

3. HOW TO READ THE CLOUDS.

Soft looking or delicate clouds foretell fine weather, with moderate or light breezes; hard edged, oily-looking clouds, wind. A dark, gloomy blue sky is windy; but a light, bright blue sky indicates fine weather. Generally the softer clouds look the less wind, but perhaps more rain may be expected; and the harder, more "greasy," rolled, tufted, or rugged, the stronger the coming wind will prove. Also, a bright yellow sky at sunset presages wind; a pale yellow, wet; and a greenish, sickly looking color, wind and rain. Thus, by the prevalence of red, yellow, or other tints, the coming weather may be foretold very nearly; indeed, if aided by instruments, almost exactly. Small, inky looking clouds foretell rain; but if alone, may indicate wind only.

4. ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE BAROMETERS.

The sensibility of many animals and plants to the varying conditions of the atmosphere is so great that a careful study of their movements will often indicate with certainty approaching changes in the weather. When a storm is pending the spider shortens the threads of his web, and lengthens them again when the storm is about to pass off; careful observers even pretend to foretell how long fine weather will last, from the degree to which the web is extended. If the spider is quiet, it is a sign of rain, but when he goes to work during a shower, be sure it will soon clear off. The swallow is also an infallible barometer, flying low, almost touching the earth, and uttering a low, plaintive cry before rain, but sailing back and forth, high in the air, during settled weather; when a violent tempest is about to break out, he soars even to the clouds, and adopts a slow, majestic motion, very different from his ordinary one. In pleasant weather, the crow will at any time leave her nest in search of food; but if she feels a storm approaching, nothing will tempt her off till her mate takes her place to protect her young. The peacock foretells rain by its frequent cries, the wood-pecker by its cooings; the parrot by its chattering, and the guinea fowl by its going to roost. The goose manifests great uneasiness, plunging into the water and rapidly returning to the land. The seagulls seek the shore, and are only seen far inland in settled weather. The petrel, on the contrary, dashes out boldly into the midst of storm and tempest. The chirp of the cricket is a sign of fair weather, but the cry of the tree-toad indicates rain. When the air is overcharged with moisture, the odour of flowers is strong and penetrating, and in dry weather is soft and agreeable.

VII. Educational Intelligence.

—SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL REPORT, ONTARIO.—A special report upon the systems and state of popular education in Europe and the United States, with practical suggestions for the improvement of public instruction in the Province of Ontario, which was presented to the Lieutenant-Governor a few months ago by Rev. Dr. Ryerson Chief Superintendent of Education, has been printed for public information. It forms a blue book of nearly two hundred pages, and comes before the public at a suitable season, when different questions connected with education are engaging more or less attention. It contains valuable sketches of the systems of instructions carried out in France, Prussia, Holland, Switzerland and other countries on the continent of Europe, as well as in the British Isles and several States of the American Union. A great variety of interesting facts is presented in these sketches, which give brief histories of the origin and working of the educational systems of the countries referred to, descriptions of school management and the standard of instruction, and generally a comprehensive idea of the results obtained by the working of various systems. This part of the report is a useful addition to the general stock of knowledge upon the subject, giving in a convenient shape the information derived from long and careful observation of the progress of education in Europe and America. In his suggestions for the further improvement of the educational system of Ontario, Dr. Ryerson deals with the questions of superintendents' qualifications, high schools for girls, compulsory attendance of children, and other topics which have lately excited comment. Upon these he throws out many timely and practical hints, which will be read with profit not only by those engaged in the education of youth, but by all interested in this important subject.—*Leader*.

