throughout the winter