

INTRODUCTION.

The author of this little manual does not issue his "probabilities" with the dogmatic assertion that they will all be realized, but believes, simply, that he has found a clue whereby the predictions of coming seasons may be reduced to a science, and that only a more general observation is required to complete it. If the predictions are not found to be entirely correct for every district of this Dominion, he holds that the fault will be with the observations which may not have been sufficiently close, but that the groundwork of his system is solid he has no manner of doubt.

It is the purpose of this almanac to show how any one, by the use of careful observation and sound common sense, may arrive at pretty accurate conclusions respecting approaching seasons. The preparation of tables of barometric and thermometric readings is to the generality of people a "weariness to the flesh," and square miles of such tables might be consulted, and no definite conclusions come to. It is by such simple points or features as the following, that Mr. Vennor maintains approaching weather may be foretold, viz. :—

The dryness or humidity of previous seasons.

Extremes of heat or cold.

General direction of winds.

Earliness or lateness of springs and autumns.

Conditions of midsummers.

First appearance and intensity of frosts.

Abundance or rarity of thunder storms.

Years of unusual meteoric displays.

Seasons signalized either by the occurrence of earthquakes or the appearance of comets are accompanied by exceptionable weather, and at such times general rules fail—consequently it would be unsafe to predict weather.

Little dependence is to be placed upon the habits of animals or the flights of birds. Both of these are often mistaken. Numbers of birds have perished from their arriving too early, and numbers have hurried away, to return no more during the year, although a fine season has followed. Wild geese fly south about the same dates each year, whether the season be severe or open, and the beaver and muskrat commence to prepare for the winter about the same average time each year.

To understand the weather, one must be out in it, and live in it; not for a month or a year or two, but a number of years. The author of this almanac has lived an out-door life for six months in each of the past thirteen years; or in other words, has spent seventy-eight months in the field, exposed to all weathers, constantly anxious about, and ever watching the changes of the weather, so as to plan for each day's work.

If any one is disposed to try this, he may begin with the full assurance that as the years of his apprenticeship roll by, he will find himself