

of decoration composed of numerous small lozenges (*tesserae* they are technically called), which may themselves be coloured clay or glass, and which are arranged in arabesques, or even in grouped imitations of human beings and natural scenery. Its most usual employment is for pavements, a discovery which Pliny attributes to the Greeks. Sosos, the most celebrated of the Greek mosaic workers, composed such a pavement, representing the remains of a supper left carelessly on the floor. Perhaps the most interesting of all the ancient mosaics is one which was discovered at Pompeii. It represents, as is supposed, the battle of Issus; its composition is simple, energetic, and graceful, exhibiting in many respects merits of the highest order. the march of art, as of civilisation which it adorns, was from the East. The Orientals from time immemorial have been noted for those masterpieces of patience and ingenuity which we gaze upon to-day with wonder—boxes, tables, and ornaments of inlaid wood. In this marquetry Hindoos far surpass anything which can be produced by European artisans. The Chinese, however, fashion curious inlaid work in relief much like the mosaic work of Western climes, save that it excels in delicacy and careful execution. This is for the most part composed of hard stone, agalmatolite of different shades, ivory, bronze, and different kinds of wood. It is most probable that it was from an Eastern source that the Grecian mind received that impulse which bore fruit in their mosaics, an art differing from the Oriental inlaid work in its greater durability and cheapness, as well as in increase of effect. The universality of its employment in the Grecian world may be gathered from the fact that in the third century B. C. the floors of the great ship of Hiero the Second were composed of stone cubes representing in mosaic the whole history of the siege of Troy, a work which occupied 300 artists an entire year. Imagine a mosaic, or even a parquetry floor, laid down in a modern ironclad? From Greece mosaics passed naturally to Rome, where they soon acquired high favour. Wherever in the Western world Rome spread her conquests she likewise left imperishable memorials of herself in mosaic. Our own country is full of such remains, testifying to the refinement of Anglo-Roman life and the secure hold which the officers of the legions fancied they had obtained on the land. It is needless to specify instances of tessellated pavements, when every county town, and especially the British Museum, contains admirable specimens of the art. One fine piece of this kind of pavement was exhumed last year in the City; and, indeed, hardly a year passes without the plough, in some part of England, striking against the foundation of a Roman villa and disclosing fragments or, it may be, uninjured slabs, of mosaic work. A good floor of this character is shown in Lincoln Cathedral, and the excavators at Uriconium in Shropshire discovered tessellated work let into the walls, a fashion which is deemed unique in England, though it was common enough in ancient Italy.—*People's Magazine*.

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Meteorology.

From the Records of the Montreal Observatory, Lat. 45° 31' North; Long. 4h. 54m. 11 sec. West of Greenwich; height above the level of the sea, 182 feet; for the month of Nov., 1871. By CHARLES SMALLWOOD, M.D., LL.D., D.C.L.

