

WEATHER PROGNOSTICATOR.

It is said that the following table and accompanying remarks will give the kind of weather probable to follow the entrance of the moon into any of her quarters, but the publishers of the ALMANAC do not vouch for its accuracy—leaving it to the reader to test its truth by comparisons and observations:

Time of Change.	IS SUMMER.	IS WINTER.
Between midnight and 2 in the morning.	Fair.	Hard frost, unless the wind be S. or W.
Between 2 and 4, morning.	Cold, with frequent showers.	Snow and stormy.
Between 4 and 6, morning.	Rain.	Rain.
Between 6 and 8, morning.	Wind and rain.	Stormy.
Between 8 and 10, morning.	Changeable.	Cold rain, if the wind be W.; snow if E.
Between 10 and 12, morning.	Frequent showers.	Cold and high winds.
At 12 o'clock, noon, and to 2 P.M.	Very rainy.	Snow or rain.
Between 2 and 4, afternoon.	Changeable.	Fair and mild.
Between 4 and 6, afternoon.	Fair.	Fair.
Between 6 and 8, afternoon.	Fair, if wind N. or S. W.; rainy, if S. or S. W.	Fair and frosty, if N. or N. E.; rain or snow, if S. or S. W.
Between 8 and 10, afternoon.	Fair, if wind N. or S. W.; rainy, if S. or S. W.	Fair and frosty, if N. or N. E.; rain or snow, if S. or S. W.
Between 10 and 12, afternoon.	Fair.	Fair and frosty.

REMARKS.—1. The nearer the time of the moon's change, first quarter, full, and last quarter to midnight, the fairer will the weather be during the seven days following. The space for this calculation occupies from 10 at night till 2 next morning. 2. The nearer to mid-day these phases happen, the more foul or wet weather may be expected the next seven days. The space for this calculation occupies from 10 in the forenoon to 2 in the afternoon. 3. The phases happening from 4 till 10 in the afternoon may be followed by fair weather; but this mostly depends upon the wind. 4. If a storm arises from the East on or immediately preceding the time of the spring equinox, or from any point of the compass near a week after, then, in either of these cases, the succeeding summer is dry four times out of five; but if a storm arises from the S. W. or W. S. W. on or just before the spring equinox, then the summer following is wet five times in six.

INFLUENCE OF FORESTS UPON CLIMATE.

Forests moisten the air all around and above them and in their midst. Further, forests produce abundant dews, and dews themselves play no small part in forwarding vegetation. In the driest seasons, dew still refreshes the parched earth. The facts, so far ascertained with certainty, are themselves, without one additional word, a sufficient comment on the ruinous folly that lays the axe of destruction at the root of our beautiful trees. They also point to the need of immediate forest-planting in localities where a sufficient amount of woodland does not already exist. The proper proportion is said to be from twenty-five to thirty per cent. Scientific men have found out these facts by their investigations and by the aid of the *hygrometer*, maximum and minimum thermometers, an *evaporimeter*, a *pluviometer*, a *psychrometer*, and various other intellectual instruments.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

THE RECENT STORM AND "DIP" IN ALBANY, N. Y.

Saturday afternoon, 21st January, the heavy snow turned to rain, and the thousands of pedestrians mixed and kneaded the "beautiful" into slush. Saturday night everybody wearily waded around and wanted it to freeze up. It did congeal late Sunday morning, and the church-goers were greeted by a gale that blew the "falling" snow into sharp, cutting horizontal lines. Aided by the slippery sidewalks, the wind placed many a pedestrian in an easy position—after it was attained. All day yesterday it blew great guns, and those who had not bound blacksmiths' rasps or coarse-grained sandpaper to their boots, wished, while climbing the everlasting hills of the city, that they could send their toe nails on an exploring expedition after something tangible. Those who descended the hills last night sailed without compasses, and frequently brushed up acquaintances with tree-boxes and lamp-posts. Shutters slammed with sounds of impending danger overhead, and swinging signs shouted "Look out below!" Everybody appeared to be doing the tight rope act without a balancing pole, and as the street cars went in directions diametrically opposed to the desires of journeying unfortunates, the fun of living in the temperate zone was commented upon in language filled with the chilling blasts and cutting sleet of human nature. In all the city there were but two classes of persons completely, supremely happy. They were the firemen and the policemen.

THE GOOSE-BONE.

VERY OFTEN CORRECT.

