

into the service the great and recondite names of APOGEE and PERIGEE; and professed to determine the character of the lunation from her proximity at new or full to these mysterious points of her orbit. Both the one and other rule utterly break down when brought to the tests of long-continued and registered experience. Others, again, drew their prognostic for the whole lunation from the character of the weather during the first quarter. Such was the rule said to have been implicitly adhered to by the late Marshal Bugeaud in the planning of any military expedition whose success was likely to be any way dependent on weather:—

“ Primus, secundus, tertius, nullus,
 Quartus, aliquis,
 Quintus, sextus, qualis;
 Tota Luna talis.”

(9.) 3dly, A more ambitious form of lunar prediction was that of the late eminent meteorologist (for such, this one crotchet excepted, he certainly was), Luke Howard; who took great account of the moon's declination as influencing the *averages* of rainfall, and of the height of the barometer. Still more so was his weather-cycle of nineteen years, the period of the circulation of the nodes of the moon's orbit; in the course of which the *absolute maximum of north declination* occurs when the ascending node is in the spring equinox, and the moon 90° in advance of the node in her orbit, and that *of south* in the reversed circumstances—the intermediate situations of the node corresponding to the *absolute minima* of each. These situations, according to the declination theory,