

October 25 and November to the stench was so horrible that it was impossible to go on to the beach. Sending my family to Manatee, the assistant keeper and myself shut ourselves up in our rooms, and kept tar, coffee, etc., burning day and night in order to stand it. The peculiar smell was like bilge-water. The fish I noticed dying acted as if crazy, darting in every direction, then giving up and floating ashore. After a very heavy gale from the south-west the bad and good waters got mixed up, and soon all the fish caught were fat and nice." As the cause of this strange phenomenon is still problematical, some discarding the idea of the evolution of subterranean gases, believing it to be the result of a poisoning of the water by an excess of rain-water discharged into the gulf by the rivers, others that it is owing to the water being saturated with the tannin derived from decomposing roots and stems of palmetto, sumach, oak, etc., it would seem highly desirable that Prof. Baird should institute a series of observations as to the chemical constituents at different times of the waters of these districts.

English Correspondence.

LONDON, June 17.

I am writing this morning under the influence of what I might almost call our third summer this year. The weather in England, even in January and the following months, was little colder than June has been up to nearly the present writing. A little spell of semi-winter weather followed; just enough to barely mark the change to a genial spring, which then brought us down to the beginning of June. But the last fortnight has given us an experience of cold and wet, which has been decidedly unpleasant and hard to bear. What with snow on the east coast and snow on the west coast, snow in Scotland, and snow even on our more southern hills, we may fairly claim to have had our little winter after all. The effect on the growing crops has, of course, been rather unfavorable. But the worst is check—not destruction. Growth is not so forward as we had expected it would have been by the middle of June. And haying has been delayed greatly. Indeed a good deal was cut before the cold wet weather set in, and has been lying out ever since, some being saved in little snatches. But the hay crop will be large and heavy, and may probably, after all, be mainly cut and housed in excellent condition, for the barometer has risen, the sun shines brightly and the air is warm and genial. This third summer may give us an excellent harvest after all.—*Witness.*

Moderation is the silken strings running through the pearl chain of all virtues.—Bishop Hall.

I see that time divided is never long, and that regularity abridges all things.—Madame de Staël.

A life spent worthily should be measured by a nobler line, by deeds, not words.—Sheridan.

BAY VIEW HOUSE,

FERRY BEACH, NEAR OLD ORCHARD,
BAY VIEW, MAINE.

The "Old Orchard Beach" the finest on this continent, is fifteen miles from the City of Portland, Maine. The Boston and Maine Railroad runs right along the Beach; and the Eastern is connected with it by a branch. It is thus in direct communication with all the world.

The beach itself is nine miles long, running the entire length of the sickle-shaped shore of Saco Bay. At low tide there is a carriage-drive along the hard sand of seven or eight miles. On the extreme points of the crescent inclosing the bay, are the Wood Island, and Cape Elizabeth Light Houses, the latter being through the White Mt. Notch, empties be-

at the outer entrance to Portland Harbor. The Saco River, which rises in the little lake in front of the Crawford House, and runs down between one end of the beach and Biddeford Pool. At this point are wharves, yachts and row-boats for all who wish for exercise or pleasure upon the water.

Old Orchard proper is a city of Hotels and Cottages. For those unfortunates who never do work enough to get tired, and who only want a place to kill time and plenty of people to help them to do it; who want the hurly burly of a fashionable watering place; for such Old Orchard offers every facility. In the season, it not unfrequently holds as many as six thousand people. But for those who have earned the right to rest, and who, by resting wish to lay in new stores of strength for new labor and who wish to do this in a choice company of pleasant people; for those Bay View is certainly the place.

The Bay View House is two miles from Old Orchard, in the direction of the mouth of the Saco River. A branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad runs along the beach, stopping in front of the house every hour. The Hotel itself is less than two hundred feet from the water; and the restful beat of the surf, night and day soothes one like a lullaby, with a perpetual suggestion of a power that is *never weary*.

And here is not only the beach but the woods. The Hotel backs right into a Pine Grove, forming thus a combination of sea and forest so rare that I do not know its parallel anywhere.

The rooms are good; and the table first-class in every respect. There is none better on the beach. Bowling, billiards, and a fine new Music Hall, furnished with pianos and fitted for dancing, tempt those who wish to combine exercise with pleasure.

