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❖ INTRODUCTORY ❖

IT is no more binding on a man to date his almanac from the 1st of January, than it is compulsory for him to be born on the 1st of April or any other day of the month or year. Acting upon this right—and especially as we are to pay for it ourselves—our Annual commences with May, 1885, and ends with April, 1886. But if we thought it would, on that account, prejudice any fair mind against this little book, we would date it from May or June. As thousands of juvenile searchers after wisdom all over the land are about through with the visible supply of almanacs for 1885, and as there are hundreds still yearning to cut their little teeth on something, we submit this as the best within our means just at present.

It will scarcely be necessary to apologise for not making this a *memorandum book*, when it is remembered that not more than one in a thousand so designed are ever used for that purpose. But if lovers of the beautiful in art, and the sublime in composition, wish to regale their senses, let them look it over and read it through.

We bespeak due regard to our WEATHER STEM, an original idea as to design; if the *execution* of the prediction is as well tended to, it will repay us to know that we can say truthfully: "we told you so." But there is one thing we must tell the reader in all frankitude, the author is a lunatic. He may not be any more off his mental base than other prognosticators outside the wards of an asylum, still he is not less positive than they that his system of arriving at his *probabilities* is perfect and reliable. There is something nobly unselfish in the efforts he has made and the trouble he has been at keeping tabular forms, and noting from time to time for years wherein he had failed to hit it exactly. Not because it made any difference to him personally, for he passes the most of his time in one of the stormiest wards of the Toronto Asylum. Neither had he any thought of profiting by his predictions, for he never had the opportunity to publish them until we offered him a generous supply of chewing tobacco in exchange for his tables. The very fact that we publish them is evidence that we believe in them, and we bespeak for him fair play, and doubt not he will as well deserve public confidence as any.

We shall not here make known the prime purpose of this little book, a careful reading of it will best satisfy the reader on that subject.

Respectfully yours,

Toronto, Ont.

WM. CHURCHILL & CO.