

A windy and stormy ending of the month nearly everywhere, with a return to winter in March.

So far, the reports from the whole United States show a terribly disastrous fall of rain and consequent deluges and overflows. The Mississippi is devastating vast territories, and the water is higher than it has been since 1862. Just as in Texas the continuous rains for 35 to 45 days are rendering impossible any preparations for the crops, or are seriously injuring everything that was planted previous to January 1st. Mr. Vennor thinks there will be in the more northern latitudes on the 17th and 18th general snow falls.

The 19th will probably usher in a terrible week of rain storms (snow in some quarters) and floods, with days of very high winds and gales. These will be more marked in western and southern sections of country, and will terminate in generally colder weather and heavy snowfalls towards 25th and 26th days and entry of March. "Old Boreas" will assert his reign with and through gales the fore part of March.

Prof. Vennor has commenced the publication of a "Weather Bulletin" at Montreal, giving in advance a forecast of each month in full detail. The subscription is \$1 a year. Thousands of farmers might save thousands each day by having the information as to change of weather.

COL. B. DUNOAN.

Umbrellas Seventy Years Ago.

A large umbrella was usually kept hanging in the hall at good houses, to keep visitors dry as they passed to or from their carriages. Coffee house keepers provided in this way for their frequenters; but men disdained to carry such a convenience through the streets. It was held effeminate, indeed, to shirk a wetting. "Take that thing away," said Lord Cornwallis to the servant about to hold the house umbrella over him. "I am not sugar or salt in a shower." The marquis would have enjoyed the scene at Metz review, when an officer, offering his umbrella to his unprotected emperor, Joseph II., exclaimed, "I heed not a shower, it hurts nothing of a man but his clothes." Whereupon ensued a closing movement all round. There certainly is something unsoldierly about our subject, and it is hard to imagine the Guards under fire and umbrella at the same time. Such a thing, however, was seen once. During the action at the Mayor's House, near Bayonne, in 1813, Grenadiers, under Col. Tynling, occupied an unfinished redoubt near the high road. Wellington happening to ride that way, beheld the officers of the household regiment protecting themselves from the pelting rain with their umbrellas. This was too much for the great chief's equanimity, and he sent off Lord A. Hill instanter, with the message, "Lord Wellington does not approve of the use of umbrellas under fire, and cannot allow the gentlemen's sons to make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the army." He afterward gave the colonel a good wiggling himself, telling him, "The Guards may carry umbrellas when on duty at St. James', but in the field it is not only ridiculous, but unmilitary." Sainte-Beuve saw nothing ridiculous in standing fire under an umbrella. When he appeared as a duellist for the first and last time in his life, the critic took his place, armed with an ancient flintlock and umbrella. His adversary protested against the gingham, the seconds remonstrated, but in vain. Sainte-Beuve declared he had no objection to being shot, but preferred to die a dry death, so the duel proceeded, until each combatant had fired four times without effect, Sainte-Beuve keeping his umbrella hoisted to the end. Wolf, no feather-bed soldier, did not think there was any unmanliness in keeping one's coat dry. Writing home from France, in 1752, he expressed his surprise that the Parisian fashion of using umbrellas in sunshine, and something of the same kind in wet weather, had not been adopted in England.—[All the Year Round.

The BEAR looked out on *Candlemas* day, and after a solemn shake of his head and deep sigh, returned to his repose, until the storm of March shall have blown over.

COME AND SEE US.

Montreal may truly be said to be in the full height of her Winter glory! There is ample snow in the streets and suburbs to allow of pleasant and rapid sleighing, without the heavy blockade of that element which so afflicts Halifax, Quebec and New Brunswick, as well as even United States cities, south of Canada. Snow-shoe clubs and Tobogganing parties meet for daily and nightly recreation, whilst nearly a dozen public and private skating rinks are crowded by energetic participants in that invigorating enjoyment, many of whom, as at last night's carnival, at the Victoria Rink, don the masquerader's costume and depict the quaint attitudes of old time fashions, or the gaudy trappings of oriental and Indians! Our citizens have done full justice to the opportunities for enjoyment and display which the pleasant weather of the past week has so largely afforded them. Bright sun-bine and bracing atmosphere have filled our streets with handsome equippages, well got up, with gorgeous robes and fast horses. Pedestrians are numerous, and our well filled stores appear cheerful and full of business—the attractive stocks of valentines, with devices too numerous to name, drawing the admiration of the youthful disseminators of these innocent mediums of fun and flirtation! Montreal too has other attractions which may well induce visitors from a distance to come amongst us and enjoy our winter attractions. There are now hotels for their reception which compare well with the "Palaces" of Chicago and San Francisco. Military, national and political dancing assemblies are of weekly occurrence, as well as private reunions of a similar character. There are numerous points of interest in and around the city—the elevated Mountain park with extensive views of the surrounding country; the Lachine Rapids, rendered grander by Winter's icy fringes. There are the tastefully arranged treasures of our Art Association Rooms to survey and admire; the excellence of the many vocal and instrumental concerts, the interesting lectures, the Young Men's Association meetings and lectures, and on Sundays the many places of worship for all denominations, where Divine service is conducted with all solemnity, aided by suitable music and adorned by winning pulpit eloquence. The name of Winter may sound dreary, but it is only in name that it really is so; for with our exhilarating atmosphere and our many appliances to make the season agreeable and pleasant, there is everything here to promote both health and enjoyment. Our favored city affords all sorts of opportunities to our own people and inducements to strangers to share in those many pleasures and innocent amusements which are so easily obtainable within its limits and in its neighbourhood, whereby the otherwise dreaded time of storm and rigorous weather can be employed with both delight and profit whilst health and vigour are eminently promoted.—*Montreal Star.*