| DAYS. | Barometer corrected at 32° |        |        | Temperature of the Air. |        |        | Direction of Wind. |        |        | Miles in 24 hours |
|-------|----------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|
|       | 7 a.m.                     | 2 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 7 a.m.                  | 2 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 7 a.m.             | 2 p.m. | 9 p.m. |                   |
| 1     | 29.332                     | 29.547 | 29.775 | 41.1                    | 44.3   | 36.2   | N E                | N E    | W      | 82.27             |
| 2     | .833                       | 864    | .826   | 31.8                    | 39.0   | 36.0   | W                  | W      | W      | 204.11            |
| 3     | 30.122                     | 30.143 | 30.156 | 32.1                    | 51.7   | 35.0   | N E                | W      | W      | 81.42             |
| 4     | .174                       | .077   | .002   | 27.3                    | 49.2   | 30.1   | N E                | S E    | W      | 74.62             |
| 5     | .003                       | 29.962 | .001   | 26.2                    | 35.0   | 29.7   | N W                | N W    | W      | 81.64             |
| 6     | .032                       | 30.001 | .010   | 27.5                    | 36.1   | 32.0   | W                  | N      | W      | 91.14             |
| 7     | 29.994                     | 29.897 | 29.781 | 26.4                    | 38.2   | 34.2   | W                  | W      | W      | 184.81            |
| 8     | .523                       | .667   | .720   | 35.3                    | 38.1   | 34.0   | W                  | W      | W      | 166.14            |
| 9     | .772                       | .876   | .901   | 31.1                    | 49.0   | 34.0   | W                  | W      | W      | 97.26             |
| 10    | .852                       | .712   | .603   | 30.0                    | 37.2   | 34.0   | E                  | N E    | N E    | 64.17             |
| 11    | .800                       | .948   | 30.296 | 33.9                    | 38.7   | 32.0   | N E                | N E    | N W    | 71.11             |
| 12    | 30.546                     | 30.522 | .498   | 21.1                    | 49.3   | 30.0   | W S W              | W      | W      | 68.61             |
| 13    | .452                       | .227   | .175   | 22.1                    | 37.0   | 32.0   | N W                | W      | W      | 64.20             |
| 14    | 29.892                     | 29.980 | 29.756 | 27.0                    | 41.8   | 37.1   | N E                | S      | N E    | 89.82             |
| 15    | .600                       | .584   | .575   | 36.8                    | 38.1   | 35.0   | N E                | N E    | N E    | 198.12            |
| 16    | .671                       | .691   | .995   | 32.7                    | 35.0   | 34.0   | N E                | N E    | N E    | 104.18            |
| 17    | 30.008                     | 30.020 | 30.021 | 27.3                    | 52.3   | 34.2   | N                  | N      | N E    | 81.74             |
| 18    | .370                       | .371   | .362   | 31.6                    | 51.2   | 36.0   | N E                | W      | W      | 11.40             |
| 19    | .402                       | .361   | .234   | 32.7                    | 33.4   | 32.5   | S                  | S E    | S E    | 10.20             |
| 20    | .069                       | .030   | 29.853 | 31.1                    | 43.0   | 40.2   | N E                | S E    | S E    | 6.17              |
| 21    | 29.800                     | 29.734 | .653   | 37.6                    | 41.7   | 37.2   | W                  | W      | W      | 21.12             |
| 22    | .493                       | .443   | .494   | 36.0                    | 40.1   | 34.2   | W                  | W      | W      | 88.12             |
| 23    | .873                       | .947   | 30.191 | 15.5                    | 36.1   | 22.1   | W                  | W      | W      | 89.70             |
| 24    | 30.009                     | .846   | 29.700 | 26.2                    | 52.2   | 36.0   | S E                | S E    | S      | 114.11            |
| 25    | 29.923                     | 30.067 | 30.170 | 31.0                    | 49.1   | 32.1   | W                  | W      | W      | 94.10             |
| 26    | .900                       | 29.773 | 29.700 | 31.5                    | 39.2   | 36.3   | S                  | S      | S      | 71.16             |
| 27    | .801                       | .989   | 30.031 | 28.5                    | 27.0   | 8.1    | N                  | N      | N      | 161.19            |
| 28    | 30.051                     | 30.098 | .003   | -2.5                    | 23.2   | 10.0   | N                  | N      | N      | 89.74             |
| 29    | 29.853                     | 29.834 | 29.866 | 3.2                     | 14.8   | 2.0    | N                  | N      | N      | 74.19             |
| 30    | .831                       | .800   | .860   | 6.1                     | 6.0    | 5.8    | W                  | W      | W      | 261.18            |

REMARKS.

The highest reading of the Barometer was on the 12th day, and was 30.456 inches; and the lowest on the 1st day, 29.382 inches, giving a monthly range of 1.074 inches.

The highest reading of the thermometer was observed on the 17th day, and was 52° 3; the lowest on the 30th day, 6° 6; (below zero.) The monthly range was 31° 63, and is nearly one degree lower than the *Isotherm* for Montreal for the month of November.

Rain fell on 6 days, amounting to 1.169 inches. Snow fell on 8 days, amounting to 9.16 inches.

—Observation taken at Halifax, Nova Scotia, during the month of November, 1871. Lat. 44° 39' North; Long. 63° 36' West; height above the Sea 175 feet; by Sergt. John Thurling, A. H. Corps, Halifax.

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Barometer, highest reading was on the 24th..... | 30.360 inches. |
| lowest " " 22nd.....                            | 28.929         |
| range of pressure.....                          | 1.431          |
| mean for month (reduced to 32°).....            | 29.585         |
| Thermometer, highest in shade was on 1st.....   | 54.8 degrees   |
| lowest " " 30th.....                            | 7.0            |
| range in month.....                             | 47.8           |
| mean of all highest.....                        | 40.0           |
| mean of all lowest.....                         | 24.9           |
| mean daily range.....                           | 15.1           |
| mean for month.....                             | 32.4           |
| maximum reading in sun's rays.....              | 94.0           |
| minimum reading on grass.....                   | 5.0            |
| Hygrometer, mean of dry bulb.....               | 34.3           |
| " " wet bulb.....                               | 32.2           |
| " " dew point.....                              | 28.5           |
| elastic force of vapour.....                    | .156           |
| weight of vapour in a cubic foot of air... ..   | 1.8 grains.    |
| " " required to saturate do.....                | 0.5            |
| the figure of humidity (Sat. 100).....          | 80             |
| average weight of a cubic foot of air... ..     | 554.8 grains.  |
| Wind, mean direction of North.....              | 13.00 days.    |
| " " East.....                                   | 3.75           |
| " " South.....                                  | 4.50           |
| " " West.....                                   | 8.75           |
| force by estimation 0-12.....                   | 2.8            |
| daily horizontal movement.....                  | 320.1 miles.   |
| Rain, No. of days it fell.....                  | 8 days.        |
| Snow " " ".....                                 | 10 days.       |
| Amount of rain and snow collected.....          | 4.42 inches.   |
| Aurora Borealis, number of nights.....          | 4              |