

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW,

MARCH, 1874.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Office of the Chief Signal Officer,

DIVISION OF

TELEGRAMS AND REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE

The weather of the past month has been, in almost all parts of the United States, an easy transition from winter to spring. The only instances of abnormal weather have occurred in the northernmost portion of the country. The winter temperatures and other meteorological conditions have been generally quite evenly balanced with those of early spring. These conditions are reviewed below in detail.

STORMS AND CYCLONES.

The month of March has been characterized by its usual storminess. Twelve noticeable depressions have passed over more or less of the territory of the United States. The following details sufficiently describe them: [See Storm Track Chart No. 1.]

No. I. This disturbance originated apparently in the Western Gulf States on the last night of February, and moved nearly due eastward, expanding its area of depression, and passing off the Georgia coast at midnight of March 1st. It was attended by no serious consequences.

No. II. This second storm-area of the month entered the United States on the 1st of March from the Northwest, and was marked by a very low barometer. Its track was, however, so high in latitude, that its effects were not much felt.

No. III. Was of more cyclonic force, and passed from the Southwest to northeast directly over the country. It started from Kansas on the morning of March 3rd, and reached the St. Lawrence valley on the morning of the 4th. From Montreal, its course was eastward, and it disappeared off the coast on the 5th.

No. IV. Approached from the Southwest on the evening of the 5th, and pursued a northeastward course steadily until it reached the St. Lawrence valley. It made a slight detour to the northward, crossing the Upper Lakes on the 7th, and thence advanced in a line nearly due eastward. After reaching the Lower St. Lawrence valley on the afternoon of the 8th, it paused and remained stationary, or nearly so, until the 12th—a fact most extraordinary in the progressive movements of storm-centres.

No. V. While No. IV was in progress across the country, a smaller storm-centre was formed in Virginia on the night of the 6th, and advancing up the coast in a northeasterly direction, appears to have passed beyond the Nova Scotia coast on the 8th, or else to have merged into the larger storm, (No. IV.,) which was then coming very near to its track.