A POSTSCRIPT TO MOTHER SHIPTON'S PROPHECY.

In eighteen hundred and eighty-one
A plague of "Art" on the world shall come;
The air of a great western nation
Shall reek with over-decoration.
An imitation "Renaissance,"
When pasteboard plaque and plated scone,
When clothes-horse screens and drain pipe vases
Shall vaunt their horrors in high places,
And flimsy satins and cheap plushes
Fall victims to the "artist's brushes."
"Genius" shall be a common trait,
Proved by a painted wooden plate—
Or sprawling sunflowers on a curtain,
Or tottering storks with legs uncertain,
Or gaudy bands of ticking stripes,
Or gilt horse-shoes and penny pipes.
Then in shop windows you may read—
"Who buys a paper of turnip seed
Receives a 'circular, silk, fur-lined,
High-toned, aesthetic and refined."
Or, "With every pound of sausage sold,
Walt Whitman's poems in black and gold."
The plague shall be heavy on the land,
Many shall fall and few shall stand.
But those who live shall say when it passes,
"How in the world could we all be such asses?"
Waterbury American.

SOME PREVIOUS COLD WAVES.

The following are quotations from an old weather record of the Island of Montreal:—

1857, January 18th.....	31 below zero.
" " 23rd.....	20 " "
" " 24th.....	23 " "
February 12th.....	20 " "
1859, January 9th.....	32 " "
" " 10th.....	43 " "
" " 11th.....	37 " "
" " 12th.....	13 " "
February 13th.....	23 " "
1861, January 12th.....	31 " "
" February 9th.....	21 " "

It will be noticed that on nearly all of these dates the temperature was lower than it ever was during the cold wave just past, in which the lowest registration of the thermometer was 26 degrees below zero.

STORMS ON THE 17th OR 18th.

Under date of Montreal, February 9th, Henry G. Vennor, the weather prophet, writes as follows: "Railroad men and others whom it may concern, had better take precautions against a repetition of the February (5th and 6th) 'storm period' about the 17th, 18th and 19th of the present month. There are likely to be general 'blizzards' in the north-west and western states, with very heavy snowfalls in many sections. The closing week of the month is also likely to give a continuation of the same. I would ask you to refer to the probable recurrence of the storm periods, as my bulletin is not likely to reach all sections of the country in time to be of service to the people."—*Evening Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis.*

THE EARTH DRYING UP.

There is abundant evidence that the amount of water on the surface of the earth has been steadily diminishing for many thousands of years. No one doubts that there was a time when the Caspian Sea communicated with the Black Sea, and when the Mediterranean covered the greater part of the Desert of Sahara. In fact, geologists tell us that at one period the whole of the earth was covered by water, and the fact that continents of dry land now exist is proof that there is less water on our globe now than there was in its infancy. This diminution of our supply of water is going on at the present day at a rate so rapid as to be clearly appreciable. The rivers and smaller streams of our Atlantic States are visibly smaller than they were twenty-five years ago. Country brooks in which men now living were accustomed to fish and bathe in their boyhood have in many cases totally disappeared, not through an act of man, but solely in consequence of the failure of the springs and rains which once fed them. The level of the great lakes is falling year by year. There are many piers on the shores of lake-side cities which vessels once approached with ease, but which now hardly reach to the edge of the water. Harbors are everywhere growing shallower. This is not due to the gradual deposit of earth brought down by rivers or of refuse from city sewers. The harbor of Toronto has grown shallow in spite of the fact that it has been dredged out so that the bottom rock has been reached, and all the dredging which can be done to the harbor of New York will not permanently deepen it. The growing shallowness of the Hudson is more evident above Albany than it is in the tide-water region, and, like the outlet of Lake Champlain, which was once navigable by Indian canoes at all seasons, the upper Hudson is now almost bare of water in many places during the summer. In all parts of the world there is the same steady decrease of water in rivers and lakes, and the rainfall in Europe, where scientific observations are made, is manifestly less than it was at a period within man's memory.

What is becoming of our water? Obviously it is not disappearing through evaporation, for in that case rains would give back whatever water the atmosphere might absorb. We must accept the theory that, like the water of the moon, our water is sinking into the earth's interior.—*From the New York World.*