

rainfall on the face of the globe. Statements have been made frequently that rain never falls in these localities, but there is no year at any station where a measurable rainfall has not been recorded, the least observed being that at Indio, 0.10 in., during the seasonal year 1884-85."

General Greely's "American Weather" gives the following instances of heavy rainfalls, which exceed the above record: Mayport, Fla., Sept. 29, 1882, 13.7 ins. in 24 hours; Newtown, Del. Co., Pa., Aug. 5, 1843, 13 in. in 3 hours; and at Brandywine, Hundred, Pa., 10 ins. in 2 hours.

Nevada Co., California, reports the rainfall for the month from Dec. 23, 1861, to Jan. 23, 1862, 45 ins. Providence, R. I., records a rainfall Aug. 6, 1878, 4.49 ins. in 1 hour, 3.5 ins. of which fell in 36 minutes. At New York, the heaviest fall is Aug. 19, 1893,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins. in 20 minutes; for 12 hours Aug. 23, 1893, 3.81 ins.; 24 hours Sept. 23-4, 1882, 6.17 ins.; month Sept., 1882, 14.51 ins.

The average annual rainfall at Halifax from 1869 to 1895 was 55.862 inches. It varies from 45.808 ins. in 1894 to 66.294 inches in 1888. A rainfall of 39.51 inches is reported for 1860, but as the Meteorological Observatory had not been established at that time, it is doubtful if the record is reliable. There is no doubt, however, that the rainfall for that year was far below the average. The scarcity of water, meagre supply from the lakes, and consequent inconvenience to householders lead to the purchase of the water works from the company in the following year, 1861.

Reference to the records shows that the years of smallest rainfall are immediately followed or preceded by years of greatest rainfall. Thus in 1888 the rainfall reached the maximum 66.294 inches. In the following year it dropped to 48.659, within 2.851 inches of the minimum. In 1894, as already noted, the season was very dry. The rainfall was the smallest recorded since the establishment of the Observatory at Halifax. The sources of our water supply dried up so that there was danger of a water famine. Similar conditions were noted throughout the New