

Rules for ascertaining the Weather.—By attending to a few simple rules, drawn from Nature and confirmed by experience, the veriest tyro in meteorology, may predict with accuracy the probable changes of the weather from day to day, viz :—

DEW.—If, after one fair day, the dew lies plentifully on the grass, it is a sign of another. If not, and there is no wind, rain must follow. A red sunset, without clouds, indicates a doubt of fair weather, but after a red sunset in clouds a fine day may be expected. A watery sunset, diverging rays of light, either direct from the sun, or behind a bank of clouds, is indicative of rain.

CLOUDS.—When the clouds increase very fast, and accumulate huge masses of vapour, much rain, and in the summer time, thunder will follow. When the clouds are formed like fleeces, but dense in the middle and bright towards the edge, with the sky clear, they are signs of a sharp frost, with hail, snow, or rain. When the clouds (*cirri*) are formed like feathers, and appear in thin white trains, they indicate wind; when formed into horizontal sheets, with streamers pointing upwards, rain is prognosticated, but with depending fringe-like fibres it is found to precede fair weather. When a general cloudiness covers the sky, and small black fragments of clouds fly underneath, wet weather will follow, and probably of long continuance. Two currents of clouds always portend rain, and in summer thunder.

PLANTS.—These are truly the barometers of Nature, and are most faithful in their indications. Chickweed forms of itself an excellent criterion. When the flower expands fully, rain will not fall for many hours, and should it continue expanded, no rain will disturb the summer's day; when it half conceals its diminutive flower, the day will be showery, but when it entirely shuts up, or veils the white flower with its green mantle, then, let the traveller provide an umbrella and top-coat, for the rain will be lasting. If the Siberian sow-thistle shuts at night, the following day will be fine; if it remain open, rain will ensue. If the African marigold continues shut in the morning long after its usual time for opening, rain is approaching; and the convulvulus, tulip, bindweed, scarlet-pimpernel, and all the different species of trefoil, contract their leaves on the approach of a storm or wet weather.

If the new moon does not appear till the fourth day it indicates a troubled air for the whole month. When on her fourth day the moon appears spotless, with her horns unblunted, neither flat nor quite erect, but between both, it promises fair weather for the greatest part of the month. — An erect moon denotes wind; though, if she appears with short and blunted horns, rain may be expected. — If the moon, either at her first appearance or within a few days after, has her lower horn obscured and dusky, it denotes foul weather before the full; but if she be so discovered about the middle, storms may be expected about the full; and if her upper horn be affected, about the wane.

Pot Ash pounded and placed in rat holes is said to be very effectual in driving them away.