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CONTRIBUTIONS TO METEOROLOGY

FOR THE YEAR 1861,

From observations taken at Isle Jesus, Canada East.

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CHARLES SMALLWOOD, M. D., LL. D.

(Professor of Meteorology in the University of McGill College, Montreal.)

The following observations are a continuation of the Annual Report of the results of the observations taken at the Observatory. The means are reduced from tri-daily observations taken at 6 a.m., 2 p. m. and 10 p. m. The whole of the observations are all reduced to the usual standards, and the necessary corrections depending upon any peculiar construction of the instruments have been applied. It may be further stated, that the instruments are in the same position that they were placed during a long series of years, and they are all subjected, at short intervals of time, to certain manipulations and corrections, so as to secure, as far as possible, accuracy; many of them are self-registering, and every means have been adopted to prevent either terrestrial, zenith or solar radiation on the bulbs of the thermometers; extra hours are set apart for observing any unusual phenomena, and a more particular attention has been directed to every sudden and great fall in the barometric column as indicating any unusual atmospheric wave, and also on the sudden fall of the thermometer indicating any extreme degree of cold as during our "cold terms," for the purpose of comparing observations here with those taken in any distant part of the world, and which may have a bearing on the theory of the formation of storms.

A seismometer has been added to the other instruments for the purpose of ascertaining the direction and amount of elevation of the earthquake wave. The more than usual frequency of late of earthquakes in this neighbourhood has led to the placing of the seismometer, so as to indicate and to estimate any such interesting phenomena.

Barometer.—The highest reading of the barometer during the year occurred at 9.30 p. m. on the evening of the 23rd of January, and indicated 30.687 inches; the lowest reading occurred on the 27th day of May at 1.45 p. m. and indicated 28.883 inches, giv-