

The finely golden-fringed opal-tinted clouds which surround the sun as he sinks below our horizon of a summer night, lose their brilliant transparency and are changed by the haze of the atmosphere into a dull orange colour. Sometimes they have the appearance of layers of strata ranged one above another, and so finely and delicately pencilled, that but for the rays of the setting sun striking upon them through the soft haze, they could not be discerned. This name is, however, technically speaking, not used in a meteorological sense. There is nothing positive in connexion with the Indian Summer. It may occur in some years very markedly, and in others so much less so, as scarcely to be appreciable; and had not the name been established and surrounded with many pleasing fancies by the aborigines, the man of science would not have invented such a designation for it, as to him its coming and going are alike indefinite. It was inappreciable, for example, in 1856. We had, just about the time when the Indian Summer may be looked for, a dense fog from the 19th to the 22nd of October,—not a lurid, tangible, London fog, however, although altogether a strange fog for Toronto,—and this fog was followed by the kind of weather which is generally expected after Indian Summer. Altogether 1856 was a peculiar year. It was the coldest, the driest, and the most windy year that we have had at least since 1840. Whatever may have been the character of Indian Summer in the remote ages when the Great Spirit of the Red Man wielded the destinies of his forest home, it does not now by any means fulfil the pleasing associations with which tradition has so sacredly surrounded it, summed up as it is in five or six days at the utmost. It is preceded generally by several days of sharp cold weather which makes the transition all the more striking, and very often we have our first snow immediately after the haze has disappeared.

TEMPERATURE.—The monthly averages of temperature for the year 1857 are as follow:—

Months.	Highest Temperature.	Lowest.	Mean.
	°	°	°
January	37·2	—20·1	12·75
February	52·4	—5·9	23·53
March	57·6	—5·5	27·82
April	52·0	5·9	35·36
May	74·8	26·0	43·87
June	76·0	35·0	56·92