

"daring" forecast of the weather. Thus, having succeeded in my first attempt, it is but natural that I should try again, and attempt once more to foreshadow the probabilities for our approaching winter. Against doing so, however, I have been advised by many well meaning friends, who have written at length to me on the importance of retaining the reputation I had already earned. They fear and tremble for me lest I should make a slip, and earn the hardly enviable title of "the false prophet." Thanking these kind friends, however, for their interest in my behalf, I must still reply that I hope to attempt many more sketches of our winter seasons. That I may fail in some of these is likely; extremely probable, and what I expect. But each such failure will be equally as good a lesson to me as many successes. I hate the word "prophet," it is not applicable to the case in question. So then let it be clearly understood that "prophecy" is not attempted, but rather suggestions as to "probabilities" for the approaching seasons. I am still confident that with careful observation, and unprejudiced comparisons, spells of weather may be, and will yet be, foretold with wonderful accuracy, and this not by particularly favored individuals, but by any one who brings into play his sound common sense (a rare article now, but this simply through disuse) in connection with systematic and if possible *out-door* observation. For such sketches of the weather, this almanac is issued, and it is further my intention to publish this semi-annually, and to record in it the "probabilities" for our winters.

*What then are the probabilities for the winter of 1877?* I have already stated that last year my impressions as to the character of the approaching winter were to all appearances highly improbable, and were not what one would care to have promulgated by guess-work. This autumn, on the contrary, the conclusions arrived at seem natural and probable. I have nothing extraordinary to predict, nothing unusual, so that possibly the sensation-loving people will be rather disappointed in the winter I picture for them. I am, then, at present (21st November) writing in beautiful autumn weather which is daily fulfilling my every anticipation. The direction of our winds, however, has changed, and for some time has been from an east or north-easterly point. These easterly winds, following in the wake of an extremely warm and more than usually dry summer, are sure to bring us plenty of either rain or snow. Rain, should they veer to the southward of east, and snow if they attain to a more northerly point. There is undoubtedly a great amount of either snow or rain in store for us, and it is my conviction that it will be the former. At the setting in of winter then—which will probably take place about the first week of December—we shall have plenty of snow from the outset, and this will continue throughout December, January and February. Consequently, open and balmy as is our autumn just now, there is little hope of a green Christmas or New Year, and it is probable that those days will find us in the deepest snows of our winter. It is probable that the first severe snap of the season will occur during December, a second one in January, and a third and last one, with snows, in February. There are, however, no indications that these will be unusually severe