

case with a rise, and in another with a fall in the thermometer, may indicate, under given, or, as the case may be, differing circumstances of wind; widely different or even opposite features in the character of the approaching weather. It is to be borne in mind, however, most carefully, that all such indications are to be received as valid (*pro tanto*) only for a very brief interval in advance; and that the "weather-prophet" who ventures his predictions on the great scale, is altogether to be distrusted. A lucky hit may be made: nay, some rude approach to the perception of "a cycle of seasons" may *possibly* be attainable. But no person in his senses would alter his plans of conduct for six months in advance in the most trifling particular, on the faith of any special prediction of a warm or a cold, a wet or a dry, a calm or a stormy summer or winter. Of all the minor or *simply connotative* indications of the coming weather (as distinct from those which connect themselves with our knowledge of causes), the only one in which we place the slightest reliance is that the appearance of "anvil-shaped clouds" is very likely to be speedily followed by a gale of wind.

(7.) The moon is often appealed to as a great indicator of the weather, and especially its changes as taken in conjunction with some existing state of wind or sky. As an attracting body causing an "aërial tide," it has of course *an* effect, but one utterly insignificant as a meteorological cause; and the only effect distinctly connected with its position with regard to the sun which can be reckoned upon with any degree of certainty, is its tendency to clear the sky of cloud, and to produce not