

climate than Western Canada, for we do not have any more sleighing in March here than they do in Massachusetts, judging by the above quotation. Our Yankee neighbours are hard to persuade that Canada is as good a country as New England. They generally look upon it as a very cheerless region, a wilderness of ice and snow far inferior to the Eastern States. But we presume that our Province of Québec is, on the average, quite equal to Maine, while Ontario in its easterly section is the counterpart of New England in general, and in its westerly section very like New York.

April may be said, in this climate, to be the first month of spring. It brings us fairly out of winter; unlocks the ground so that the plough can gain admittance; wakes all nature from slumber; and calls man to the tug of active outdoor farm work. Now indeed begins the busiest season of the year, and it usually comes with surprising suddenness, insomuch that we can hardly credit the fact that a transition of such magnitude has actually taken place. Winter holds undisputed sway in March, sometimes all through the month; at other times the sceptre of the ice-king is broken, and his abdication rendered imminent, before the month is more than half through. But whatever may be the character of March, spring is ushered in by April. It scarcely answers to the description of the month current in Great Britain, where "March winds" and "April showers" are reputed to "bring forth May flowers." We have often more of the stormy March than the showery April during this month. Indeed it is very variable in its characteristics, being sometimes dry, sometimes wet, and often exceedingly pleasant and seasonable. One feature, however, it always has, it is far milder than March. The weather moderates but gradually from January to March, but in April it makes a sort of jump toward temperateness and geniality. One would scarcely think the advance toward summer so rapid as it really is in April, were it not for the testimony of the thermometer, for we have now and then chilly days which makes us ask, when will the winter be over? But this is our impatience, as well as the natural effect of the fine, pleasant days we occasionally have, and which are so delightful that we naturally wish to have more of them. It will be interesting to compare the mean temperature of April, given below, with the table for March, and to note the great progress indicated for the present month.

MEAN TEMPERATURES FOR APRIL.

Stratford.....	45° 55
Hamilton.....	46° 04
Barrie.....	43° 02
Toronto.....	43° 30
Belleville.....	45° 35
Montreal.....	41° 30
Quebec.....	41° 40
St. John, N. B.....	39° 10
Halifax.....	40° 00

May is welcomed by everybody with expressions of gladness. We have indeed no "May-

day" festivities such as are common in some countries. Our variable climate hardly admits of it. We have known the first of May, in some rare instances, to be very wintry. Within a week or so of that date, we have sometimes had a snow-storm which left the ground with a white wintry covering of from two to six inches in depth. Nor do we ever have such a profusion of blooming flowers as would render the first of May an appropriate time for a floral festival. At this date, anything wintry can only be spasmodic and ephemeral, and, let appearances be what they may, "we know that summer is nigh."

The mean temperatures do not rise so fast this month as last.

MEAN TEMPERATURES FOR MAY.

Stratford.....	47° 73
Hamilton.....	50° 87
Barrie.....	48° 22
Toronto.....	48° 30
Belleville.....	50° 42
Montreal.....	50° 25
Quebec.....	48° 30
St. John, N. B.....	46° 70
Halifax.....	47° 00

It is noticeable that, at points where the cold of winter is very severe, the mean temperature is now quite as high as at places considered to have a much milder climate. Thus a Quebec May is precisely like a Toronto May, while Montreal is within three-fifths of a degree of the Hamilton average the present month. In June, it is rather warmer in Quebec and Montreal than it is in Toronto and Hamilton.

The rapidity with which vegetation advances, when once growth has commenced, is one of the peculiarities and charms of our Canadian climate. No sooner is the frost out of the ground than the grass begins to sing, "Here I come creeping, creeping everywhere." Very little sunshine makes the pulses of the sugar-maple bound with life, so that the sap streams out wherever an incision is made in the bark. After a very few warm days the children exclaim,

"See the tender catkins cover
All the slender willows over."

In fine, the change from winter to spring is almost magical. It is as if the scene had been touched by some fairy's wand, and suddenly transformed from dreariness and death to life and beauty.

June is indeed a charming month in this climate. It is a delightful compound of spring and summer. The uncomfortable wintry chilliness is gone, and the scorching July heat has not yet come. Bright sunshine glorifies the nature; innumerable flowers display their loveliness; the fields are decked in their freshest green; the forests are bursting into leaf; the air is vocal with the chirp of insects, the song of birds, and the gentle music of the breeze. Activity and beauty are to be seen on every hand.