

so-called reason, analogy and common sense may seem to dictate, the facts will not follow in the path marked out for them ; and the atmospheric tides refuse to ebb and flow, except in a most infinitesimal degree, quite disproportioned to their supposed moving forces.

Fallacies about the moon are numerous, such as that the full moon clears away the clouds ; that you should only sow beans or cut down trees in the wane of the moon ; kill hogs and beef when the moon is waxing ; set fence posts when she is waning so as to draw down and not heave ; that to see the old moon in the arms of the new brings on rain, as also the halo rain or snow, and so forth.

About the sun also there are many fallacies, and ever since the discovery that the spots which appear on his surface have a period of greatest and least frequency, there have been theorists in shoals who have sought to prove that this fact rules the weather. It has undoubtedly been found that the frequency of sun spots and the variations of the magnetic needle are intimately connected ; and it is almost equally well established that the aurora appears in some sort of sympathy with the sun spot variations. But this, up to the present, is as far as we can get in this direction, for our weather seems to have no definite relation to these changes.

It has often been stated that the noise of cannon will produce rain, and that great battles in consequence of the introduction of gunpowder have been followed by rain, but this opinion is not proved by facts.

So firmly and widely rooted is the belief in the practicability of weather forecasting, that separate bureaus for this purpose have been formed and are maintained at public expense in Great Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Algeria, Australia, India and Japan. Other nations, such as Sweden, Holland and Switzerland, co-operate with and share the expenses and benefits of other larger countries