

Warm Weather Predictions.

New York Mail.—It must be well remembered that the first half of September a year ago was almost the hottest part of the season and there seems to be good reason to expect such warm weather during the month which began on Friday.

Philadelphia Bulletin.—It becomes a regular thing for a cold rain-storm to come along in August and be followed by a warm September. This year the "nor easter" comes a little late, but though it feels like the beginning of cold weather, it is probably very far from being such. All the golden Autumn is yet to come.

The New England Rain Famine.

Worcester Spy.—In Worcester County since July 1, there has been no general rain fall, and only three or four slight showers. The average temperature at 1 p.m., during this time, has been 84.7, and the sky has been so free from clouds that the sun has fairly baked the surface of the ground, the surface dryness being the most excessive known during the past century. The hay crop has been quite heavy and the season quite backward. Winter rye has also done unusually well, but there is no hope of a second crop of hay, and unless heavy rain comes soon there will be no fall feed. Stock is already being fed morning and night. Corn has curled badly, and much of it is being curled for fodder, while oats are generally being used in the same manner. Early potatoes have done fairly well, but later varieties do not promise half a crop. Vegetables are in a very bad condition, and apples, of which a heavy crop was expected, are dropping off and drying up. Wild berries, which are important thereabouts, have dried on the bushes, and small fruits are in very bad condition. Springs and wells are giving out, and serious future troubles, unless there is rain, are apprehended.

[This drought was broken in the latter part of August by frequent showers, and it is probable September will be a wet month. Ed. BULLETIN, Aug 28.]

Mount Washington in Winter.

ROSENDALE, N. Y., August 8, 1882.—I was astonished when I read in your paper of August 3, 1881, that Mr. H. R. Richardson, of the Highland House, Bethlehem, N. H., claims that he was one of the party who first spent a night (or two nights) on Mount Washington in Winter. So far as individual honor is attached to the achievement I am not ambitious; but when a false pretender assails an interesting record that was made in good faith many years ago—a record that stands prominent among the very many important facts connected with the early history of Mount Washington—I regard it my duty to speak out fearlessly for the right. A good motto is "honor to whom honor is due."

I sent you and you published, September 4, 1878, what can be proved beyond a question to be the true description of the first party that spent a night (two nights) on Mount Washington in winter. That party numbered three and no more, and their names are Franklin White, Chapen C. Brooks and John H. Spaulding, all of Lancaster, N. H. February 11, 12, 1862, is the correct date when that little party accomplished that then regarded perilous feat. A description of the interesting facts connected with that midwinter adventure on Mount Washington was first published in the *Coos Republican*, February 18, 1862, and though taken from that paper and republished in many of the most widely circulated papers in our country, there was such an extensive demand for that article that it was republished in the *Coos Republican* that year in April.

Several years after that, by request, I sent a copy of that same description of that winter visit to Prof. J. H. Huntington of the United States Signal Service, and it was published word for word in the book that contains the record of the government observations made the first winter after the United States signal station was established on Mount Washington. I have one of those books and I received it as a present from Dr. George O. Rogers a short time before he started for Japan. Mr. Richardson says this Dr. Rogers was one of his party, also White, an artist photographer, and that the object of the excursion was to obtain winter views from the summit of Mount Washington. I make bold to affirm that Mr. White did not go up with Mr. H. R. Richardson and get winter views in the winter of 1861 or any other winter. I was on Mount Washington every season from the building of the Tip Top House in 1863 till 1864, and had a party of five or six men broken into the Summit House any winter between the dates named, and remained there, as this Mr. Richardson claims, two nights and two days, in a place that he writes "was cold as a tomb and colder," we should have found ample disorder to confirm the trespass on going up the next spring to put the house in order for a season's business.

