

Early English Dwellings.—The earliest dwellings of the English were, no doubt, rude structures, mainly built of wood and plaster, but we find that they had a word for the low wall upon which the house stood, the ground wall—a term still in use among masons in parts of England, to denote the stone foundation wall—and from this it has been argued that it is very very probable that the foundations of their dwellings were commonly of stone. England was then abundantly supplied with timber, and wood naturally continued to be the chief building material, as it is still in this country. But from the days of Augustine onwards, there is ample evidence that stone was freely used in the construction of churches, and there is great likelihood that in the mansions of the nobles, the hall, at least, was a stone structure. The houses were generally but one story in height, the hall and kitchen forming one large room, open to the roof, which was thatched with straw or reeds. In the middle of the hall was the hearthstone, with its blazing wood fire, surrounded by benches, and close at hand were the bellows, tongs, &c. Directly over the hearthstone there was a small turret, with open or partly open sides, through which the smoke escaped without the aid

of a chimney. The walls were sometimes painted, but more frequently they were covered by curtains or woollen, or even silk, and often richly embroidered. These curtains were hung at a distance of three or four inches from the wall, and added much to the warmth and cheerfulness of the rooms. The floor was usually paved with tiles; a portion at one end was raised somewhat higher than the rest, and here stood the massive table of square or oblong shape, surrounded by benches or stools, with a high-backed chair for the master of the house. The windows were few and small. In the earlier times the wind and rain were kept out by wooden shutters, or blinds of linen, and glazed windows probably were seldom to be met with in private houses until much later than the Norman Conquest. To supply the deficiency of daylight, they had recourse to wax candles, supported by ornamental appliances. The chambers or sleeping rooms opened from the hall, and no fires, but were abundantly provided with heavy tapestry hangings. The bedsteads, in some cases elaborately carved, were frequently placed in curtained alcoves, and were furnished with feather beds, bolsters, and pillows.—*Canadian Monthly.*

ABSTRACT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1878.

OF TRI-HOURLY METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT MCGILL COLLEGE OBSERVATORY, HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL, 187 FEET.

