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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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TWO SUMMER NORTHEASTERS

Two unexpected northeast rainstorms were August's gift to the middle and north Atlantic coasts. Coming to relieve severe draught conditions which had developed locally in southern New England, and being a type of weather that has been notably absent before, they were somewhat unexpected.

The first on Aug. 11 and 12 resulted from the combination of a "low" moving eastwards in middle latitudes with a weak tropical low that had been in the southeastern states for a few days. When the northern "low" came along the two joined forces and quickly converted expected fair weather into an all day rain. In New England the farmers benefited, but the G.A.R. veterans had a very wet parade in Boston.

Just a fortnight later nearly the same thing happened again, but on a larger scale. A tropical cyclone that had been practically stuck for three days over and north of the Bahamas, sprang northward and north-northeastward at the beck of a Canadian "low". In but 24 hours from the morning of the 25th the tropical storm traveled about 660 miles from the latitude of Jacksonville to that of Atlantic City, a most extraordinary speed, nearly double that usual for a tropical cyclone. We can hardly blame the weather forecaster for not expecting it. The coast was deluged with rain and the spray of the sea, while coastwise shipping, trees, trains and buildings on land suffered from North Carolina to the Maritime Provinces.

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(Tomorrow: Hurricanes Late)

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