

*country uninhabitable in summer from mere want of water.*

(34.) To return to our prognostics. We would strongly recommend any of our readers whose occupations lead them to attend to the "signs of the weather," and who, from hearing a particular weather adage often repeated, and from noticing themselves a few remarkable instances of its verification, have "begun to put faith in it," to commence keeping a note-book, and to set down without bias all the instances which occur to them of the recognized antecedent, and the occurrence or non-occurrence of the expected consequent, not omitting also to set down the cases in which it is left undecided; and after so collecting a considerable number of instances (not less than a hundred), proceed to form his judgment on a fair comparison of the favourable, the unfavourable, and the undecided cases: remembering always that the *absence of a majority one way or the other would be in itself an improbability*, and that, therefore, to have any weight, the majority should be a very decided one, and *that* not only in itself, but in reference to the neutral instances. We are all involuntarily much more strongly impressed by the fulfilment than by the failure of a prediction, and it is only when thus placing ourselves face to face with fact and experience, that we can fully divest ourselves of this bias. Any one before whose eyes these pages may pass, for instance, who may feel disposed to give our *dictum* respecting the clearance of the sky under the influence of the full moon (we will not say through a hun-