Day.	THERMOMETER.				BAROMETER.				+ Mean pressure of vapor	† Mean relative humidity.	WIND.		SKY CLOUDED IN TENTHS.			Rain and snow melted.	Day.	
	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Range	Mean.	‡ Max.	‡ Min.	Range			General direction.	Mean velocity in m. p. hour.	Mean	Max	Min.			
1	35.30	43.1	29.3	13.8	29.7956	29.851	29.697	.154	.1676	80.5								
2	43.01	44.5	37.8	6.7	29.8765	29.924	29.842	.082	.2152	77.9	N.	15.3	9.1	10	4	0.05	1	
3	.....	39.2	28.4	10.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	N.	12.0	10.0	10	10	0.29	2
4	25.16	33.5	18.5	15.0	30.0294	30.083	29.916	.167	.1072	76.5	W.	12.0	.....	.....	.....	0.08	3 ^o Sunday
5	25.05	28.5	20.3	8.2	30.1161	30.168	30.044	.124	.0944	70.2	W.	21.4	8.2	10	2	0.20	4	
6	28.37	35.0	23.5	11.5	29.8626	30.021	29.745	.276	.1025	67.0	W.	18.7	8.2	10	1	Inapp.	5	
7	27.66	30.3	23.5	6.8	29.5907	29.717	29.517	.200	.1245	82.2	W.	17.0	1.0	4	0	0.07	6	
8	30.37	37.0	24.5	12.5	29.7021	29.829	29.543	.286	.1286	77.0	W.	14.3	10.0	10	10	0.07	7	
9	32.99	40.2	27.0	13.2	29.6910	29.797	29.612	.185	.1216	64.9	.....	13.8	8.5	10	10	0.08	8
10	.....	39.2	32.9	6.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26.5	8.2	10	4	.....	9
11	34.24	35.3	32.0	3.3	29.6830	29.746	29.566	.180	.1891	95.7	.....	12.2	.....	.....	.....	Inapp.	10 Sunday
12	39.35	45.4	33.7	11.7	29.3817	29.488	29.243	.245	.2089	86.4	.....	2.1	10.0	10	10	0.21	11
13	34.27	39.9	28.3	11.6	29.6079	29.722	29.433	.489	.1627	81.5	.....	9.7	9.1	10	4	0.29	12
14	30.69	36.4	26.7	9.7	30.2049	30.370	29.981	.389	.1137	66.4	.....	12.7	9.9	10	9	0.55	13
15	32.31	40.0	26.5	13.5	30.4625	30.496	30.410	.086	.1321	72.6	.....	14.0	6.0	10	0	.....	14
16	34.30	44.0	28.3	15.7	30.4209	30.462	30.375	.087	.1571	79.6	.....	6.1	8.0	10	1	.....	15
17	.....	42.3	29.2	14.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.4	7.0	10	0	.....	16
18	34.71	38.3	32.1	6.2	30.1033	30.196	29.999	.197	.1902	95.1	.....	7.7	.....	.....	.....	Inapp.	17 Sunday
19	36.22	38.0	33.5	4.5	29.9625	29.980	29.937	.043	.2001	93.5	.....	5.9	10.0	10	10	0.29	18
20	36.51	37.1	34.1	3.0	29.8344	29.909	29.783	.126	.1949	93.9	.....	5.5	10.0	10	10	0.01	19
21	37.52	40.3	33.8	6.5	29.8369	29.889	29.798	.091	.2141	94.9	.....	6.8	10.0	10	10	Inapp.	20
22	37.36	40.0	33.0	7.0	29.5851	29.882	29.171	.711	.2107	94.1	.....	3.1	10.0	10	10	Inapp.	21
23	36.51	38.2	32.7	5.5	29.0672	29.254	28.971	.283	.2025	93.7	N. W.	22.4	10.0	10	10	0.72	22	
24	.....	38.9	32.3	6.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	N. W.	14.3	10.0	10	10	1.55	23
25	30.70	34.8	28.3	6.5	29.9360	30.006	29.865	.141	.1527	88.9	W.	22.3	.....	.....	.....	Inapp.	24 Sunday
26	29.60	36.0	25.6	10.4	30.1371	30.238	29.994	.244	.1271	77.8	N. W.	6.7	8.4	10	2	0.24	25	
27	28.87	32.4	26.7	5.7	30.0576	30.257	29.699	.558	.1356	85.2	W.	13.4	6.5	10	1	0.01	26	
28	36.56	40.9	31.9	9.0	29.4528	29.776	29.287	.489	.1869	85.2	S. W.	8.1	10.0	10	10	0.66	27	
29	34.77	38.0	31.3	6.7	29.9041	29.950	29.854	.096	.1642	81.2	W.	20.2	10.0	10	10	0.63	28	
30	30.45	37.0	26.0	11.0	30.2710	30.023	30.023	.441	.1347	78.6	N. W.	13.0	10.0	10	10	Inapp.	29	
Means.....	33.148	38.12	29.02	9.10	29.8688	.....	.....	.2450	.15919	82.33	.....	12.29	8.77	.....	.....	.....	Means.

* Barometer readings reduced to sea-level and temperature of 32° Fahr. † Pressure of vapor in inches mercury. ‡ Humidity relative, saturation being 100. § Observed.

Mean temperature of month, 33.148. Mean of max. and min. temperatures, 33.57. Greatest heat was 45.4 on the 12th; greatest cold was 18.5 on the 16th; least range was 3.0 degrees on the 20th. Mean range for the month was 9.1 degrees. Mean height of the barometer was 29.86883. Highest reading was 30.496 on the 25th; lowest reading was 28.971 on the 23rd; giving a range of 1.525 in. Mean elastic force of vapor in the atmosphere was equal to .15919 in. of mercury. Mean relative humidity was 82.33. Maximum relative humidity was 100 on the 25th. Minimum relative humidity was 52 on the 6th. Mean velocity of the wind was 12.29 miles per hour; greatest mileage in one hour was 38 on the 22nd. Velocity in gusts reached, in miles per hour,—37 on the 4th; 42 on the 9th; and 47 on the 22nd; Mean of sky clouded 88 per cent.

Rain fell on 16 days. Snow fell on 12 days. Rain or snow fell on 24 days. Total rainfall was 3.47 inches. Total snow fall was 14.6 in. Total precipitation in inches of water 4.93 inches.