

dinate fluctuations, embracing in their whole extent and in different years the longer period referred to.\*

(5.) Meteorology, so far as prediction of the weather is concerned (which most persons consider, very erroneously, to be its only practical object), may be regarded as a science still in its infancy; though if such be the case, to judge from the voluminous nature of its records, and the multitude of books which have been written on it, its maturity, if ever attained, would promise to be gigantic indeed; were it not that the progress of all real science is towards compression and condensation, and its whole aim to supersede the endless detail of individual cases by the announcement of easily remembered and readily applicable laws. Most of the indications of the "weatherwise," from Aratus down to Foster, have hitherto been little more than what, in the language of Mr Mill, would be called "simple connotations." The condor is circling in the sky: *therefore* a lion is devouring a horse below. The sheep turn their tails to the south-west: *therefore* there will be a gale of wind from that quarter. The "Rainbow in the morning," &c. The "Evening red and the morning gray," &c., &c. All such connotations have their value in an absolute ignorance of causes and modes of action: but it is only by the study of *these* that we learn what to connote. And there is no doubt, that since, after an immense

\* This is the direction of the progress of the *wave*. That of the *wind* during the gales which accompany it is at right angles to that direction, or from S.W. to N.E.: in analogy (?) to the *transverse rotation* of the etherial molecules in the propagation of a circularly polarized ray of light.