I have long read about the "Kentucky Goose-Bone," as a Weather Prophet, and have of late years received many letters requesting me to test it, but hitherto have not done so; but on a number of occasions I have taken the trouble to note the predictions drawn from this source by others, and must confess that their general accuracy has surprised me. The following, from the *Louisville Post*, is the reading for the present season:—

"The readings of the goose-bone indicate a motley winter. There will be a good deal of snow and a few cold days, but no protracted cold weather. In the month of December there will be no very cold weather. During the last of the month there will be a few days when fires will be cheerful and an overcoat comfortable. It will be an exceedingly disagreeable month for outdoor work, with snow or rain every day or two. The probabilities are for a wet, gloomy Christmas. This kind of weather will continue on through January, with a few cold days sandwiched between rain and snow. About the middle of January there will be a few clear, cold days, when the mercury will go down below zero. The 15th and 16th of January will be as cold days as any experienced in this latitude. The latter part of the month will be wet and gloomy. There will be more genuine winter weather crowded into the little month of February than in December and January, but there will not be any intense cold. With the exception of the few days about the middle of January, it is not likely that the mercury will go far below zero. The goose-bone has long been an honored weather prophet. In some of the back counties in Kentucky the farmers make all their arrangements in accordance with the predictions of the goose-bone. In some localities the goose-bone is laid aside, labeled with the year, and it is said that one old farmer in Breathitt county has the bones extending back for more than forty years, and in all that time it is asserted that the bone has never been mistaken as to the weather. To read correctly the winter of any year, take the breast-bone of a goose hatched during the preceding spring. The bone is translucent, and it will be found to be colored and spotted. The dark color and heavy spots indicate cold. If the spots are of a light shade and transparent, wet weather, rain or snow may be looked for. There are a good many people all over the country who pin their faith to the goose-bone. Of all the weather prophets it is the most honored. The little ground-hog disgraced himself long ago, and now very few people ever watch Candlemas day, and hogs

melts are no longer trusted in. A few years ago, when Tice and all human weather prophets predicted the most severe winter ever known, the goose-bone told of a mild open winter. The future unrolled just as the bone said it would, and poor old Tice had to change his predictions every day. The goose-bone never changes and never fails. The reporter has examined three bones, one from south-eastern Kentucky, one from Jefferson county, and one from Laporte, Ind. They are identical to one another, and the reading here given will be found the same on the breast-bone of any goose hatched last spring. Cut this out, lay it aside for reference, and as you crowd up close to the fire on the 15th of January, you will be convinced of the great unknown power of the goose-bone."

Now, had the goose-bone only put the cold weather for the 17th and 18th of January, it would have been correct to the letter, up to these dates.

BIRDS AND THE WEATHER.

FROM MANY SOURCES.

Gay, in his first "Pastoral," tells us how—
When swallows fleet soar high and sport in air,
He told me that the welkin would be clear.

In referring to the Kingfisher, Dryden says:—

Amidst our arms as quiet you shall be
As halcyons brooding on a winter's sea.

According to another idea, not yet obsolete, a dead Kingfisher suspended from a cord always turns its head in the direction from whence the wind blows; a superstition to which Shakespeare refers in *King Lear*, when he makes the Earl of Kent say:—

Turn their halcyon beaks

With every gale and vary of their masters.

In parts of England and Scotland, the plaintive notes of the Chaffinch are regarded as a sign of rain, and the boys sing:

Weet, weet!
Dreep, dreep.

The loud and shrill cry of the Peacock is another rain warning—

When the Peacock loudly bawls,
Then we'll have both rain and squalls.

The Woodpecker's note denotes wet, a notion which prevails on the Continent, where it is commonly known as the "rain bird."

Here follow other examples from a novel collection in an old scrap-book.

If the cock crows going to bed,
He's sure to rise with a watery head.

If the cock moult before the hen,
We shall have the weather thick and thin;
If the hen moults before the cock,
We shall have weather hard as a block.

If fowls roll in the sand
Rain is at hand.

When ducks are driving thro' the burn,
That night the weather takes a turn.

Wild geese, wild geese guggling to the sea,
Good weather it will be.

Wild weather, wild geese ganging to the hill,
The weather it will spill.

When rooks fly sporting high in air,
It shows that windy storms are near.

When doterel do first appear,
It shows that frost is very near;

But when the doterel go
Then you may look for heavy snow.

Sea gull, sea gull, sit on the sand;
It's never good weather when you're on the land.

According to Wilsford, "herons in the evening flying up and down, as if doubtful where to rest, presage some evil approaching weather."

The Cuckoo is another—

When the cuckoo comes to the bare thorn,
Sell your cow and buy your corn;
But when she comes to the full bit,
Sell your corn and buy your sheep.

The dismal and continued screaming of the Owl is a bad sign, being supposed to prognosticate storms, tempestuous weather, etc., etc.

But interesting as the foregoing may be to the "old verse" collector, they are of but little service to the "Weather Prophet" of to-day.