

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW,

JULY, 1874.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Office of the Chief Signal Officer,

DIVISION OF

TELEGRAMS AND REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE.

INTRODUCTION.

A careful examination of the meteorological data accumulated in this office during the past month, from both the regular and volunteer observers, has rendered it necessary to consider facts referring to an unusual series of atmospheric phenomena.

The month has been particularly marked in the occurrence of severe local storms, which have, in some cases, proved greatly destructive to both life and property.

The accompanying charts show an intimate relation existing between the barometric pressure, temperature, prevailing direction of winds and moisture, in the several geographic districts, and illustrate in a forcible manner that each of the elements above-named is an important but variable function of the weather, while a comparison with previous months and years would indicate that decided changes in atmospheric conditions depend more directly upon the supply of aqueous vapor.

Generally, the weather has been favorable for agricultural pursuits. This is especially so on the Pacific coast, where the yield of wheat is reported to be greater than in previous years, although there are sections in the northern portion of this region where excessive rains have been injurious, and the low temperature prevented the maturing and ripening of the grain.

It is now quite certain that the late frosts, which occurred in Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee, will materially reduce the fruit crop in these regions, and that the drought in the Ohio valley, Tennessee and Arkansas, has caused an almost total failure of the Tobacco crop. There has been a deficiency of rain in the regions north and west of the Ohio valley, but the excess in previous months has produced excellent crops, except in limited localities, where drought or insects have completely destroyed vegetation. In some districts the agricultural interests have been improved by the occurrence of timely rains, while in others too much rain, or almost a total absence of it, has caused a total failure of particular crops.

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE.

The influence of the land upon atmospheric pressure has been unusually well marked. Upon chart No. II, is represented the general distribution of this pressure for the month. A comparison of the months of June and May shows that the area of mean low barometer has moved slowly to the northeastward, and that it now extends