But now, in closing, it is only fair to say that in spite of all I have said, this is *not* the "Earthly Paradise" that is warranted to make *everybody* contented and happy. I have noticed that *people make their own climate*; and this without much regard to sun or clouds. If people are reasonable and disposed to have a pleasant time, I know of no better place for them than this. But as for grumblers and those afflicted with chronic selfishness and discontent, I do not know of any place to recommend to them, I only hope they will not come here; at any rate until after I have left.

I understand that you have prophesied a "cold and wet" summer. I hope this is a slander. But, in time, I trust you may be led to reconsider. If *money* is any object to you, I think I could easily raise a large subscription, on condition that you promise to furnish *this Hotel only* with the article of weather it desires. And this would surely be an easy task for one who undertakes to manage the weather of a whole continent.

Hoping you may arrive soon and try your hand on a summer that has so far been a *miserable climatic failure*.

I am

Sincerely Yours

M. J. SAVAGE.

"THE MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW"

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Review is a little magazine of twenty-one pages, edited and printed at the Signal office with such appliances as a rather meagre appropriation for the work allows. The publication giving facts and generalizations as the result of observations for the month of

MAY

is just out, and furnishes a complete and interesting history of the meteorological phenomena

of the month. The more prominent conditions noticed were deficiency in temperature, which was very marked, except in California. In New England the temperature for the month was five degrees below the mean and about the same in the Middle Atlantic States. In the Lake Region and the Ohio Valley the average was a degree below the mean and in the Northwest 7° below. A great excess of rainfall in the Ohio Valley, amounting to more than four-and-a-half inches, and in Tennessee and the Lower Lake Region amounting to nearly three inches, was a noticeable peculiarity of the month. The heaviest rainfall noted was in the vicinity of Little Rock, where it exceeded fifteen inches. The Review also contains new features under the head of Cotton Region Reports, instituted in April, for the special benefit of those interested in this staple. During the month there were five well-defined areas of high barometer, which pursued a general course to the south of east. Two of these were first noticed in the Northwest. The storm tracks of the month were generally to the north of those of the preceding month. There was a great deal of frost during May, ranging from New England to as far south as North Carolina and Tennessee. The heaviest frosts were reported from Iowa. Ice formed several times between the 1st and 26th of the month in Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska and several other points north of the Ohio River. Snow was reported on high altitudes as far south as New Mexico, and at Washington, Iowa. On May 23 there was a fall from four to six inches. Terrible hail storms occurred on nearly every day of the month in various localities throughout the country, and sleet was reported several times in the States and Territories west of the Mississippi.

The winds of the month were high, and in the upper lake region, generally from the north. The greatest velocity reported during the month occurred on the 3rd, on the summit of Mt. Washington, where it reached a speed of one hundred miles an hour. The only place in the Northwest where a velocity of over fifty miles was reported was at Fort Benton, Montana, on the 12th of the month. Local rain storms were very numerous, accompanied by severe winds. There were no general tornadoes, although at Shreveport, La., Cherokee City, Kas., Petersburg, Va., Hot Springs, Ark., Warrenton, Mo., and Lakefield, Minn., the wind was of a sufficient violence to unroof houses, damage crops and property generally, and in some instances several persons were killed. No remarkable auroral displays were observed during the month. The water of the great rivers of the Mississippi Valley were far above their normal height during the month, and frequent high tides were reported along the Atlantic coast. On the 11th and 12th of the month the highest tides ever known occurred at New York causing great damages at the various watering places along the coast of New Jersey and Long Island. Solar and lunar halos were numerous, and mirage was reported four times at Indianola, Texas, seven times at Alexandria, Dakota, and once at Northfield, Minn. Observations of the characteristics of the sky at sunset, as indicative of fair or foul weather for the succeeding twenty-four hours, were made at all the stations, and in about eighty-six per cent. of the cases the expected weather followed. A very large and brilliant meteor was observed at Clinton, Iowa, on the 22d at 2.30 A.M., accompanied by two distinct detonations.

One earthquake was reported from Colorado. The report closes with notes of the occurrence of prairie and forest fires, the appearance or insects injurious to agriculture, and sandstorms, which were confined to South-west Nevada and Oregon.