I was associated for many years with Mr. White, (he was the artist on Mount Washington for many years,) and though he obtained many frosty and snowy, also icy looking views that were quite winter like, yet I am positive when I declare that he never made but one real winter view, and I was with him when he made that, or when he took the negative of it, and it was in the morning of February 13, 1862. After several vain attempts that extremely cold winter morning, when he at last accomplished his object, apparently as happy as a king might appear with an unexpected acquirement of another large domain, he packed his camera, chemicals and negative, and down the mountain we journeyed. The next spring he had pictures made from that negative patented and published on glass in stereoscopic style. I have one of those stereoscopic views, and any party who owns one can see the date of the patent is 1862. I will briefly describe what the picture represents. It is a winter view of the most northerly end room in the attic of the Summit House. This room, as seen in the picture, has a little four light window that is shaded by thick frost, and a snow drift covers quite a share of the narrow floor. A bedstead and one chair, both well covered with snow and frost, occupy a large part of this uninviting little room. New footprints are visible in the snow drift and a shovel, heavily covered with ice, leans against the chair, apparently placed there for a special occasion—the fact is I brought it there from the kitchen of the Tip-top House. This was for several seasons Mr. White's room or "studio."

Prior to 1862 I received a great number of letters from many different parties asking whether a man could live on Mount Washington in the winter. The chief supposition was that the extreme cold of winter on "Tip-top" was such that a person's breath would congeal, and almost instant death would be the result. In opposition to such fears, in the late days of the season of 1861, I made preparations in the way of getting wood ready, etc., to visit Mount Washington the coming winter. I told my plan to Mr. White and he expressed a wish to be one of my party that season. After leaving the mountain we decided that through fear of accident or sickness our party ought to number three. After a few weeks we quietly enlisted Mr. Brooks, and with our plan all perfected we regarded the whole affair so foolhardy that we kept our own secret till the morning we started, then we were crazy. Thank God, we succeeded!

Before going to Hong Kong Dr. Rogers and Prof. Huntington made me a good long welcome visit in New York, and in discussing Mount Washington life, the doctor spoke of a deer hunt he once took part in; and in connection with that statement, added sufficient to consign to oblivion the Richardson "canard." Mr. White is dead, but Dr. Rogers and Mr. Brooks will, if necessary, vouch for me, and hundreds who know the facts, will help me protect my record, for it is true.

JOHN H. SPAULDING.

Frosts.

As frost occurs during the northerly winds of an advancing high barometer after a storm or rain-belt has passed, the probability of its formation can be anticipated through the information conveyed by daily weather reports. In a clear, still night, the wind having been northerly and the mercury at about 50° at sunset, frost is likely, because then the mercury will probably fall rapidly during the night, and 40° or under will produce frost. Cloudiness and wind, it is well known, however, will prevent frost, but these conditions can not always be depended upon, as the former may disappear and the latter cease, leaving rapid radiation unchecked.

The Flea.

This insect belongs to the genus pulex. When he gets on your arm you Pulexceditedly at your sleeve. You are anxious also for the insects to leave. The flea has a strong love for man, but he manages to get over his attachment. He is a leper. In olden times they used to drive the leper out of the synagogue. When the flea gets on you, he sees sin agog in your heart. The flea is a parasite. You have not to cross the ocean, therefore, to see a Paris sight. Fleas are very plentiful. You remember that Mary had a little lamb whose fleas were white as snow. In ancient times, however, the golden fleas were very scarce, and consequently much sought after. There can be no doubt about the habitant of this social insect, for does not the Bible speak of it as the flea, from the wrath to come? And again it is referred to as the 'wicked flea' which no man pursueth.' But we prefer not to dwell on this subject. Neither do we wish to have this subject dwell on us. We might be long, have a flea in our ear should we not atop.

A SAND STORM IN ICELAND.—A remarkable sand-storm, accompanied by an intensely cold temperature, is mentioned in Icelandic journals as having raged on that island for two weeks during the past spring. The air was filled with fine dry sand to such a degree that it was impossible to see for more than a short distance, and the sun was rarely visible, though the sky was clear of clouds. Nobody ventured out of his house except upon matter of most urgent necessity, and many who were exposed to the storm were frozen. The sand penetrated into the houses through the minutest crevices. It was found mixed with articles of food and drink, and every breath drew it into the lungs. Thousands of sheep and horses died.

Fine Weather Assured.

It is a pretty well settled fact, that the weather for the coming years is sure to receive expert attention. Vennor has calculated and prognosticated the whole business, and A. Vogeler & Co., Baltimore, Md., who control the Vennor Almanac, will send a copy to any address upon receipt of ten cents.