—REV. MR. CHECKLEY.—The *Barrie Northern Advance* says:—We regret to learn that the Rev. Mr. Checkley, who has so long occupied the position of Grammar School master here, intends to leave this in a short time, and remove to Weston, near Toronto, where he is to fill a similar

position. When Mr. Checkley first came to reside in Barrie, he tried the experiment of taking pupils from a distance as boarders, and his abilities as a teacher, and other good qualities soon made his school the most popular one in the Province; but we presume that he found a boarding school, conducted according to his own ideas, did not pay, as he had ceased to keep one for some years past. If the institution over which he presided here was not a pecuniary success to him, and failed to give an adequate return for his labours, it proved itself, directly and indirectly a great benefit to the town. The reputation which his school enjoyed was undoubtedly the means of bringing Barrie into some note at the time when it was of smaller pretensions than at present; and for this, if for nothing else, Mr. Checkley ought to be gratefully remembered here. His place here will not be easily filled, and we can only express a very strong and sincere hope, in which we are satisfied none of our Barrie readers, of any creed or profession, will fail to join, that the loss we sustain in Mr. Checkley's departure from amongst us will be proportionately to his gain.

—CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS:—In addition to the flourishing Hellmuth College at London, and the projective Ladies' School there, we may mention that the Trinity College School which has been hitherto situated in the village of Weston, and has now been removed to the town of Port Hope. The deficiency of accommodation at Weston, and the desire on the part of the college authorities to have all the resident school boys under one roof, first suggested the idea of a removal to Whitby, where it was understood a building of sufficient size for the purpose could be procured. This supposition proving incorrect, proposals were subsequently made from Niagara, Port Hope, and other places—Port Hope being effectually selected as the future *locale* of the School. This decision was arrived at, both from considerations of the well known healthiness of the town, its central position and easy accessibility from all parts of the country, as also by reason of the liberal offers of help and encouragement proposed by the townspeople. Local committee was organized there, under the Chairmanship of the Rev. Dr. O'Meara, Rector of the Parish, a subscription list was opened, and the offer finally made to the college of a large and commodious boarding house for the masters and resident pupils, with a separate building for class-rooms, free of rent and taxes for three years. This very handsome offer could scarcely have been otherwise than most gratefully accepted. The school boarding house, we are told, is beautifully situated on high rising ground, at a distance of about three-quarters of a mile from the town, and affords accommodation for from fifty to sixty boys. Eight acres of land are at present attached to the house, which will give ample room for cricket and play grounds. The School classes will be held in a building formerly occupied by the county Grammar School, which has been thoroughly renovated and put into a complete state of repair. The resident pupils are to be under the personal supervision of the head master Rev. C. H. Badgley, B. A. Queen's College, Oxford, aided by three assistant masters—Mr. Litchfield, of Exeter College, Oxford, the Rev. F. A. Bethune, B. A., of Trinity College, Toronto, and Mr. Ford, also B. A., of the same College. The school drill association, which has been removed, under the authority of the Minister of Militia, from Weston to Port Hope, is under the superintendence of a Waterloo veteran, Major Goodwin; Monsieur Pernet, retains his position as French master, Mr. Gilbert continues drawing master, and Mr. Kirkson renders his valuable instructions as music master. Gymnastics and fencing continue to be taught by Mr. H. Goodwin. The end aimed at by the rules which govern the school and its members, is to make it as far as possible a representative in this country of English Public School Education, moral, intellectual and physical.

The Bishop Strachan School was founded under the auspices of him whose name it bears, and is designed, principally, for the benefit of daughters of members of the Anglican communion, but is open to all who, being desirous of availing themselves of its advantages, and willing to conform themselves to its regulations. The course of study is co-extensive with that of first-class schools. The main endeavour will be to prepare the pupils for the serious duties of life, as member or heads of families. Simplicity and economy in dress, as well as a general moderation in expenditure, will be encouraged with a view both to the moral benefit of the pupils and a saving of unnecessary expense to their parents. Mrs. Horton, who is the Lady Principal, is admirably qualified for the office, and she has associated with her a staff of teachers, both male and female, rarely to be met with even in the first boarding schools in England. The Rev. J. Langtry, M. A., is the chaplain and secretary, and is associated with the Lady Principal in the management. Another Church of England School,