

the imperial Caesar will flow out of a bung-hole than that any part of his remains will ever stop one as W. Shakespeare has intimated. Think of the fact that but for the moisture in the blood the little corpuscles of that fluid could never go travelling on a return ticket, and but for that same fluidity which flushes and nourishes every part of the body the juiciest mortal would become as dry as any dead language. The veteran of the forest as well as the toddling recruit must take its food in the form of a broth brewed by Dame Nature, and on the little streams that go so far against their nature as to travel uphill on the stems of plants mostly all vegetation must depend for complete nourishment.

The year 1838, the happiest era for weather almanacs, marked the acquisition of many indications of forthcoming weather and that agitation was due to the enterprise of Hibernian, one Patrick Murphy, who, in his almanac, happened to foretell the coldest day of the year. The result was that for a while his publishing house had to be protected by police, but it was not long before his farm became involved and could only pay a few cents on the dollar. The science of meteorology has suffered in a sense with the progress of civilization; for owing to the craving of philosophy to connect cause and effect the signs of the state of the weather were converted into rules and hence through our advancement the forecasts of the weather were long a farce, but of recent years observation and experience fought down the weak ones and have brought the strong ones more prominent into view.

The reliable forecasts of rain that will be the same to-day and to-morrow are as many as the abandoned hairs on the top of the decorticated head of a learned man and as various as the drachmā of sand on the seashore. Of all persons interested in the reading of the countenance of the weather clerk, the farmer should be and generally is the most skilful adept as he cultivates, reaps and markets weather all his life from the time he sells pirated eggs at the village store for chewing gum until riper years and sounder judgment open other fields of enterprise. Of all the unique weather forecasts the human barometer cannot be paralleled. I refer to the man of the fractured finger or he that is troubled with the "tarnal runatz," who finds as soon as the electricity begins to gambol on its atmospheric playground, or chase its tail through his system the finger pains or the dried joints creak in their sockets. This is a staunch and true sign, but few people care to bear with the sorrows of an outraged finger to be able to tell others when it is going to rain, and I may say that it is just such antiquated outcroppings of brute ancestry that strengthens my faith in the theory of evolution. Corns also take a painful interest in the doings of the weather, and a robust and lusty corn never fails to make itself obnoxious when a storm is being brewed. The Zuni Indians of New Mexico have a forecast which is expressed in the following beautiful rhythmical flow of language: "When the locks of the Navajos grow damp in the scalp house surely it will rain." These good people, however, have a monopoly of locks and scalps so that we may overlook the reliability of that sign. The moon of course must have a finger in this pie. Not content with connecting the moon with insanity of human beings the ancient Pliny who seems to have been a "brawny farmer" accepts its phases as a guide for all his operations. There is the "red moon," a term applied to the full moon occurring between the middle of April and the last of May, that was at one time credited with the confidence of the weather, but it now appears that that cabinet has been dissolved and the "watery" moon has the confidence of the government. The "watery" moon or sun

is not so as some folks suppose because sun's or moon's eye gets watery from steady staring, but the seeming halo that forms around a "watery" moon or sun is caused by the refraction of the lunar or solar rays owing to the vapour in the atmosphere, somewhat similar to the course that gives us a tinge of the rainbow. Let us say that the twelve year's constant observation of M. Arago at the Paris observatory leads that scientist to the conclusion that the moon has no conceivable effect upon the weather.

Birds and animals that are constantly in communion with nature undoubtedly possess the ability to foretell coming showers. One of the best signs you well know, especially if you have been the youngest of the family and have had to figure on the world's stage largely in the role of a "cow boy," is to be seen in the conduct of the old cow when she begins to scratch her ear with her toe nail, and also indulgently thump her ribs with her tail. If you have had eyes for such things, you will have noticed it is the flies that stick so close when the air is moist that accounts best for such actions on her part; though the electricity in the atmosphere may stimulate the old cow to perform such acrobatic feats. When the pig carries sticks it is said "the clouds will play tricks" and when they lie in the mud "no fears of a flood," but this has not commended itself to my judgment, for the pig, though intelligent when sent to school early is not in any way related to any of our weather prophets. There are other accepted signs in dogs barking in their sleep, in lambs twirling the light fantastic tail and others, but there is no common sense in them, they are full to the neck of sublime imagery and pathetic fallacy. I have been told by hunters that when the yellow hammer screams so outrageously or the red headed woodpecker lifts up his grating voice, which he rarely does, they are calling for rain. No one can have failed to notice that on such days or evenings as precede a storm the chirrups of the robin, the old frog gargling his throat in the creek beyond, and the sweet flowing notes of the song sparrow are heard with marvellous distinctness; which I suppose may be accounted for by the fact that the air preceding a rainfall is denser and for that reason transmits the sound more easily.

There are other signs of the weather that may be commonly observed, but they are mostly such that had their birth in a mythical age and were reared in an era of superstition. That the weather can be foretold for a day is not to be questioned, and having granted that there is surely a time coming when scientists having mastered the natural laws that govern the atmospheric regions as they have done in other fields, they may bless the world with forecastings of the weather of future days.

"CAUS CAUSUS."

Correspondence

And Contributed.

Character.

Character is a possession. In its noblest embodiments, man is seen at his best. It is an expression of a whole nature; the very centre of his being; portraying itself in every thought and action, revealing not only a man's greatness but likewise his imperfections. Slowly and imperceptibly, by little acts becoming confirmed in habit, and, according as the individual will is directed towards good