



Weather Forecast.

AUGUST, 1887.

At present writing, August promises to be the worst month of the whole summer generally. It will give the worst storms, have the greatest amount of sudden changes, and be remarkable for both its hot and cool periods. The last fifteen days are the worst in all respects, and my readers may make up their minds for a very trying time. The continued spells of heat point to probable earthquakes and severe drought in sections, intermixed with very heavy electrical storms, with heavy rain and heavy hail. In fact, the whole month, as my extended forecast goes to show, will be a succession of hot waves, heavy storms, and cool spells. The hot, dry waves of the present season have already fully borne out my forecasts, a week especially to be remembered being that at the beginning of July, when shade temperatures in the nineties were the rule all over the North, running up into three figures in Southern sections. At Montreal, we had not recorded as great heat since 1884. Special crop reports at the entry of July showed that dry weather extended throughout a great part of the West and North-West, in Illinois and Wisconsin farmers being said to be in desperate straits, the drought having practically destroyed most of the crops in some sections. In Dakota, the heat by July 1, had cut the expected average down to 66 percent; corn, however, was never better, promising 100 percent yield. Manitoba did not seem to have suffered much, and reported crops generally doing well. The peculiarities of the remarkable August of 1887 will be found in the following extended forecast:—

First Week, August 1 to 6: Warm and windy—A fine interval,—changing to stormy, with heavy rains and high winds.

Second Week, August 7 to 13: A cool to cold term—Auroral displays—Very fine hot weather; another heated term—Some severe thunder and hail storms towards the close of the week.

Third Week, August 14 to 20: Sultry, great heat—Storms general, very heavy

rains in the S. and S. W.—A cooler change, especially in Northern sections—Very hot and stormy again at the close.

Fourth Week, August 21 to 27: Storms everywhere, with great heat—Tornadoes probable in tornado sections—Heavy and oppressive “earthquake weather”—High winds and gales—A rapid change of Temperature probable, with local frosts in the N. W., Canada and the Eastern States.

August 28 to 31: Thunder and hail storms in sections, earthquakes again probable—Rapid changes—Cool, showery, with local frosts—End of month warm, with local showers.



Association.

A caucus meeting to discuss the appointment of officers for the session of 1887-8 will likely be held in August or September.

Vice-President Plumadore, of Asheville, N. C., has been appointed Manager of the Transmontane Real Estate and Trust Company of North Carolina; which recently obtained its charter from the Legislature. The development of Western North Carolina is the end the company aims at.

Associate General Robert Lenox Banks, of Albany—who, by the way, was the initial subscriber to ASTRONOMY AND METEOROLOGY—is spending the summer at Lake George, N. Y.

Councillor (Mrs.) M. T. Cole is rusticated with her family this season at Ayer's; said to be one of the healthiest spots in that healthiest of localities, the Adirondack region.

Few, doubtless, of my readers know that Vice-President Test, of Omaha, is a relative of Gen. Lew. Wallace, the author of “Ben-Hur.” The latter recently sojourned with our Vice-President, who describes his kinsman in a recent letter to me as “a very agreeable companion, who says he will write a mate to ‘Ben Hur’; whose sales exceed those of ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin’; until now the most widely circulated American novel. Strange to

say, ‘Ben Hur’ is read with equal pleasure by Jew, Gentile, Protestant, Catholic, Christian and Mohammedan. It has been translated into the Turkish language by order of the Sultan.” Mr. Test recently re-delivered his lecture on “Electricity,” which appeared two or three years since in the *Advocate*. It was well received.

TELESCOPE FUND.

A meeting of the Telescope Committee was held at Mr. Smith's on June 14th. Present:—Messrs. Beuthner, Creak, Pigeon, Smith (W. H.) and Ussher (B. B.). Mr. Smith having been unanimously elected Chairman, and Mr. Creak Secretary; the Chairman read the resolution appointing the committee, adopted at the June meeting, after which a general discussion of the whole question was entered into.

It was decided to write to various makers on this continent and in Europe for prices of lenses, etc., the same to be submitted, together with the Committee's report and recommendations, at the first Autumn meeting of the Astro-Meteorological Association.

It is considered that the possession of a telescope of high power cannot fail to augment very largely the usefulness and activity of the Association, besides increasing the public interest in its work and affording to members and subscribers the inestimable advantages of practical study and observation; and on ascertaining the full amount required, which will be published later, with full particulars concerning the work of the committee, it is proposed to invite their co-operation in order to secure and mount an instrument which may be a benefit, not only to the Association, but to the Dominion. In the meantime, any communications on the subject may be addressed to the President, Mr. Walter H. Smith, 31 Arcade street, Montreal.

Meteorology.

In the United States, the average temperature for May, 1887, was generally above the normal. The greatest departures were 8° in Michigan and Western New York.

Charleston, S. C., reports a normal mean temperature for May, as do Mobile, Ala.; New Orleans, La.; Galveston, and Rio Grande City, Tex.; Duluth, Minn.; and San Francisco, Cal.

While the Eastern portion of the Continent was generally suffering from heat, portions of the Pacific Coast were cooler than usual. Olympia, Wash. Terr., reporting its average temp. 9° below normal during May.