

The Weather in April.

The *Weather Review* for the month of April published by the General Weather service of the United States, and just received, is an exceedingly interesting number. The weather during April has been exceedingly favorable for agricultural pursuits in almost every section of the country, and trustworthy reports indicated that the crops of cereals would be above the average, and in the southern sections of the country, where there is an unusually large acreage of wheat, an early and abundant crop was anticipated. The April rains on the Pacific Coast had placed the crops in that region out of danger, and in the southern sections of California the pasturage was reported to be excellent. But in the North-western States and in sections of Tennessee and Kentucky, fruit crops were injured by April frosts, while in the eastern sections of the country the fruit crop was well advanced, and promised to compare favorably with the average yield. Injury by frost was, however, variously estimated and was found to be not as great as at first thought.

The temperature of the month ranged from 1° to 3° above the mean along the Atlantic Coast region, and from 2° to 3° above in the Missouri and Mississippi Valleys.

The storms that moved over the United States were south of the average track of April storms. The magnetic storm, occurring during the auroral displays, beginning on the 16th, which will be remembered for their brilliancy, is said to have been the most extraordinary that has occurred for many years. The displays were visible from the British Isles to the Pacific coast, and as far south as Key West. Icebergs encountered by vessels in the North Atlantic were of unusual number, and at the close of the month danger to shipping was great. The southern limit of the ice, between 40° and 50° longitude, reached below 40° latitude, and suggested the danger at that season of the year for vessels passing over that course to and from Europe. The existence of those vast ice fields and the continued southerly tracks of May storms account for the coolness and wetness of May, which has been generally reported as the coldest and wettest May for a number of years. The prevailing sunshine and increasing warmth of the present month so far, has, however, compensated for the backwardness of May.

The *Providence Journal* says of the ever joyous June:

"In this year of grace, April was cold and dry; May was cold and wet, the tender shrubs were as bare as in January, the hardy trees had hardly put forth a leaf. In the latter part of the month the soft maples disclosed a tiny leaf, and the dogwood exhibited its snowy blossoms. Cold nights, however, were the rule, and the horsechestnut spikes undeveloped, showed little or none of that exquisite color which only the closest examination enables one fully to appreciate, while the homely and home-like lilac gave tardy promise of its natural and ordinarily early bloom and fragrance. June has bestowed upon us not much of warmth and sunlight, but we know what is in store for us. The early apple trees are in fullest blossom; the wisteria displays its inchoate flowers; the hill-sides have taken on a glowing color, and the grass of the valleys is of a living green. As yet the enjoyment is mostly in promise instead of fruition. The plants which have been set out are alive, but they have made no growth; one does not yet sit in the open air in the evening, and the rose bushes, many of them badly hurt by the winter, evolve but slowly their foliage.

"But genia. June has come; the Japan quince is lovely with an oriental richness of color; its scarlet is contrasted with the yellow of the black currant, and even the Virginia

creepor is giving evidence of a renewed life. To the oldish and conservative citizen there is another and altogether pleasant proof of the advancing season; house cleaning is over; the semi annual anarchy of the house is once more reduced to order and the disturbed equilibrium of the 'Marthas' is followed by that serenity of disposition and that sweetness of temper which characterize the sex. The peace-offering of a new plant which the rural citizen carries to his spouse is now accepted with a gracious smile, and there are dinners once more with the old familiar pictures in their places and that spirit of repose which is so needful to the son of toil, and so greatly due to the well-meaning if not thoroughly disciplined 'old man.' Yes, indeed, we hail June because of its glorious attractions out-of-doors, and its sweet flashes of silence and its peace within. If we are able to emulate nature in her invigoration and beneficence, we shall perform our duties well and give happiness to those about us, as in truth we ought, finding therein an exceeding great reward."

Ornithology of Canada,

Mr. Vennor is preparing a work on the "Birds of Canada," and has an artist employed in making the drawings necessary to illustrate the letter-press. The first part of this work on the *Raptores*, or birds of prey, has already been published and most favorably received, both on this Continent and in Europe. The photographs, however, with which the first volume was illustrated did not please the author, and he has now determined to have special drawings and cuts made under his own supervision. Mr. Vennor expects shortly to leave for Washington, where he intends to remain while examining the collections of the Smithsonian Institute. He says there are no bird collections in Canada worthy of the name of collections, but that our best specimens have already found their way into the museums of the United States, where they are of far more service to science and better appreciated by the people. The museum at Montreal should be sold to Barnum, it is full of deformities.—*Canada First*.

Century Plants Ready to Bloom.

Quite a number of century plants, in various portions of the State of California, are throwing up stalks preparatory to blooming. One upon a ranch in Sonoma valley, on the west side, near the foot-hills, grew six feet in eight days, or three-eighths of an inch per hour, which is a fair sample of the rapidity of flower-stem development in these interesting plants. At Petaluma two plants are about to bloom, and will be in their prime next week. A mammoth century plant, which has been for years on a farm in the San Gabriel valley, will blossom soon. The plant spreads over a circle of forty-eight feet in circumference. The flower stem is expected to become forty or more feet high before it completes its growth. At Alvarado a large century plant is now thrusting up its flower stem. Eight or ten other cases are reported in other parts of the State. The *Agave Americana*, or century plant, will, in California, bloom in eight to ten years after being planted. The Mexicans make an intoxicating drink, pulque, from the sap, and its manufacture is said to be very profitable. From the leaves a hemp-like fibre is obtained.

Be prudent, and if you hear some insult or some threat, have the appearance of not hearing it.—George Sand.

To some men popularity is always suspicious. Enjoying none themselves, they are prone to suspect the validity of those attainments which command it.—George Henry Lewes.

I am not aware that payment, or even favors, however gracious, bind any man's soul and conscience on questions of highest morality and highest public importance.—George Kingsley.

An Immense Rainfall.

An unusual quantity of rain fell during the forty eight hours ending yesterday noon (Monday, June 19th). The Rainfall Saturday, Measured 1½ inches, and from Saturday noon till Monday, it fell to the depth of 3.54-100 inches, which is unprecedented in this section. — From the *Saratogian* of Tuesday, June 20th 1882.

The announced fateful year "1881" has come and gone and still the great world rolls and swings around. It begins to look, however, as though "Vennor," the gaunt, grim and grizzly guesser about the coming weather, who has always had things to predict, has too often proved to have been in accord with the elements.

Therefore it is that he has distanced "Mother Shipton," who was the first and foremost prophetess for the last 400 years. The cavortings of the mild, unruly winds, as told in both our local and general news columns, will show that Vennor has beaten the mediæval seer clear out of sight.

From *Daily Saratogian* June 20th 1882.

The Remnant of a Tornado.

Local meteorologists of a hitherto unspotted character have been predicting, for a month past, that there was going to be a drouth. If any dry spell has been en route for this locality, it has either met with an accident or been switched off. If there is anything that is desirable here, for a little time, at least, it is a steady, easy-going, well built, kiln dried piece of weather, with few tears to shed. Still, Albanians should be thankful that the tornado that has wrought such havoc in the far west, and even in this State was reduced to a remnant when it struck this city yesterday, and that it was even so considerate as to drop a portion of its hail-stones in Schenectady and send the rest around by way of Saratoga. It blew terrifically and rained copiously here, all the same, though no particular damage was done; and when the clouds began to gather in dense and murky masses, and march at double-quick time across the sky, many thought that a tornado, in all its fury, would surely break upon the city. The first burst turned the hilly streets into mountain streams, but the storm shortly settled down to a steady rain, which ceased in the evening, though the sky continued to threaten.

Comet A. of 1882 is a fraud. It was predicted of it that during the months of May and June it would appear in splendor in the northern heavens, rivaling, if not surpassing the great comet of 1881. When first discovered by Astronomer Wells it was heading this way at the stupendous rate of a million and a half of miles each day, its speed being accelerated as it approached the sun.

But it has made no such display. It is hardly visible to the naked eye, and does not present a very formidable appearance through a telescope. But it is at its brightest now, according to the latest reports, passed its perihelion last night, and describing a parabola is again off, into space, never, probable, to return in this direction.—June 14th, *Cincinnati Commercial*.

A man in any station can do his duty, and doing it, can earn his own respect.—Charles Dickens.

A gentleman is one who understands and shows every mark of deference to the claims of self-love in others, and exacts it in return from them.—Hazlitt.